

## Regular Council Meeting

November 4, 2014

Invocation given by Councilman Nichols

Pledge of Allegiance led by Captain Hayes

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

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

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

- October 7, 2014 Regular Council Meeting
- October 21, 2014 Council Work Session

### Old Business

Amendment Travel Policy Elected and Appointed Officials: Mayor Harley entertained motion to adopt as written. Motion made by Councilman Wright to adopt policy with amendments; seconded by Councilman Tucker. Motion carried.

### New Business

JDRF Proclamation “Proclaiming -November 1, 2014 Type 1 Diabetes Day” Belinda C. Enamorado JDRF Outreach Mentor Chair: Mayor Harley read proclamation and presented to Mrs. Enamorado –JDRF Outreach Mentor Chair.

FY June 2014 Audit Presentation (Nichols, Cauley & Associates) Marlin Nichols & Beth Tabor: Mayor Harley introduced Mrs. Tabor. Mrs. Tabor briefly described the General Fund/ Water Sewer budget finding. Mrs. Tabor stated that she appreciates the opportunity to present results, happy to state she has a clean report. In closing, praised City Accountant Harrison for a job well done with overseeing the city’s budget.

Resolution Re-Appointment Planning and Zoning Commission Members: Director of Operations Brumfield provided a copy of resolution. Three of members had expired and at this time would like to reinstate their services. Mr. Brumfield stated that he had spoken to each of them and they have agreed to serve on the board. Motion made by Councilman Wright to re-appoint the following as members to the planning and zoning commission; seconded by Councilman Nichols. Motion carried. See Resolution 2014-9.

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|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| • Steve Bertram | 2 year term (expires 06/01/2016) |
| • Gary Davey    | 2 year term expires 06/01/2016)  |
| • Linda Harwell | 1 year term (expires 06/01/2015) |

Garbage Container Ordinance Amendment: Councilman Tucker section C strike noon and revise to no later than the day after collection. We will provide an informational pamphlet to citizens notifying them of the amended ordinance. Motion made by Councilman Tucker to adopt ordinance with amendments; seconded by Councilman Wright. Motion carried. See Ordinance 2014-5 .

Discussion Town Hall Meeting: Councilman Tucker recommendation to invite public comments/ concerns to better communicate the Mayor and Council's intentions. Councilman Tucker stated that they (Governing Authority) sometimes do not explain ideas as well as they should. A perfect example the fountain. Sometimes word of mouth is better served than the media. Would like to give the citizens a better opportunity to understand what we are doing in the city; problem solvers versus problem presenters.

Councilman Wright stated that this is a great idea.

Councilman Nichols stated he looks forward to the opportunity to engage with the citizens. Opportunity to listen to citizens and maybe they can provide a great idea outside of the council chamber.

Mayor Harley stated that the more people you have working on project you could possibly get a better outcome. Want something that the city/ citizens can be proud of, this can be a start.

Police Chief Sidney Andrews introduced 2 new officers to Mayor/ Council. Officer James Cier (part time) and Officer Michael Montford (full time) to Mayor and Council.

#### Public Comments

Geraldine Parker, 129 Ridgebend Drive, thanked the Mayor and Council for changing the policy, still needs to be some things changed. Also, thanked Mrs. Bedingfield for doing a good job.

Guerry Mason, 221 Mason Drive, concerned about property not being maintained in his neighborhood (216 Mason Drive), nothing has been done about the property. Mr. Mason stated that Mrs. Tydings did call him last week reporting that she was awaiting an attorney to return her call. Mrs. Tydings received a phone call and excused herself from the meeting; seeking update on property. Mr. Mason stated that the city needs to tighten up on the banks and do something about these properties. Mrs. Tydings returned to meeting, reporting no update at this time, phone call not associated with 216 Mason Drive. Mayor Harley informed Mr. Mason that in the future to contact City Clerk Bedingfield to have item put on the agenda, this will allow other citizens the opportunity to be notified in advance of meeting.

John Cox, 103 Chase Circle, asked the question if the homeowners would be notified by flyer about the garbage container ordinance regulations and also recommended that a sticker be placed on containers as a reminder. Renters have a different outlook versus people buying their homes. Director of Operations Brumfield confirmed "yes"; flyers will be distributed by utilities laborers and code enforcement officer Sergeant Keller. Mr. Cox also reported that he had witnessed a burglary today in progress in his neighborhood. He wanted to come to the meeting tonight to express his appreciation and pay tribute to the Police Department. Mr. Cox stated that he contacted the Police Department and they responded swiftly and apprehended the burglar. The people in his neighborhood appreciate the Police Department's hard work. In closing, inquired about the privacy fence at the end of Shannon

Lane, giving it more privacy. Also, wanted to find out if Councilman Andrews had spoken with Warner Robins Supply about placing a privacy fence.

Councilman Andrews stated that Warner Robins Supply is not interested at this time due to cost restraints.

Police Chief Andrews thanked Mr. Cox contacting the Police Department and reporting the burglary, this is a proven success to the neighborhood watch program.

Ralph Kennedy, 101 Crestwood Ct, stated he is proud of the city and their budget. Also, commented that it is a novel idea to have town hall meetings and is a great idea.

#### Comments from Council

Post 4, Councilman Nichols, stated that he knew early on that he would serve and had been waiting on the opportunity. Since that time came he has looked forward to learning about the duties and providing moral right guidance in all that he does as an elected official. Serving takes commitment, one that may take us away from our family life. In addition, serving should be selfless, humble, with very little if any return knowing that you help to change lives and make a difference in your community. In closing, stated that he is thankful for the opportunity and what the future holds.

Post 3, Councilman Tucker, thanked City Accountant Harrison and Department Heads for an outstanding financial year, prudent, financial and increased revenue. Wanted to thank Mayor and Council for listening to citizen and adjusting the travel policy and garbage container ordinance. In addition, addressed the recent criticism by citizen in the media. Councilman Tucker talked about his recent training trip to Waycross. Encouraged citizens to meet with any of the council or staff to discuss their concerns. This Council will not remain silent anymore; if you want the facts then meet with us to discuss to get solutions.

Post 2, Councilman Wright, no comment.

Post 1, Councilman Cameron Andrews, stated that the Mayor and Council have recently been criticized unfairly and the critic is uneducated on the process of travel. The city has been affirmed by a fair and impartial audit, the city is doing well based on the findings of the audit. The city carefully manages the taxpayer's moneys. We the Mayor, Council and staff do an excellent job. Publicly thanked City Accountant Harrison and staff for their hard work. In closing, stated that he seconded the comments made by Councilman Tucker.

Mayor Harley stated he served 34 years in the military and served the last as the Inspector General, did a good job. Mayor Harley stated that when he says something "he does not lie". Responsible for all audits at Robins Air Force Base, a lot of responsibility. The Mayor and Council and staff love the city and the jobs they do for the city.

Executive Session Future Acquisition of Real Estate & Personnel Matters: Mayor Harley entertained motion to enter into executive session. Motion made by Councilman Nichols to enter into executive session at 7:56pm; seconded by Councilman Tucker. Motion carried.

Executive session adjourned at 8:46pm.

Affidavit and Resolution: City Attorney Tydings read resolution. Motion made by Councilman Wright to adopt resolution as written; seconded by Councilman Andrews. Motion carried.

Affidavit executed by Mayor Harley and notarized by City Clerk Bedingfield. Resolution and Affidavit attached and made part of official minutes.

Meeting adjourned at 8:48pm.

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Mayor John R. Harley

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Attest by City Clerk Krista Bedingfield

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Date