

Council Work Session

November 17, 2015

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

Invocation given by Mayor Harley

Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilman Wright

Welcome extended to all by Mayor Harley

Present were Mayor John R. Harley, Councilman Cameron Andrews, Councilman Randall Wright, Councilman J. Micheal Evans, Councilman Jonathan Nichols and City Attorney Rebecca Tydings.

Motion made by Councilman Nichols to add - JDRF (Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation) Proclamation to the agenda; seconded by Councilman Wright. Motion carried.

JDRF Proclamation: Mayor Harley read proclamation and presented to Trey Moore-Executive Director of Georgia Chapter, Ashlynn-Kate Chadwick and Belinda Enamarado, JDRF GA Outreach Mentor Chair & Middle GA Family Support Group Leader. Mrs. Enamarado stated she is spreading the word for a cure.

Public Comments

Clay Peacock, 209 Macintosh Lane: Discussion- Rules of Decorum: Rules of Decorum policy adopted in October 2014. Mr. Peacock quoted the following from policy:

“Interrupting during a meeting to ask questions or attempt to voice objection to a discussion is not a protective exercise of free speech. Such conduct is out of order and disruptive. Individuals are also prohibited for private conversations or other distractions during the meeting.”

At the last meeting there were individuals that were having private conversations and rose interrupting the speaker. This is rude, inconsiderate and distractive and contrary to the rules of the decorum. There are citizens that attend the council meetings to be informed on the business of the city not be subjective to competitive discussion or distractions. Asked that the presiding officer to enforce the rules of decorum enforced that up to and including having the offending party/parties removed from the meeting place. In addition, those individuals that ignore the rules, those individuals be removed from the meetings.

Mayor Harley stated that he has reviewed the policy and apologized for being “lax” at times. Mayor Harley also instructed all comments be directed to the chair, that being the Mayor or Mayor Pro Tem in his absence. Thanked Mr. Peacock for his comments.

Edward Tucker, 121 Tivoli Park Rd-Comments/ Discussion-Ordinance: Requested item be removed from agenda, declined to comment.

Old Business

Point of Information-Police Department Smart Glasses: Councilman Evans stated that there are some good things going on in the city. Wanted to bring out this good news and recognized Sgt. Hadden.

In February of this year, the City paid \$9,210.00 for 12 Smart GLASS (aka Google Glasses) for the Centerville Police Department. As you may recall, the Department was one of two agencies chosen to “pilot” the new law enforcement video camera technology. Ultimately, the Smart GLASS product did not perform as promised.

In early October, City staff made contact with Applied Concepts and asked for a refund of the full purchase price and shipping paid for the Smart GLASS units. Applied Concepts agreed to a full refund, and the Smart GLASS units were shipped to Applied Concepts on October the 5th. The cost of the return shipping was \$210.04. City staff again made contact with Applied Concepts and requested an additional refund of the return shipping costs.

On October 6th during the Council meeting, the Centerville Mayor and Council unanimously approved the city’s contract with Taser international for the purchase of new Body Worn Cameras in the amount of \$12,906.00

As of Friday, November 13, 2015, I am pleased to report that the City has received checks totaling \$9,420.04 from Applied Concepts. This amount represents a full refund of the cost of the SmartGlass units and the shipping to and from the City. Ultimately, the Centerville Police Department now has fully-functioning body cameras. The net cost to the City is \$3,485.96. This happened all because City staff made the effort to seek a refund of taxpayer dollars.

New Business

Environmental Advisory Board-Use of Centerville City Hall Community Center 2016: Mayor Harley reported that this is done annually. Community leaders from other universities and individuals in the area. Motion to approve and waive fees for use of community room made by Councilman Wright; seconded by Councilman Andrews. Motion carried.

- February 4, 2016
- May 5, 2016
- August 4, 2016
- November 3, 2016

Police Ballistic Vest: Councilman Evans stated that he has met with Captain Harlowe to help work to improve Police Department overall and safety for Police officers. During this process Captain Harlowe discovered there were some ballistic vests that were out of date and needed to be replaced. Councilman Evans recognized Captain Harlowe.

Captain Harlowe reported that there are 15 individuals that need to wear police ballistic vests. Of those 15, the department currently needs to replace and purchase 7 new ballistic vests. Captain Harlowe has been researching quality and is looking for the best deal. Currently have budgeted \$3,000.00 along with a 2014 grant with some funds remaining for use. A new grant was not applied for in 2015. The next grant period will open in April 2016. The department will apply and likely receive \$1,200.00 under that grant program. Of the suppliers contacted, one quoted \$655 per vest, total cost \$4,500 and another quoted \$710 per vest, total cost \$4,900. Captain Harlowe stated that it is important to make sure we get the best vest, the higher the threat level the better the vest; therefore it is important to look at the threat levels: 1a, 2a or 3a level. Captain Harlowe has spoken with City Accountant Harrison and funds are available to

fund the excess cost of \$ 770.00 over remaining grant funds. City Accountant Harrison confirmed that there is money in the budget to cover this amount.

Captain Harlowe recommends level 3a for a better protection; need to put in place a plan to start replacing this equipment. Each vest has its own serial number, all this information should be kept on file, unique to the vest, if there are any problems the vest can go back to the manufacturer for replacement. General discussion. No motion or action taken – discussion solely as a point of information.

Police Department Organizational Chart/Promotion Approval: Councilman Evans stated that he has discussed this with Captain Harlowe and a lot of changes have taken place in the past year. Councilman Evans asked Captain Harlowe to put together a new organizational chart. Motion made by Councilman Evans to adopt organizational chart; seconded by Councilman Wright. Motion carried.

Councilman Evans stated that about 60 days ago the Houston County Sheriff's Department was asked to assist the city with running the police department in the absence of a Police Chief. Captain Harlowe came on board. Councilman Evans stated that morale is up and Captain Harlowe has done a fine job. We brought him in to run this department and he is the current, acting Department Head.

Captain Harlowe thanked the comments and gave credit to the Police Department. They do the job day in and day out. One of the first things he wanted to do was to come in and evaluate the department. In doing so, he has spoken with everyone. Everybody there has specific talents – some are stronger in one area while others are stronger in different areas. It is important to follow the chain of command and that is the purpose of the revised organizational chart. One of the things you need is a strong leader when you get to the level of Captain and/or Lieutenant. That person is the work horse/ leader. Captain Harlowe has identified, through working with each person at the department, an individual to serve as acting chief of police once Captain Harlowe is no longer here on a daily basis. He recommended promoting Sgt. Chuck Hadden to the rank of Captain, stating that he is a trusted and loyal employee.

Councilman Evans agreed with Captain Harlowe's comments and has spoken with Sgt Hadden. He is a man of integrity and a man who will treat everyone fairly.

Mayor stated that Sgt Hadden has been with the city for 9 years. Captain Harlowe added that his record and personnel file speaks for itself.

Councilman Nichols stated that yesterday there were emails concerning this issue. Stating that his comments don't have anything to do with Sgt Hadden personally. Councilman Nichols stated Sgt. Hadden is an asset to the Centerville Police Department and that he trusts Captain Harlowe. With that said, Councilman Nichols stated that he doesn't feel that, in no way, shape or form, should Captain Harlowe be the person to make promotions while serving in his current position. Councilman Nichols expressed concern that this needs to be done by the person hired as Police Chief. This has to do with the process and his belief that all promotions should be on hold until a new Chief is hired.

Mayor Harley asked Captain Harlowe if anyone had asked him to make this promotion. Captain Harlowe stated "no". Captain Harlowe stated that this is based on his own experience as a law enforcement officer. He feels that Sgt. Hadden will be the person whom the new chief will rely upon to help during the transition period once he comes on board.

Councilman Andrews also recommends holding off on this decision and stated that he cannot support this until we get someone who is going to lead this department. He does not want to put the cart before the horse because “we have made some mistakes in the past couple of months.” He feels that we are rushing; we are in the process of taking applications for Police Chief. Need to let this process work this way through. Thanked Captain Harlowe for getting them through this difficult time. He stated that he does know that that Sgt. Hadden has been the backbone.

Mayor stated that Captain Harlowe has been on staff for 77 days and has looked at personnel. Also, reminded everyone that Mayor and Council have never interfered with promotions below Department Head level. Pointed out that the Department Head has the authority to make promotions below that level according to the personnel manual.

Councilman Nichols believes that this should be done with interviews. Stated that he does not understand why we circumvent in other areas, does not think this is right. This has to do with the process.

Councilman Wright stated there was no process followed when Edward Tucker was hired as Director of Police Services. Councilman Wright stated that Captain Harlowe has the right to make this decision it is not up to us.

Captain Harlowe stated that his decision is to promote Sgt Hadden to the rank of Captain.

Sign Discussion: Councilman Wright saw a lot of signs this weekend and rode around this weekend and saw many signs taped to stop signs. Policing of signs in the right of way should not be done once a year but done 365 days a year, there is a code enforcement officer and building inspector. Hope from this day forward we will do a better job.

Employee Contracts: Councilman Nichols stated that he has a prepared statement that he wants to read, but wanted to precede that this has nothing to do with the employees. Mayor Harley asked is this something that should be done in executive session. Mayor Harley said he doesn't have any idea of what this is about or anyone else. Councilman Nichols said he didn't think so and then proceeded to get up and speak to City Attorney Tydings. Councilman Nichols stated that this will be discussed in an executive session at another time but feels that the only problem is that we should not always be taking issues behind closed doors. Mayor Harley stated that discussions only go on behind closed doors in accordance with the law.

Comments from Council

Councilman Andrews Post 1, congratulations Captain Hadden.

Councilman Wright Post 2 congratulated Captain Hadden, Also, working with City Accountant Harrison to bring to council re: Christmas bonus.

Councilman Evans Post 3 congratulations to Captain Hadden well deserved and it is good to promote home grown employees to positions of authority.

Councilman Nichols Post 4 congratulations to Captain Hadden, done a good job.

Mayor Harley congratulations Captain Hadden.

Mayor Harley adjourned meeting at 5:55pm.

Mayor John R. Harley

Attest by City Clerk Krista Bedingfield

Date