

Regular Council Meeting

December 2, 2014

7:00pm

Invocation given by Councilman Nichols

Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilman Tucker

Welcome extended to all by Mayor Harley and he recognized Houston County Commissioner Jay Walker.

Councilman Tucker made motion to add the following item to agenda-under new business number 11; Alternate Financing for 2015 Fire Vehicle Tahoe; seconded by Councilman Nichols. Motion carried.

Proclamation “Designating December 5 as Olivia McMillan Day”: Councilman Nichols read proclamation and presented it to Miss Olivia McMillan.

Public Comments:

Guerry Smith, 221 Mason Drive: Requesting update on 216 Mason Drive. Publicly thanked the Mayor and Council and especially City Attorney Tydings. Glad to see that work has been done, however, there is still some work needed on the left side of property. Appreciative of what has been done on property, but would like for them to finish cleaning up property. Made a request that funds are appropriated for future clean-up of non-maintained properties in city to help maintain foreclosed/ abandoned properties. Thanked everyone again.

John Cox, 103 Chase Circle: Petition for assistance Shannon Lane/ Chase Circle-privacy fence to enclose cul-de-sac would like to know if the Mayor and Council can assist with fence to help resolve issue. Not asking for labor to construct, but materials, seeking any suggestions. The homeowners at the end of Shannon lane already have a wooden fence and would like to connect. Councilman Tucker asked who owns property where he wants to place fence. Mr. Cox stated that he thought WR Supply owns this property. Mayor stated that he will review suggestions and work with staff will report back to Mr. Cox next week.

Adoption of Minutes: Blanket motion made by Councilman Nichols to adopt minutes as written; seconded by Councilman Tucker. Motion carried.

- November 4, 2014
- November 18, 2014

Old Business

Designation of Funding Source- Purchase of Higdon Property: City Accountant Harrison made recommendation to pay expenditure from the unrestricted net position Water and Sewer Fund. Motion made by Councilman Nichols designating funding source as unrestricted net position Water and Sewer Fund to pay for expenditure of the Higdon property; seconded by Councilman Tuckers. Motion carried.

Designation of Funding Source-2015 LMIG Project: City Accountant Harrison reminded everyone about the discussion of establishing funding for the 2015 LMIG project above the available SPLOST funds and LMIG Grant of \$211,000. Mrs. Harrison recommended the balance of \$58,052 be funded with Water and Sewer unrestricted net position. Motion made by Councilman Tucker to designate the Water and Sewer Fund as the funding source \$58,052; seconded by Councilman Nichols. Motion carried.

#### New Business

Employee 2014 Christmas Bonus: Councilman Nichols provided a copy of full-time/ part-time employees with proposed bonus; city would cover Medicare and social security taxes. The employee covers their Federal and State. The total cost for the Christmas bonus is \$14,804.19 and would be funded by General Fund contingency of 11,074 and Water & Sewer fund contingency of \$3730.

Motion made by Councilman Nichols to approve Christmas bonus; seconded by Councilman Tucker. City Attorney Tydings stated that she had spoken to Councilman Wright and that Councilman Wright wanted her to pass along "A job well done to all employees". Councilman Nichols stated Councilman Andrews fully supports Christmas bonus. Mayor Harley called for the vote. Motion carried.

Point of Information Assistance to FEMA 2014 Assistance Firefighter Grant: Councilman Tucker stated that the Fire Department as well as all city staff does a great job, they find ways to augment budget to find resources to do their jobs. Fire Chief Jones will be applying for 2014 FEMA Assistance also applying for MICRO Grant \$25,000 this year; requesting (2) full sets of bunker gear, washing machine and thermal camera. The city share would be \$1,250.00 and would be paid from the General Fund/ Fire Department-53.1100 small equipment line item. Will be applying this week and update Council once he has heard news. No motion or action taken.

Discussion Economic Development Planner/ Director: Councilman Nichols reported that last Fiscal Year there was discussions and funds were put into budget designated to hire an economic development planner. This person would help our city to grow. Mrs. Tydings has been working with MGRC re: job description, committee of (2) to work with MGRC on this issue. Wants to move forward, there are some great ways to improve Centerville. This is the time to have someone come on board. Would like to direct Mrs. Tydings to work with MGRC to draft job description.

City Accountant Harrison reported the total budget \$56,000- to include salary, benefits, supplies. Is this position going to be a full time or part time?

Councilman Nichols stated he would like for it to be a full time position. Mayor Harley stated that this will be a slow process.

Councilman Tucker stated that the city would be able to get an individual with experience for \$39,000; need to revisit the salary. Recommended that the position wear additional hats, human resources, wellness, economic development? What are the benefits for hiring this person; need to have a conversation about all of these things.

City Attorney Tydings stated that she had spoken with Laura Mathis, have to have goals, BIG goals, then a realistic time frame within the scope of this position. The first step to send a letter to MGRC explaining requirements and needs for this position.

Alternate financing for 2015 Fire Chief Vehicle- Tahoe: Councilman Tucker stated that the staff is conscious on ways to save money; our staff does a great job. Recommendation to go with #5 on schedule (GMA, 3.3%, amount financed \$35,620).

Motion made by Councilman Tucker to designate GMA as conduit and authorized financing of 3.3 percent for 3 years- \$35,620; seconded by Councilman Nichols. City Attorney Tydings stated that Mayor would be authorized as signatory on documents/ promissory notes. Councilman Tucker amended motion to add the following-designate / authorize Mayor Harley as signatory on contract; seconded by Councilman Nichols. Motion carried.

#### Comments from Council

Post 4 Councilman Nichols, wanted to speak from his heart about the community. Has spent 48 years in Houston County, this is where he has called his home. If you do not know that RAFB is important you are missing the boat, the vital part of Middle Georgia. If RAFB were to leave Houston County Ga., it would put a dent in the way we live. You need to write your legislators, give your support, we need RAFB.

Post 3 Councilman Tucker, will be attending the formal First Responders Ball on Friday. Have lost the overseas mission, RAFB are redefining how they can stay relevant in our war fighter. The base employs 27,000 people, everyone benefits from the base being in Houston County, need to turn our eyes to next season, keep prayers for BRAC, it's just around the corner. Also, keep him and his wife in their prayers as they travel this weekend. Appreciates staff on their work today - funding Fire Truck 2015.

City Clerk Bedingfield reminded everyone about the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Lighted Christmas Parade, December 6 at 7pm; entry fee for parade was donation of toy-Toys for Tots. Mrs. Bedingfield and Captain Roger Hayes helped collect toys for the Georgia Stated Patrol and Marine Corps.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

---

Mayor John R. Harley

---

Attest City Clerk Krista Bedingfield

---

Date