

Council Work Session

September 16, 2014

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

Invocation Councilman Tucker

Pledge of Allegiance Chief Jason Jones

Welcome extended to all by Mayor Harley, recognized Fire Chief Jason Jones, he and the Fire Department had participated in the recent Breast Cancer Awareness Fund raiser. Mayor Harley thanked Chief Jones.

Old Business

Discussion Proposed North Entrance to Galleria Mall: Councilman Tucker stated that this is an old business item and wants to engage with the mall to complete the proposed new North entrance to the mall. The mall would pay for the completion of the project and the city would reimburse the mall for the portion of work on city property (our right of way). The estimated cost could be less than \$200,000.

Motion made by Councilman Tucker to engage the mall and discuss the possibility beginning project with the intent of the mall paying for and completing project and reimburse the mall for our right of way portion; seconded Councilman Andrews. During this discussion, Ms. Geraldine Parker raised her hand several times and interrupted the Council discussion asking if she could object to the motion. Mayor Harley indicated that she could not object to the motion.

Mayor and Councilman Tucker began discussion about bringing commercial businesses into the city in order to help keep property taxes low.

Councilman Andrews asked what the City's potential cost on the Mall entrance project would be. Director of Operations Brumfield stated that Rick Saunders had previously estimated \$186000 for the city portion; there would be a contract governing any private-public partnership with the Mall.

City Attorney Tydings reminded everyone that the motion is only to seek authorization and begin conversation on behalf of the council. Mrs. Tydings reminded everyone that she had a significant amount of discussion with the mall's council over a year ago. The mall would need to get prices on the project, provide the city with a proposal and then any agreement would be negotiated before any funds were pledged or spent.

Mayor called for vote. Unanimous. Motion carried.

Mayor Harley recognized, Police Chief Andrews. Chief Andrews introduced new Police Officer-Christine Welch.

Discussion Corner of Gunn Rd/ Houston Lake Blvd: Councilman Tucker reported that he had a preliminary meeting with Councilman Wright, Director of Operations Brumfield and Mr. Selby

about the project on corner. No drawings only brief discussions. This would tie into the new North end entrance. Would like to seek permission from Mayor and Council and give authority for Mr. Selby to prepare drawings/designs for this piece of property.

Motion made by Councilman Tucker authorizing Director of Operations Brumfield to engage Mr. Selby to develop drawings for improvements to the corner of Gunn Rd/ Houston Lake Blvd; seconded by Councilman Wright. Councilman Andrews asked if we need to set a dollar amount. Mr. Brumfield stated that when Mr. Selby provides a preliminary cost for services, he would bring that number before Mayor and Council for authorization to proceed. Councilman Tucker wants this area to be attractive, doesn't feel this will be too astronomical. Councilman Andrews stated that he is looking for an identity that creates a downtown feel, will be a unique geographical point for the city. Councilman Nichols mentioned that he wanted to bring up that we make sure we include the 5 points entrance and incorporate it into the opposite corner lot. Councilman Nichols also reminded everyone about a conversation that took place at last year's Council Planning Retreat. Councilman Nichols stated that if we don't start doing something for Centerville, it will only be a passing thought - we have to create that downtown feel. Councilman Nichols stated that we (Mayor and Council) need to make this important for the City of Centerville. Mayor Harley called for vote. Unanimous. Motion carried.

#### New Business

Home Business License Application-Bell Property Management (owner: John P. Cockrell): Councilman Andrews made motion to approve; seconded by Councilman Wright. Motion carried.

Approval of the Contract with FIRST (Fire Rescue Support Team): Fire Chief Jones requesting approval for the Fire Department to enter into an contract and authorizing Mayor Harley to sign contract.

Motion made by Councilman Tucker to approve and enter into contract with FIRST and authorize Mayor Harley as signatory; seconded by Councilman Nichols. Councilman Wright asked if there is a time limit for people who will be doing the door to door solicitations of donations. Chief Jones confirmed "yes", will make contact with Police Department. Mayor Harley called for vote. Unanimous. Motion carried.

Point of Information Expenditure Confiscated Funds (Additional Security Cameras): Police Chief Andrews reported that the Police Department will be purchasing security cameras for Police Department. Total Computer Solutions had initially installed surveillance cameras, since that time Chief Andrews and staff have noticed blind spots. The additional cameras will cost \$2,499.85; expenditure paid out of the confiscated funds account. No motion or action taken.

Ordinance Adoption 2014 Millage Rate: City Accountant Harrison recommended adoption of new rollback rate of 11.972 mils. This is not a tax increase (it's actually a tax decrease). A copy of the 5 year tax levy ad and proposed ordinance provided to Mayor and Council for review.

Motion made by Councilman Wright to adopt Ordinance as written; seconded by Councilman Andrews. Motion carried. See Ordinance 2014-4.

Budget Resolution - 4th Budget Amendment FY 2014-General Fund: City Accountant Harrison provided a copy of the budget resolution. This is the 4<sup>th</sup> and final budget amendment for the FY ending June 30, 2014 budget. Seeking approval of the resolution in order to be in compliance with the requirement for a balanced budget for the General Fund.

Motion made by Councilman Andrews to adopt resolution as written; seconded by Councilman Tucker. Motion carried. See Resolution 2014-8.

Mrs. Harrison reported that all departments except Animal Control came in under General Fund finished the June 30 fiscal year under budget. AC budget overage was due to high costs associated with housing animals at the WRAS.

Discussion /Approval Security System City Hall: Director of Operations Brumfield provided a copy of the quote from Total Computer Solutions, re: security in city hall. There would be total of (7) cameras. Recommendation to pay expenditure out of the Water and Sewer Enterprise Fund.

Motion made by Councilman Wright to approve the expenditure \$7,694.00 and pay expenditure from the Water and Sewer Enterprise Fund; seconded by Councilman Andrews. Motion carried.

Discussion/Approval Lawn Maintenance Agreement: Director of Operations Brumfield had a pre- bid meeting, (8) contractors attended, only (3) contractors submitted bids. Houston Landscaping (\$7,680.00) and Hedgerow (\$10,320.00) were the low bids. Mr. Brumfield recommends that the low bid Houston Landscaping \$7,680.00 annually, \$640.00 per month installments. City Attorney to prepare contract for Mayor to sign on behalf of the City.

Motion made by Councilman Wright to accept low bid from Houston Landscaping (\$7,680.00-annually) and pay for the expenditure from Water and Sewer Enterprise Fund; seconded by Councilman Nichols. Motion carried.

Discussion/ Approval W&S Expenditure Carl Vinson Parkway Waterline Relocation: Director of Operations Brumfield received a quote from Reeves Construction to relocate all water lines. Mr. Brumfield seeking approval tonight from Mayor and Council. This would be paid for out of W&S Expenditure Fund.

Motion made by Councilman Wright to approve expenditure in the amount of \$136,362.75 to relocate all water sewer- water lines in the Carl Vinson Pkwy widening project, expenditure to be paid out of the Water and Sewer Enterprise Fund; seconded by Councilman Tucker. Motion carried.

#### Comments from Council

Mayor Harley stated that the Recycling Center needs more volunteers to operate.

#### Comments from Audience

Fire Chief Jones, has been the recipient of (2) grants- Fire House Subs-education equipment and GMA Safety Grant-three sets of bunker gear. There will be ceremonial events for presentation of the grant checks later this month; September 30, Tuesday at 10am at Firehouse Subs.

Police Chief Andrews, reported that cadet- Stephan Hudgens will be graduating from the Police Academy, Thursday, September 18, 2014 at 7:30pm.

Geraldine Parker, 129 Ridgebend Drive, mentioned that Councilman Tucker stated at the August 19, 2014 council work session, that he would look at the neighborhood (Ridgebend) to view trash cans in the area. Councilman Tucker stated that he had, reported that the trash cans were out the day before and about 20% percent were still out 3 days later. Councilman Wright stated that the city attorney is working on amendment to ordinance re: garbage cans. Also stated that Mayor Harley and Councilman Tucker were on public record in the Macon Telegraph stating

they were going to revisit the travel policy. Mayor Harley verified that they would revisit the policy when they were ready to do so.

David Parker, 129 Ridgebend Drive, asked about the mall and fountain, asked if this was just preliminary. Mayor confirmed that no funds were spent on this item at tonight's meeting and that there is currently no contract for the project. Mr. Parker mentioned the phone conversation between "a Councilman" and his wife Mrs. Geraldine Parker. Mr. Parker stated that "a Councilman" had called and during the course of conversation said to his wife, "Why don't you just shut up". Mr. Parker stated this isn't appropriate for a member of the council, not a good representation of the city. Believes if you cannot handle, then you might need to find another job.

Mrs. Geraldine Parker interrupted her husband's comment period several times to urge him to identify the Councilman by name. When Mr. Parker did not do so, Mrs. Parker went to the podium without being recognized to speak and identified the Councilman as Councilman Andrews and that he shouldn't have told her to "shut up".

Councilman Andrews stated he would address this issue. Mr. Andrews stated to Mrs. Parker that the reason he told her to shut up, because she needed to shut up. She wasn't going to bully employees, if she has a problem with Mayor and Council then drop her money and run for against him in November. Councilman Andrews stated that he will not tolerate harassment of employees (City Clerk Bedingfield and City Attorney Tydings) nor the assumption that something inappropriate is going on with Mayor and Council nor any accusations that the City Attorney and City Clerk would do anything unethical. Mrs. Parker began to argue with Councilman Andrews. She and Mr. Parker left the meeting, escorted by Assistant Chief Cooley.

Executive Session- Discussion Future Acquisition of Real Estate: Councilman Nichols made a motion to enter into executive session at 5:53pm; seconded by Councilman Wright. Motion carried. Mayor and Council reconvened at 6:33pm.

Affidavit & Resolution Executive Session: Motion made by Councilman Wright to adopt resolution as written; seconded by Councilman Nichols. Motion carried.

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:35pm.

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Mayor John R. Harley

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Attest by City Clerk Krista Bedingfield

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Date