

Council Work Session

July 19, 2016

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

Invocation given by Mayor Harley

Pledge of allegiance led by Forest Braly- Boy scout -Troop 400.

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 Edward D. Armijo and City Attorney Rebecca Tydings.

Public Comments

Ralph Kennedy, 101 Crestwood Ct- Comments-Supporting First Responders (Police & Fire): Thanked Mayor and Council, neighbors and friends. Mr. Kennedy stated in 1970, he joined an organization- Civil Defense Police Reserve. He was involved with a group that had served in the Vietnam War. A very interesting and rewarding experience, served with volunteer police units in West Virginia. The Police and emergency responders have recently come under fire. There is no race problem, only one the “human” race, we have to live together. Wanted to let everyone know that he stands behind the First Responders (Police and Fire), day and night, stands behind his oath; retired military. In closing, stated that he “stands behind you and by your side”.

David Parker, 129 Ridgebend Drive, inquiring about the agenda item- (Point of Information- Expenditure Vehicle Alternate Vendor-Police Department), recently spent over half a million dollars on new Tahoe vehicles for the Police Department. Wondering if any of the proposed expenditures for another vehicle are budgeted? Was the need so great that we have to buy another vehicle now? Can't things like this (purchase of vehicle) be budgeted? How much longer is this going to go on, concerned about increase in property taxes? Hoping this will be addressed tonight.

Mayor Harley informed Mr. Parker that this agenda item had been addressed at prior meeting when Mr. and Mrs. Parker were not in attendance.

Geraldine Parker, 129 Ridgebend Drive, referring to part time code enforcement position. Asked the question “will this position be advertised to the public”? In closing, stated that hiring within can lead to favoritism and alienation among the ranks.

Old Business

None

New Business

Approval Revised Sanitation Agreement: Director of Operations Brumfield reported that the revised agreement contains the new and updated schedule for pickup and sanitation rates. In addition, includes a limited number of items that would be an extra charge. Motion made by Councilman Wright to adopt revised sanitation agreement as written; seconded by Councilman Andrews. Motion carried.

Councilman Armijo questioned the language “streets and days”. Will the normal Thursday pickup remain the same? Mr. Brumfield confirmed “yes” it will remain the same; pick up day will not change for the area.

Ordinance Amendment – Chapter 48 Solid Waste Management: Director of Operations Brumfield provided a copy to Mayor and Council for review with amendments. Motion made by Councilman Evans to approve ordinance amendment as written; seconded by Councilman Wright. Councilman Evans had a question concerning the “50lb weight” language. City Attorney Tydings stated that “weight” is so subjective, if it will go in the container and is an allowable item. Mayor Harley called for the vote; unanimous. Motion carried. See Ordinance 2016-7.

Discussion- Donations Recycling Center: Councilman Wright reported that there has been an overwhelming response to continue taking plastic and not dispose at the landfill. People have been giving donations to help alleviate cost of gas. Councilman Wright read the stats for the following timeframe, January –May 2016. The recycling center has received 13.39 tons of plastic. The cost to haul the container is \$50.00 for each time. This is working out fine and would love to see it continue.

Mayor said that the term “fee” will be removed from the sign at the recycling center and we will add language to state “taking donations”. Councilman Wright stated the sign will be changed at the recycling center tomorrow.

Councilman Wright reported the recycling center was set up in 2002; people come from all different counties in the area (Pulaski, Bleckley, Peach); regional recycling center.

Approval Revised Lieutenant Job Description- Police Department: Police Chief Rodgers stated that he had reviewed prior job description and wanted it to be more job specific. A copy provided to Mayor and Council for review. Chief Rodgers wanted to make one revision of the draft- pg. 2 last paragraph, change the following language “oversee” to “assist”. Motion made by Councilman Wright to approve with revision; seconded by Councilman Evans. Councilman Evans stated that he had reviewed the job description, well thought out and detailed. Hope we can find someone who can meet qualifications-takes someone with a lot of experience. Mayor Harley called for vote; unanimous. Motion carried.

Approval Part-Time Position Code Enforcement-Police Department: Mayor Harley stated that he had taken a ride around the city with Chief Rodgers, Officer Welch, and Councilman Wright. This brought on the discussion about enforcing code enforcement issues around the city and looking at hiring part time code enforcement. Councilman Wright recommending to table item; seconded by Councilman Armijo. Councilman Wright also made comments about code enforcement issue. Officer Welch wears many hats; there is only so many hours in the day, needs some help to manage.

Police Chief Rodgers added there are other issues, bigger crisis “elder abuse”. If we don’t deal with these issues-examples: the trailer parks that are in such poor condition will lead to an influx of crime, not a matter of “if” but “when”. Mayor Harley called for vote. Motion carried. Mayor Harley agrees with comments.

Point of Information- Expenditure Vehicle Alternate Vendor-Police Department: Police Chief Rodgers reminded everyone of the last meeting when quotes were provided. The prior quotes were for an administrative patrol package vehicle vs. patrol vehicle package; didn’t include equipment. Chief Rodgers reported that he has found a 2015 Dodge Charger in Jonesboro, GA. The vehicle can be delivered in one day. The cost is \$22,640.40 compared to the prior quote \$22,503.00 (included in the FY 2016-2017 Budget) resulting in a difference of \$ 137.40. Motion made by Councilman Wright to approve expenditure (Vendor-Don Jackson, Chrysler-Dodge-Jeep); seconded by Councilman Andrews. Councilman Armijo asked the following question, “once approved, when vehicle will arrive”? Chief Rodgers confirmed he will notify the vendor tonight. Mayor Harley called for the vote; unanimous. Motion carried.

Approval Expenditure Equipment Package for Vehicle-Police Department: Police Chief Rodgers explained that he takes responsibility for the miscommunication. He stated in other agencies where he has worked, would purchase vehicle then proceed to purchase equipment, resulting in (2) quotes. With this being said, the Chief recommended that the City select West Chatham as vendor to purchase equipment. Motion made by Councilman Andrews to approve; seconded by Councilman Evans. Councilman Andrews asked Chief Rodgers, are we comparing “apples to apples” and does this satisfy the tag reader. Chief Rodgers confirmed “yes”. Councilman Armijo asked Chief, what will become of the equipment when it’s removed from the Tahoe. Chief Rodgers reported that some of the equipment will be relocated to an administrative vehicle. The tag reader will go to the new vehicle- charger. Proposed funding will come from General Funds Contingency, funds were not budgeted. Councilman Andrews withdrew motion to approve purchase in light of funding discussion. Councilman Wright asked Chief Rodgers about using Confiscated Funds to cover this expenditure and the Chief indicated that there are confiscated funds available; City Accountant Harrison confirmed. The expenditure will come out of the Confiscated Funds Account. Because spending confiscated funds on this equipment does not require Council approval, this item becomes a point of information only.

Comments from Council

Post 1 Councilman Andrews, no comments.

Post 2 Councilman Wright, wanted to follow up regarding sanitation agreement. Language within the agreement pertaining to requirements re: garbage cans, only to be put out the day before pickup and removed the day after pickup. Councilman Wright reported that he had observed last Friday on Collins Avenue, garbage cans were out and bags of trash beside the road. In closing, stated that 3 days is enough time.

Post 3 Councilman Evans, stated we live in the greatest country in the world. Things that are going on now with Police Officers and people, hurt his heart. Councilman Evans reported that he has been to a lot of places in the world due to his military service. Hard to appreciate what you have if you haven’t traveled to other parts of the country. We as people have to learn and give respect to Police Officers, which does not go without saying they should do the same. There

is an (Presidential) election this fall and we need to look at where we want to go. Thanked the Fire and Police, appreciate them and all they do. We as a Mayor and Council need to provide equipment so they can do their jobs. Councilman Evans stated he wanted to live here in Centerville and not in a big city, feels safe. In closing, stated he supports them-Police.

Post 4 Councilman Armijo, thanked Mr. Kennedy for coming tonight and expressing his views. It was heart felt and thanked him for his service. Important to understand and support first responders. Vehicle caught on fire recently, Fire and Police responded. Councilman Armijo confirmed that he wasn't there but saw text messages and heard comments, thanked them for doing a good job. Very proud of the city and proud of departments.

Mayor Harley also mentioned the burning vehicle; job well done and appreciates both departments; Police and Fire.

Clay Peacock, 209 Macintosh Lane, referenced the newspaper article re: fee to enter recycling center, never has been a fee to enter the recycling center.

Meeting adjourned at 5:52pm.

Mayor John R. Harley

Attest by City Clerk Krista Bedingfield

Date