

Regular Council Meeting

September 2, 2014

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

Invocation given by Councilman Nichols

Pledge of Allegiance led by Fire Chief Jones

Welcome extended to all by Mayor Harley.

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: Motion made by Councilman Nichols to adopt both sets of minutes as written; seconded by Councilman Tucker. Motion carried.

- August 5, 2014- Regular Council Meeting
- August 19, 2014-Council Work Session

Old Business

Discussion Corner of Gunn Rd/ Houston Lake Blvd: Councilman Tucker reported that there are some drawings that are available for review. There have been previous discussions about the improvement of the north end of the mall. Recommendation to Mayor and Council to instruct Director of Operations/ Utilities Superintendent Brumfield to make contact with Mr. David Selby. No motion or action required; only to review existing drawings; no charge. If and when there are charges to consider, Mr. Brumfield will bring back before Mayor and Council for review at that time and approval for expenditure. Councilman Tucker looking at a corner of Gunn Rd/ Houston Lake Blvd, would like to see a fountain, something that will set the city apart from other Georgia entities. A fountain coupled with the updated entrance at north end of mall is a strong selling point for the city.

New Business

Point of Information Fire Department Vehicle: Fire Chief Jones reported that this new vehicle was included and approved in the FY2015 Budget; quote from Brannen Ford-2015 Chevrolet Tahoe- \$ 35,125.25. The quote includes vehicle and equipment. This vehicle will have the capability to carry all emergency equipment and command boards per Councilman Tucker. The current vehicle does not have this ability. A copy of the memo is attached and made part of official minutes.

Discussion/Approval Expenditure Carl Vinson Parkway Waterline Relocation: Director of Operations/ Utilities Superintendent Brumfield was unable to acquire quote from contractor. Mr. Brumfield reported to Mayor and Council that it hasn't been completed at this time. The

cost can reach up to \$100,000.00, hoping to have the actual cost available at the September 16, 2014 council work session.

Comments from Council

Post 2 Councilman Wright reported that the refrigerator at city hall has been replaced. Also, Director of Operations Mr. Brumfield will be meeting with engineer to get cost estimates for sidewalks in Sentry Oaks.

Post 3 Councilman Tucker asked what is the next phase for pedestrian sidewalk project? Director of Operations Brumfield stated this would be a T- project- and the next phase is the neighborhood of Woodhaven and Willow Glen area; T-projects are completed with state grant funds. In addition, Carl Vinson widening project will result in a match-up of the sidewalks up to Dunbar and Sentry Oaks.

Mayor Harley mentioned the department monthly report.

Fire Chief Jones reported that the Fire Department raised \$14,600 for Muscular Dystrophy Association, recognized and thanked them for their hard work.

Comments from Audience

Geraldine & David Parker, 129 Ridge Bend Drive: Comments Elected Officials Travel Policy: Mr. Parker stated that he must apologize for not attending the meetings in the past but assured that he will do so in the future as part of his civic duty. Mr. Parker referenced the August 5, 2014 meeting minutes and stated that he thought the travel policy had been tabled, but found out the next day it had been passed. Mr. Parker commented about the spouses being covered under the travel policy, stated that if meals are purchased for spouses, this is taking money out of his pocket. In closing, stated his opinion that Mayor and Council had two choices - either change the policy or remove the city of ethics sign.

Mrs. Geraldine Parker quoted language from muni-code ordinance- Chapter 2 Administration Article 8- Ethics. Mrs. Parker provided a copy of her comments to City Clerk Bedingfield. A copy is attached and made part of official minutes.

Daniel Eidson, 125 Ridge Bend Dr., stated that he works for Northrup Grumman, he has been on 40-50 trips in the past 3 years, would love to take his wife with him, and has never had the government pay for his spouse. Agrees, with the majority of what Mrs. Parker had stated, the policy is bad and a poor use of city funds. Mr. Eidson stated he had missed the beginning discussions about the policy, asked what is the purpose of \$125 per diem travel advance, what is the reason of this amount instead of using the federal government per diem rate.

Mayor Harley responded that this was in case a council member did not have access to money ahead of time, then they would have access to funds, if the \$125 is provided. Mayor Harley explained that if he took other Mayors out to eat , this \$125.00 would cover those expenses; would still have to have receipts to show use, if no receipts were presented, then any amount of excess funds over the federal per diem amount will be reported on W-2 or would have to be returned to the City. Mayor Harley stated that he did not see a need for any of the current council to use the \$125.00 per diem.

Inclosing, Mr. Eidson reminded Mayor and Council of the invocation prior to meeting, specifically, the words “honor” and “privilege to serve”. He stated that this is not a secondary job, it is a privilege to serve, not a place to take the city’s money to go and take spouses out for meals.

Meeting adjourned 7:38pm.

Mayor John R. Harley

Date

Attest by City Clerk, Krista Bedingfield