

Council Work Session

August 18, 2015

Meeting called to order by Mayor Harley at 5:00pm.

Invocation given by Councilman Nichols

Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilman Evans

Welcome extended to all by Mayor Harley

Present were Mayor John R. Harley, Councilman Cameron W. Andrews, Councilman Randall Wright, Councilman J. Micheal Evans, Councilman Jonathan Nichols and City Attorney Rebecca Tydings. City Clerk Krista Bedingfield absent due to death in family.

Motion to add item to agenda- Executive Session – personnel matters: Motion by Councilman Evans; seconded by Councilman Wright; vote unanimous. Motion carried. Item #7 under New Business.

Public Comments

None.

Old Business

Discussion 2015 Millage Rate: City Accountant Harrison presented Mayor and Council with a form PT32.1 – Computation of 2015 Millage Rate Rollback and 5 year history. Rollback rate is 12.021; current millage rate is 11.972. If Mayor and Council stay with the current millage rate of 11.972, it will represent a 0.41% DECREASE in taxes. City Accountant Harrison advised of legal requirements for advertisement and hearings if any millage rate higher than the rollback rate of 12.021 is proposed. Ms. Harrison asked for guidance as to what millage rate the Council is considering. Councilman Evans asked City Accountant Harrison to explain the concept of “rollback rate.” He understands that it is not an increase even though the rollback rate is a bit higher than the current rollback rate. City Accountant Harrison gave the definition of Millage Rate Rollback as- “the previous year’s millage rate plus or minus the millage equivalent of the total net assessed value added to or deducted by reassessments of the existing real property” or as City Attorney Tydings explained is the millage rate that would have to be levied based on current year assessments to generate the same amount of tax revenue generated by property taxes at last year’s millage rate. Senior exemptions have increased slightly as well. Mayor and Councilman Nichols prefer to keep the millage rate the same as in 2014 (11.972). Other revenue sources will make up the slight difference in revenue such as the Motor Vehicle ad valorem tax. Councilman Andrews and Councilman Wright agreed and Mayor and Council instructed City Accountant Harrison to advertise the proposed millage rate of 11.972.

New Business

Proclamation-Family Promise-Paul Schealy: Mayor Harley – referred matter to Councilman Nichols who read the proclamation. Several representatives of the organization, Family Promise of Greater Houston County, were present for the reading of the proclamation. Councilman

Nichols talked about the problem of homelessness in our own community – approximately 327 children considered homeless in our school system. Copy of Proclamation attached to and made a part of these minutes. Original Proclamation presented to Dave Razo, Family Promise. FP representatives gave out flyers advertising the Family Promise of Greater Houston County's event, "Car City, Putting the Brakes on Homeless," Friday September 25, 2015 at Central Georgia Technical College in Warner Robins. Dave Razo and members expressed their appreciation to Councilman Nichols for reading the Proclamation. Councilman Nichols remarked that the current Leadership Robins Region class has taken FP organization on as their project. Dave Razo introduced members of Family Promise in attendance. Paul Shealy presented facts and statistics about the accomplishments of FP of Greater Houston County. The cities and county are partnering with churches and social agencies to help get children into homes and out of homelessness. Thanked Mayor and Council for having them at the meeting.

Home Based Business-Envision Hospitality Solution/Ariyan, LLC: Councilman Nichols – made motion to approve application; paperwork is all in order; seconded by Councilman Wright. Motion approved by unanimous vote. Councilman Nichols noted that the main work will be coordinating of subcontractors.

Rezoning Ordinance-511 Collins Avenue: Director of Operations Brumfield – advised about P & Z meeting – P & Z Chairman Kennedy gave recommendation of Board to approve application. Mayor recognized Mr. Kennedy and thanked him for his service. Public hearing opened by Mayor at 5:25. No comments offered for or against. Public hearing closed by Mayor at 5:26. Motion by Councilman Nichols to accept the P & Z recommendation of re-zoning property at 511 Collins Avenue from C-2 to R-3. Seconded by Councilman Evans. Motion passed by unanimous vote. See Ordinance 2015-3.

Amendment Job Description - Probation Officer: Councilman Andrews - deferred to City Attorney Tydings. Motion by Councilman Wright to adopt the amended job description; seconded by Councilman Andrews. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Amendment Probation Services Agreement: City Attorney Tydings – Motion to table until the month of September by Councilman Wright; seconded by Councilman Nichols. Motion approved by unanimous vote.

Comments from Council

Post 4 – Councilman Nichols – tomorrow is my 51st birthday and today my 18 year old son started college. I am proud but scared. My son has done well. He has excelled, been an obedient son and is off to college. That is hard for me – I'm "hands on." I didn't want him to experience the hard things I did in my 20s and 30s. Neighbors have loved him. Ms. Tydings has loved him. His schools have helped his mom and I train him. I'm a dad, husband and City Councilman. Dad and husband first. Hard when they grow up and go out into the world and I look forward to what he is going to become. I share this because you all care and have helped us and helped him. Lt. Pritchett and others have helped. Pray with me as I release my son from under my wings. Thank you. He has a full scholarship to Mercer Engineering school for five years. Very proud of him.

Post 3 – Councilman Evans, happy birthday and congratulations to Councilman Nichols.

Post 2- Councilman Wright, happy birthday and congratulations to Councilman Nichols.

Post 1- Councilman Andrews, happy birthday and congratulations to Councilman Nichols.

Mayor Harley, happy birthday and congratulations to Councilman Nichols.

Motion to enter into the Executive Session – Councilman Wright; seconded by Councilman Evans. Motion passed by unanimous vote. Time into session 5:35. Time out of Executive Session 7:45. Resolution – Motion to adopt made by Councilman Wright; seconded by Councilman Evans-unanimous. Motion carried. Affidavit executed by Mayor Harley. Resolution and Affidavit attached and made part of official minutes.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Mayor John R. Harley

Attest by City Attorney Rebecca Tydings

Date