

Regular Council Meeting

August 2, 2016

Meeting called to order by Mayor Harley at 7:00pm.

Invocation given by Mayor Harley.

Pledge of Allegiance led by, Logan Fetterolf-Boy Scout- Troop 400.

Present were Mayor John R. Harley, Councilman Cameron W. Andrews, Councilman Randall Wright, Councilman J. Micheal Evans, Councilman Edward D. Armijo and City Attorney Rebecca Tydings.

Welcome extended to all by Mayor Harley and informed everyone that Houston County Commissioner, Jay Walker was unable to attend meeting tonight; prior conflict in schedule. Mayor Harley recognized former Mayor Ronnie D. Brand. In closing, Mayor Harley reported that former Mayor Matt Keene has passed away this week. "Our thoughts and prayers are with his family".

Public Comments

None

Adoption of Minutes: Motion made by Councilman Armijo to adopt both sets of minutes as written; seconded by Councilman Andrews. Motion carried.

- July 5, 2016 Regular Council Meeting
- July 19, 2016 Council Work Session

Old Business

None

New Business

Discussion: Revision-Operating Policy CC-8: Mayor Harley entertained motion to rescind all prior CC policies. Would like to create a financial policy to replace CC-8 operating policy. Motion made by Councilman Andrews to discuss revision; seconded by Councilman Evans.

General discussion.

Councilman Evans asked if all policies deal with city funds.

City Attorney Tydings stated "no" policies are all of a variety of subjects. City Accountant Harrison had helped develop a reserve policy, she is the budget officer. At the time when CC-8 policy was created there was not another formal financial policy on this topic. Mrs. Harrison had some concern if we were still operating under this policy in light of the upcoming audit and possible auditor clarification questions. Currently, the Department Heads do not go before the Mayor and Council for approval of budgeted expenditures or for approval to expend funds, budgeted or not, unless the expenditure is over a certain dollar amount. Mrs. Harrison's main

concern was that this could be the auditor's impression and wanted this to be clarified for the city and the auditors.

Mayor Harley recommended that we form a committee to work with City Accountant Harrison and formalize a new policy re: purchases.

Councilman Andrews stated that he does not support at this time removing the CC-8 policy. Would like to do the committee first and then move forward with the new policy. Councilman Andrews stressed that he does not want any ambiguity, recommended bring back or revise policy for consideration after committee is formed and policy is discussed.

Councilman Armijo agrees with comments would like to strike language re: City Administrator until other policy is presented.

City Accountant Harrison asking clarification, if we are looking to revise all CC policies that are not covered by personnel manual or SOP's. Informing Mayor and Council that she is busy with auditor prep and accounting duties, and does not have the time to turn this around quickly as it will take some time.

Mayor called for vote; motion failed. All oppose.

City Accountant Harrison will lead the committee's effort to create new policy; primary councilman over Financial Department (Councilman Evans) and the following (2) Department Heads -Municipal Court Clerk Sara Caldwell and Police Chief Ronald Rodgers will serve on committee.

Discussion: Mall Entrance: Director of Operations Brumfield reminded everyone that when Councilman Tucker was on the Council he was leading the effort with this project. After some time it has fallen through the cracks. The mall has generated the request again due to the new Belk's men's store that is moving into the old goody's location. The mall is requesting assistance.

Mayor Harley asked how much has the city spent on plans at this time. Mr. Brumfield reported \$8,000. The estimated cost for the project is \$150,000. Mayor Harley stated he thought the malls portion would be roughly-\$15,000.00.

Councilman Evans asked how long was this planned. Mr. Brumfield confirmed 2 years ago. Councilman Evans inquired once the entrance is done what will the city commitment be at that time? Mr. Brumfield reported everything on the ROW (Right of Way), street signs and traffic lights.

Councilman Andrews concerned about other future city projects on the horizon, will we be perilously close to our reserve policy amounts? City Accountant Harrison stated that this will use up some of our reserve money. When we pursue the park project, recommended looking for grant money. The upcoming Water & Sewer shop project might possibly be funded partially from future SPLOST funds.

Councilman Armijo asked how this came about in the beginning. Councilman Andrews stated his understanding about the potential economic development benefits and the mall sought this to promote and benefit future expansion.

City Attorney Tydings informed everyone that former mall representatives had stated that there were many times that the mall lost tenant prospects because there is no entrance at the north end of the mall.

Motions made by Councilman Wright to reimburse the mall for that portion of project that lies within city streets and right of way approving the estimated expenditure \$150,000.00 and authorizing Mayor Harley to provide commitment letter for project, funding source General Fund unassigned fund balance; seconded by Councilman Armijo. Motion carried.

Comments from Council

Post 1, Councilman Andrews: None

Post 2 Councilman Wright, challenged each councilman to ride with Officer Welch to tour the city to see the trailer parks and other inner city substandard housing.

Post 3 Councilman Evans, good news in the city, received email from Court Clerk Caldwell and wanted to share with the citizens and councilmembers. Probation- first official audit completed on July 21, 2016, received report of full compliance; doing a good job. Officer John Sweat worked diligently to provide all case files, the auditors said "it's as close to perfect as you can get". Thanks to his hard work, with zero errors, result with full compliance.

City Attorney Tydings stated she wanted to make a couple of points. Part time employee Tonya Wharton has worked closely with probation. Mrs. Wharton handles a big part of the intake paperwork and helped with the audit, she also worked hard in the preparation.

Post 4 Councilman Armijo, thanked Municipal Court Clerk Caldwell for doing a great job. Mrs. Caldwell replied she cannot take all of the credit and recognized employees John Sweat- Probation Officer and Clerk- Tonya Wharton.

Executive Session- Personnel Matters and Future Land Acquisition: Mayor Harley entertained motion. Motion made by Councilman Wright to enter into executive session at 7:36; seconded by Councilman Andrews. Motion carried.

Meeting reconvened at 8:25pm.

Affidavit and Resolution: Motion made by Councilman Wright to adopt resolution as written; seconded by Councilman Evans. Motion carried. City Attorney Tydings read affidavit. Affidavit executed by Mayor Harley and notarized by City Clerk Bedingfield. A copy is attached and made part of official minutes.

Meeting adjourned 8:26pm.

Mayor John R. Harley

Attest by City Clerk Krista Bedingfield

Date