

Regular Council Meeting

November 6, 2018

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

Invocation given by Councilman Andrews.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilman Wright.

Welcome Extended to all by Mayor Harley.

Present were Mayor John R. Harley, Councilman Cameron Andrews, Councilman Justin Wright, Councilman J. Micheal Evans, Councilman Edward Armijo and City Attorney Tydings.

Rules of Decorum: Mayor Harley went over the rules of decorum. When addressing the meeting please state your name and address. Do this clearly so that the City Clerk can understand you. Please do not speak unless recognized. Please do not interrupt other speakers. Please do not talk, whisper or otherwise disrupt the meeting or you will be asked to leave.

Councilman Wright made motion to revise agenda items and move the Executive Session & Affidavit Resolution under new business as agenda item # 5 & #6; seconded by Councilman Evans. Motion carried.

Councilman Andrews prepared the following comments and stated he would like for this to be entered into the minutes as an official document. In an effort to respond to citizen requests, the order in which items are placed on the Centerville city council meeting agenda has changed over the year. At one time, the citizen comment period was placed last on the agenda in order to allow citizens to address the council at the end of meetings. Citizens have raised two issues regarding the placement of the comment period at the end of the agenda. First, some did not like that they couldn't comment on an agenda item until after the council had considered that item and voted (when a vote is necessary). Second, people sometimes tried to use the comment period to discuss items that were not on the agenda. When this occurred, there was no notice to the media or others who might have attended if they had known that the subject would be discussed. The Mayor, as the chair of the meeting, would have to stop the comments and would have to state that the discussion was out of order since the topic was not an agenda item. In response to concerns about the placement of the citizen comment period at the end of the agenda, the order was changed so that citizen comments were at the top of the agenda before council deliberated or voted on an issue if necessary. With that in mind, citizens may comment on any item that is on the agenda, with comments limited to three minutes. If an individual wish to discuss an item that is not on the agenda, they must request to be placed on the agenda and state clearly what their topic will be. This must be done not later than noon on the Friday preceding the meeting. Any individual who asks and is place on the agenda will be limited to a reasonable time for their comments. Anyone making comments during a council meeting must be clear, nonrepetitive, and respectful and must not be disruptive nor abusive when they speak. The Mayor or chair of the meeting will use their discretion in limiting comment time when an individual has asked to be placed on the agenda. Under no circumstances will anyone be allowed unlimited time to address the Mayor and Council. These are business meetings and will be conducted efficiently. This is not a question and answer time. Anyone who has questions for

the Mayor and Council should make an appointment for a meeting or send the questions by mail or email in order to allow Council and staff to research and provide factual, thorough responses. A final issue that has been raised is when the agenda is available in advance of the meetings. Specifically, there have been requests that the agenda be published on the city's website and / or be made available the week prior to the meeting instead of the day prior to the meeting. The current policy is that every effort be made to finalize the agenda by the close of business on the Friday prior to the meeting. The law states that the agenda "must be made available upon request and must be posted at the meeting site as far in advance as is practicable during the two weeks prior to the meeting. If a particular issue is not included on the posted agenda, it may still be considered by the council if it is deemed necessary to address it. The city publishes the agenda by sending it to all local media outlets via email not less than 24 hours prior to meetings. On rare occasions, items that cannot wait two weeks for the next meeting must be placed on the agenda on the day prior to the meeting. If the item can be added to the agenda and the revised agenda sent to the media 24 hours prior to the meeting then the item will be added and the agenda will be republished accordingly. If an item must be addressed but only becomes known less than 24 hours before the meeting, then the item will be added to the agenda by motion once the meeting convenes. In response to citizen request, agenda will be published on the city's website by noon on the day of the meeting beginning in January 2019. There will be a notation on the face of the agenda showing the date and time when the agenda was last updated. Those accessing the agenda from the city website are responsible for checking the date and time notation to make certain that they have the most up to date information. As always, the City of Centerville will be compliant with the Georgia state law when publishing agendas for the official business meetings conducted by the city each month.

Public Comments

Meeting Agendas: Geraldine & David Parker, 129 Ridge Bend Drive; Councilman Andrews took away some of my "thunder" but will continue with my comments. Concerned about the preparation of agendas. Referenced municode section 2-61(a) Preparation of agenda. The city clerk with the advice of the city council shall prepare an agenda of subjects to be acted on for each meeting. The agenda shall be made available to the council and to the public some time during the week immediately prior to the meeting. This is a vague ordinance. There are (2) meetings a month, does not give enough time to the public to be informed. The location of the agendas is not advertised only hard copies are located in the lobby of city hall. Recommendation to place a large sign in front of city clerk window saying "pick up agendas here". Agendas are not even posted on line on the city's official website prior to the council meeting. No hard copies are distributed to business around the city for them to place on their windows. Abbreviated terms use for the issues to be discussed may mean something to the city council but not to the general public. Recommendation to write a few words under each agenda item, describing what the issue is about. Recently received a letter from Councilman Andrews pointing out that we should make a "suggestion" to solve a problem. We request that agendas be prepared earlier in the week on Tuesday or Wednesday and distributed more widely to the press and throughout the city. Agendas are now only placed on the website a month after the meeting.

Mayor Harley recognized former Council member Randall Wright.

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

- October 2, 2018 Regular Council Meeting
- October 16, 2018 Council Work Session

Executive Session Future Acquisition of Land and Personnel Matters: Councilman Wright made motion to enter into executive session at 7:13pm; seconded by Councilman Armijo. Motion carried.

Meeting reconvened at 7:50pm.

Affidavit and Resolution: City Attorney Tydings read resolution. Motion made by Councilman Andrews to adopt resolution as written; seconded by Councilman Wright. Motion carried. Affidavit executed by Mayor Harley and notarized by City Clerk Krista Bedingfield. Affidavit & Resolution attached and made part of official minutes.

Old Business

None

New Business

Point of Information: GICH Designation for 2019-2021: Councilman Wright informed all that there have been different actions that Economic Development has taken on the last couple of months. The GICH program allow us to be a little more intentional re: housing in certain areas, bigger tool kit to address concerns. Director Hogan reported that the Georgia Initiative for Community Housing (GICH) helps communities improve their quality of life and economic vitality through the development of locally-driven housing and revitalization strategies. With the ongoing support of their Founding Sponsor, the Georgia Power Company, GICH has facilitated progress towards housing stability in 60 communities during its first 12 years. The support of the GICH partners-the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA), the Georgia Municipal Association (GMA), the University of Georgia (UGA) Housing and Demographics Research Center, and the UGA Office of the Vice President of Public Service and Outreach-includes ongoing technical assistance, as well as the organization and sponsorship of retreats for the participating communities.

GICH provides a platform for teams to think of creative solutions and network with housing professionals, city officials and staff, as well as community volunteers from across the state. Each year there are 5 communities chosen from those who applied to be a part of the 'freshmen class'. The City of Centerville submitted its application for this competitive program on August 6, 2018. Our application included letters of support from Chairman Tommy Stalnaker, Chairman of the Houston County Board of Commissioners, Kim Mazo, GICH Team Leader for the City of Warner Robins, Bryan Wood, Perry Housing Team Leader, Cheryl Glover, Resource Development Director for Houston County Habitat for Humanity, and Tian Foss, Executive Director for Houston County Family Connection.

As part of our application we pulled together a team of uniquely qualified individuals from across the nonprofit network in Houston County and community members from our City. On August 22, 2018, our housing team hosted a panel from the GICH program to evaluate our application on a deeper level. The first 45-minutes of the meeting was a question and answer session in which our team was able to bring to life the application submitted. The second-45 minutes was a community bus tour in which we visited the 5 target areas for redevelopment as indicated by our Centerville Housing Assessment done earlier this year. On October 4, 2018, we

were notified of our selection to participate in this incredible program. We are part of the 2019 freshmen class with Arlington, Conyers, Smyrna, and Social Circle.

Thank you all for your support and we hope to have some incredible programs and ideas to improve housing in Centerville in the coming three years.

City Attorney Tydings, stated that Mrs. Hogan has done a lot of work on the applications and this is not a small accomplishment.

Councilman Evans inquired about the number of applications. Mrs. Hogan stated she was not sure exactly the total number.

Councilman Wright stated there is a diverse group of people in the group. There are a lot of key stake holders.

Point of Information: Plan First Community Designation 2019-2021: Councilman Wright stated another excellent distinction, give more favorable results, grants, lower cost and continue to improve efforts in the city. Ebony Simpson, Department of Community Affairs (Planning Outreach & Training Coordinator) honor to be here to present Plan First 2019-2020 award-certification. Looking forward to working with staff and implementing the Comprehensive Plan. MOA (Memorandum of Agreement)-DCA Plan First program. Motion made by Councilman Wright to approve and authorize Mayor Harley to sign MOA; seconded by Councilman Evans. Motion carried. Mrs. Simpson presented Mayor Harley and Council with Plan First Certificate.

Municipal Court Clerk Sara Caldwell raised hand and asked that the continued talking behind her stop. Mr. and Mrs. Parker left the meeting.

Mrs. Simpson went over the following requirements.

The City of Centerville agrees to carry out the following responsibilities in order to remain in good standing and thereby retain its Plan First Community designation:

- Continue to strive for planning excellence in all areas of comprehensive plan development and implementation;
- Participate in the Plan First program by supporting a staff member's participation as a Plan First reviewer, for application review as well as on-site visits to applicant;
- When called upon, to participate as a presenter at a Community Planning Institute event;
- Submit a minimum of one plan implementation success story annually to the DCA Planning Success Stories and Best Practices web page at: <https://dca.ga.gov/local-government-assistance/planning/local-planning/local-planning-success-stories-best-practices>
- Maintain eligibility as a qualified local government (QLG) by having an approved Comprehensive Plan and Service Delivery Strategy and must be current on all required reporting to DCA. In the event of loss of QLG by a Plan First community, the incentives awarded by designation will be suspended until QLG is restored.
- Promulgate the comprehensive plan and foster local access to the plan by making it generally available through the community's website.

Point of Information: Center Park at Centerville Construction Progress and Donations:
Councilman Wright provided an update on Center Park. We have found some dirt for free HCBOE (Houston County Board of Education). This is time sensitive; unable to do so due to the weather. Partners with Houston County Board of Commissioner. The credit goes to Director Hogan.

Director Hogan reported that there have been 40 events, incredible opportunities, incredible season, thankful to the HCBOE and HCBOC to assist with moving, opportunity to talk about amazing things with Phase I. County moved and did all the prep work for the city at no cost, great county. HCBOE donated dirt and HCBOC transported the dirt and provided in kind labor. This isn't just a Centerville project, it's a county and middle Georgia project.

Councilman Evans stated this is a "park for us all".

Mayor Harley reported that it takes all communities around us to support and work together.

Budget Resolution- 1st budget amendment FY 2019 Budget: Councilman Andrews recognized City Accountant Harrison. Mrs. Harrison provided a copy for review. Motion made by Councilman Andrews to adopt resolution as written; seconded by Councilman Evans. Motion carried. See 2018-9.

Comments from Council

Post 4 Councilman Armijo reported that the ladder truck (Fire Department) should be here by the end of the week, doing some operational test on it. Reminded everyone not to forget Veterans Day is coming.

Post 3 Councilman Evans, stated that the Police Department has really been busy. Working hard to keep us safe, thank you Chief Hadden "keep up the good work".

Post 2 Councilman Wright, mentioned the Center Park ad/article in the Houston Home Journal magazine.

Post 1 Councilman Andrews, thanked Municipal Court Clerk, Sara Caldwell for raising her hand and asked her to read Proverbs 22.10. Informed all that the ongoing issues re: cats are being addressed and commended the great effort to alleviate the issue. Thanked the Animal Control Department to help resolve issue. Thanked Sgt/ Detective Christine Welch for ongoing code enforcement work in the city, working hard and efforts in this area, although this isn't your position. Appreciate you.

City Attorney Tydings stated that the people who live near this issue, don't deserve it. B the time it goes to court it's because we have exhausted all conditions.

Mayor Harley, reminded all of the upcoming Eggs and Issues next week, November 13, Tuesday, Centerville is on the spot light. Informed all that he had met with Mrs. Lemme and complimented her re: recent concern pertaining to the curfew. The language is provided through GEMA-state wide language. Looking at this to help keep confusion down. Thanked her again.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm.

Mayor John R. Harley

Attest by City Clerk Krista Bedingfield

Date