

Regular Council Meeting

September 1, 2015

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

Invocation given by Mayor Harley.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Jacob Vic 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 Jonathan Nichols and City Attorney Rebecca Tydings.

Public Comments

David Parker, 129 Ridgebend Drive-Comments-Ordinances & Agendas: (1) Ordinance re: trash cans, for two years now, my wife and I have been complaining about the condition of our neighborhoods, and the streets looking like trash can alleys. The ordinance was re-written and starting in April, the new Code Enforcement Officer Welch actually began the task of cleaning up our neighborhoods. The Northridge area started looking a lot better. However, since August, the trash containers have started re-appearing. Would like to know “why” this is happening. In addition mentioned (2) individuals in the area that seem to be operating an auto repair business in their front yards, due to the numerous vehicles parked in the grass. Would like to know when he can expect the ordinances to be enforced on a permanent basis. (2) Agendas, stating the purpose of an agenda is to give residents ample warning about upcoming topics prior to the council meeting. Have noticed that agendas are made available on Fridays and/or Mondays prior to council meeting and feels that this isn’t giving citizens time to prepare comments they may have for Mayor and Council.

Mayor Harley informed Mr. Parker that there are situations where items are added to the agenda. If the items can be postponed; they will be added to the next meeting. The city is required to notify the media at least 24 hours in advance unless an emergency exists. The agenda is generally sent to media on Friday; however, it can be (and sometimes is) sent out to them on Monday and still comply with the law. There is no intent to hide things by doing so. Sometimes issues that need to be dealt with arise a day or two before the meeting.

Clay Peacock, 209 Macintosh Lane-Comments-Director of Police Services: The Mayor and the council, initiated, developed and opened up a temporary, part-time civilian slot in the Police Department. The job was awarded with no competition and full knowledge of the recipient that he would get the position. The gentleman resigned from council and accepted the position at approximately the same time. “A bit too cozy for me”. The Chief of Police position should be filled with a career police officer who grew up in law enforcement, understands it and is able to manage/ lead a Police Department. If this

level of experience is not now on staff then a search should be conducted. What Centerville has said by having a civilian to be chief is that we don't need the most qualified police officer on our staff. We have given a retirement job to an individual rather than to an officer who has worked for years in law enforcement and is highly knowledgeable in direction of a Police Department. Hiring over the top, you have closed the door to an experienced officer that has worked for years to get a command position. I have not always agreed on what Mayor and Council were doing, but that is ok. I have held you in high regard. This is a deal breaker for me and I do not agree with what you have done. The manner in which these events have developed has changed my mind about Mayor and Council.

See below questions asked of Mayor and Council.

1. Do the Mayor and Council have full faith and confidence that Lt. Pritchett can lead in an outstanding manner? No comment
2. In reviewing the Georgia Municipal Association page on Centerville under the other officials section, why is there an unqualified individual listed as Police Chief? Mayor Harley replied "It is not supposed to be".
3. How many police officers have interviewed for the Centerville Police Chief Job? Mayor Harley responded "none- haven't asked for any".
4. Other than Mr. Tucker, how many other individuals were interviewed for the new Police Department position? Mayor Harley responded "none- haven't asked for any".
5. Mr. Evans do you agree with Mayor and Council on the stand up of a temporary job in the Police Department and giving the job to a recent council member rather than hiring an experienced police officer for Police Chief? Councilman Evans stated "I cannot comment at this time".

Adoption of Minutes: Motion made by Councilman Wright to adopt all sets of minutes with one amendment to August 4, 2015 minutes. Correction – Councilman Randall Wright's names is listed twice in the section- present at meeting and missing Councilman Jonathan Nichols- update and amend language; seconded by Councilman Evans. Motion carried.

- August 4, 2015-Regular Council Meeting
- August 18, 2015-Council Work Session

Old Business

Amendment Probation Services Agreement: City Attorney Tydings recognized John Sweat and reported that the city has been approved to be an in house probation services provider. In addition, Municipal Court has hired a part time person. Motion made by Councilman Evans to approve and authorize Mayor Harley as signatory on the Agreement; seconded by Councilman Andrews. Motion carried.

New Business

None.

Comment from Council

Post 1 Councilman Andrews thanked Mr. Parker and Mr. Peacock for their comments. Also welcomed Mr. Sweat to the City of Centerville. In closing, mentioned the savings of money having in house probations services vs contracted services for probation.

Post 3 Councilman Evans, thanked Mr. Parker and Mr. Peacock for their comments. Also, welcomed Mr. Sweat to the City of Centerville.

Mayor Harley mentioned the Houston County Commissioner meeting that he attended this morning; benefit of SPLOST projects. Spoke against T-SPLOST saying that the money should be spent here in Houston County.

Meeting adjourned at 7:18 pm.

Mayor John R. Harley

Attest by City Attorney Rebecca Tydings

Date