

Regular Council Meeting  
October 4, 2016

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

Invocation given by Mayor Harley.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Lt. Michael Montford.

Welcome extended to all by Mayor Harley who recognized Houston County Commissioner Jay Walker and former Mayor Ronnie D. Brand in attendance.

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

Discussion Community Issues, Concerns and Attitudes with Police Policy and Tactics- Melinda Baptist, 101 Sunny Meade Drive, Centerville Ga. Thanked Mayor and Council for the opportunity. Biggest concern about comments made recently by a citizen who used the term “Arabs.” Words hurt, this can be a negative influence on how someone sees themselves. The community should consider having more community-wide events so we can come together as one community. Outreach events, simple functions and fairs to meet your community. Provide different things in the community for youth. The community is not just for the old or young. There are some of us in the community that are not included – young and middle-age adults, singles, etc. We need more community events to bridge gap.

Mrs. Baptist then mentioned her concerns about police tactics, stating that there are a lot of veterans with PTSD. She questioned why, when force is needed, is the aim at “center mass,” “kill shot” which is what she was taught in her Army training. Does not see why this is necessary in Police Department, there are other non- lethal methods. There are people with PTSD and mental issues – please look at crisis intervention training (CIT). Mrs. Baptist reported that she has reviewed the training requirements- hours broken down for each course, stating that more hours are committed to kill than to protect. How are officers to handle stressful situations with minimal training? Officers also suffer from PTSD, they are handling serious situations. This should be discussed more vs. being glossed over, keeping the community involved. Have officers that are trained for a specialty-psychiatric vs traffic cop; too much for one person to handle. Not here to bash police, we are all human and problems can be prevented but starts with the community leaders.

Mayor informed Mrs. Baptist, that the hours mentioned for training with use of a weapon are minimal. The Police Department provides ongoing training opportunities for all the staff/officers. Captain Hadden reported that the city's Police Department officers attend training and have numerous training hours. Lt. Montford has received over 100 hours so far this year.

Mayor also informed Mrs. Baptist that we have hired a Director of Marketing/ Economic Development, Mrs. Kate Hogan, who will be planning community events and projects.

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

- September 6, 2016 Regular Council Meeting
- September 20, 2016 Council Work Session

#### Old Business

None

#### New Business

Proclamation-Support of Houston County Habitat for Humanity (Board member-Angelo "Tony" R. Zigrino & Mary): Mayor Harley read proclamation and provided it to Mr. Bill Goggin (new Executive Director). Mr. Goggin invited everyone to attend the event at Centerville United Methodist Church on October 8th (Saturday 6pm-8pm) 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary; tickets are still available. Mayor Harley will be attending with his wife (Shirley).

Firefighter of the Year Recognition: Fire Chief Jones recognized Sgt Brock Wilcher and stated at the beginning of the year Sgt Wilcher was promoted. Sergeant Wilcher is the fire prevention and safety officer for the Centerville Fire Department. Chief Jones stated the main slogan is "The best fire protection is fire prevention". Chief Jones recognized Sgt Brock Wilcher as the 'firefighter of the year'. This award was voted on by his peers.

Proclamation-Fire Prevention Week-Proclamation: Councilman Andrews read proclamation and presented to Fire Chief Jones. The City of Centerville will recognize October 9-15, 2016 as "Fire Prevention Week".

Triple Ribbon Month- Proclamation: Mayor Harley read proclamation, "Alcohol and Drug Abuse awareness month", and recognized October 23-31, 2016 as "National Triple Ribbon Week".

Compensatory Time Policy: Mayor Harley recognized City Attorney Tydings. Mrs. Tydings reported that there has been a lot of discussion re: final rule that will become effective December 1, 2016. City is preparing a policy to put us in compliance. We have identified (5) employees

and outlined this information for the Mayor and Council to review. The goal would to be adopt a policy in November in order to be in compliance as of December 1.

Approval WM2A-Engineering Fees - Centerville Utility Department Complex-Designation of Funding Source-Water & Sewer Unrestricted Net Position: Director of Operations Brumfield provided a copy of bill to Mayor and Council to review. The contract was approved in a prior meeting but did not designate a funding source. Recommending that the expenditure be paid from Water & Sewer unrestricted net position. Motion made by Councilman Armijo to designate funding source as Water & Sewer unrestricted net position and pay invoice; seconded by Councilman Andrews. Motion carried.

Comments from Council

Post 1 Councilman Andrews, no comments.

Post 2 Councilman Wright, no comments.

Post 3 Councilman Evans, congratulated Sgt Wilcher for his nomination and that is an honor to be recognized by his peers. Secondly wanted to mention at the last meeting Mrs. Paulette Lemons, with Connection on the Parkway, invited everyone to attend an event at the location on Carl Vinson Parkway. Councilman Evans attended the event and noted that there were several non- profit organizations present and all provided information to attendees. City of Centerville was well represented. CFP set up the Fire Safety House, thanked the Fire Department for their participation. Mayor Harley thanked Councilman Evans for attending.

Post 4 Councilman Armijo,

Executive Session- Personnel Matters: Councilman Evans made motion to enter into executive session at 7:42pm; seconded by Councilman Wright. Motion carried.

Mayor and Council reconvened meeting at 8:11pm.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:12pm.

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Mayor John R. Harley

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Attest by City Clerk Krista Bedingfield

Date: \_\_\_\_\_