

Regular Council Meeting

August 4, 2015

Mayor Harley called meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Invocation given by Councilman Andrews

Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilman Evans

Welcome Extended to all by Mayor Harley at 7:00pm.

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.

Public Comments

None

Motion made by Councilman Wright to add the following item to the agenda under new business #10: Discussion-Approval Purchase of Rape Property; seconded by Councilman Andrews. Motion carried.

Adoption of Minutes: Blanket motion made by Councilman Nichols as written; seconded by Councilman Wright. Motion carried.

- July 2, 2015 Special Council Meeting
- July 7, 2015 Regular Council Meeting
- July 10, 2015 Special Council Meeting
- July 21, 2015 Council Work Session
- July 28, 2015 Special Council Meeting

Old Business

Police Department Proposed Purchase of Additional Used Vehicles/Trade-in of Used Vehicles – Councilman Nichols stated that there is a copy of the proposal from Brannen Motor Company in your packets for review. There is a need for the (4) vehicles and recommending the purchase. Motion to approve expenditure to purchase (4) vehicles -\$77,092.00; seconded by Councilman Andrews. Councilman Nichols also stated that there is within the budget \$41,000 (payroll funds from the general fund, that is not being used at this time, the remaining cost would come out of the unassigned General Fund Balance. Mayor Harley opened floor for discussion.

Councilman Evans asked if there was any warranty on the used vehicles. Lt. Pritchett confirmed and said “yes” there is still some factory warranty on vehicles. Councilman Andrews posed the question- Will all 13 vehicles be a take home vehicle? Director Tucker stated this will allow the officers to be in a vehicle for 12 hours and they will be allowed to take it home. The current caprices have been shared among officers and has caused them to become worn out. In addition, Director Tucker stated this will save on fuel and maintenance and sustain the police force with morale.

Mayor asked the question-are we obligated to purchase these vehicles? Director Tucker stated "no". Mayor Harley also asked the following question to the Council: Director Tucker is in the administrative role and is it necessary to provide him a vehicle? Director Tucker reported that he had given his vehicle to an officer that is attending training this week in Forsyth.

General discussion among Mayor and Council regarding the necessity of providing vehicle for Director Tucker. No motion or action taken.

Councilman Nichols revised prior motion- approve expenditure to purchase (4) vehicles - \$77,092.00-\$41,000 (expenditure will be paid from-payroll funds from the general fund, that is not being used at this time) and the remaining cost would come out of the unassigned General Fund Balance and authorization to trade in (2) vehicles (2000 Ford Explorer & 2000 Ford F350 Dually truck); seconded by Councilman Andrews. Motion carried.

New Business

Councilman Over Department Revision: Councilman Nichols made motion to place Councilman Evans over Police Department and Councilman Nichols over Fire Department; seconded by Councilman Wright. Motion carried.

Designation Signatory/ Approval Middle GA Probation Amendment Community Service Fee: Municipal Court Clerk Caldwell change in language with current contract-community service fee. Motion made Councilman Wright to approve and authorizing Mayor Harley as signatory; seconded by Councilman Nichols. Motion carried.

Discussion 2015 Millage Rate: City Accountant Harrison provided a copy of the PT32.1 computation for review. No motion or action taken.

Discussion-Approval Purchase of Rape-Lovejoy Property: Councilman Wright made motion to approve the contract to purchase approximately 8 acres, having an address of 103 East Church Street, Centerville, GA 31028, from Billy Rape and Carolyn Lovejoy for the price of \$310,000.00. This motion includes authorization for the Mayor to sign the contract and also to sign all necessary documents to accomplish the closing; as well as authority for Mike Brumfield to engage Rick Saunders to survey the property immediately after closing. The funding source for the property purchase and the cost of the survey is the Water and Sewer Fund unrestricted net position.

Councilman Wright recognized City Accountant Harrison, to give a point of information about this purchase and the City's reserve policy. City Accountant updated everyone that there will be a balance of \$900,000 of water and sewer reserve. Also, 1.5 million set aside for future water improvements. With this purchase will have estimated \$900,000 remaining in reserve.

Councilman Nichols stated he was excited and thanked Councilman Wright for his hard work on the Rape-Lovejoy property. We are moving forward.

Councilman Andrews also very excited about the purchase of the Rape-Lovejoy purchase.

Councilman Evans said this is a great idea and a good way for the city to move forward. Looking forward to discussions and putting together concepts.

Mayor called for the vote. Motion carried.

Council Comments

Post 1 Councilman Andrews, read statement. In recent days he had recently requested some basic information from the City of Centerville, which was received, about the current tax exemption that residents 70 and over are eligible for in our city. The information was very disturbing and the trend it shows is very alarming. Currently there are 354 homes that do not pay property taxes, up from 330 last year. The total nontaxed property in Centerville is \$19,507,859 up from last year's total untaxed property of \$17,835,804. Ten years ago in the year 2005 there were homes that were not taxed and the total property value then was \$7,571,960. Mr. Andrews stated that in ten years the property value on exemptions in Centerville has nearly tripled and the annual revenue lost is quickly approaching a quarter of million dollars. The total loss in revenue over the ten year period from 2005-2015 is \$1,820,844. Recommending placing referendum on the ballot once again and motivating those who do pay property taxes to help come out and vote and level the playing field so Centerville can continue to serve and grow with the help of all its citizens together. A copy of the full statement is attached and made part of the official minutes.

Post 3 Councilman Evans, thanked Councilman Wright for his hard work on the Rape-Lovejoy property.

Post 4, Councilman Nichols, declared that he will be running for re-election for Post 4 Council seat in the November 3, 2015 General Election.

Mayor Harley stated that he is endorsing Councilman Nichols. Publicly thanked him and said he has represented the city well. Very excited about the Rape-Lovejoy property purchase. Also, stated the senior exemption is pushing the Governing Authority members to look at the possibility of considering the rollback rate 12.001. Would like to look at the possibly of doing a recertify process of the senior exemption. City Attorney Tydings stated she will work with the City Clerk re: senior exemption ordinance.

Meeting adjourned at 7:54pm.

Mayor John R. Harley

Attest by City Clerk Krista Bedingfield

Date