

Regular Council Meeting

June 5, 2018

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

Invocation given by Councilman Armijo.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilman Wright.

Welcome extended to all by Mayor Harley, recognizing former Mayor Ronnie Brand and Houston County Commissioner Jay Walker.

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

Public Comments

Susan Lemme, 219 Mason Drive, stated she understands the budget is coming up for discussion, adding she has worked many years for County government, has some items that are concerning. Hefty fees for education and training for (3) departments, did not see a lot budgeted for the Police and Fire Departments. When training is considered, recommended that officials look at local conferences. Inquiry re: pay study survey.

Adoption of Minutes: Mayor Harley stated there is one revision to May 15, 2018 Council Work Session minutes. Add the following language: Councilman Justin Wright present at meeting. Blanket motion made by Councilman Wright to adopt minutes with one amendment to May 15, 2018 minutes; seconded by Councilman Armijo. Motion carried.

- May 1, 2018 Regular Council Meeting
- May 15, 2018 Council Work Session

Old Business

New Business

Ladder Truck Refurbishing: Councilman Wright recognized Fire Chief Jones. Chief Jones seeking approval to move forward with the refurbishing of fire truck. Provided (2) quotes to Mayor and Council for review. Chief Jones recommending that the City move forward with the refurbishing of the truck and utilize the company Ten-8. There are several reasons for this recommendation. First, Ten-8 is the company that originally built the ladder truck; the service shop is located in Forsyth, Georgia, and the price estimate comparable to the other estimates. The cost associated with the refurbishing could be paid from the remaining funds in the committed fund balance account, (\$25,797) and from remaining 2012 SPLOST funds, designated for Public Safety facilities and equipment. Motion made by Councilman Wright to approve expenditure \$35,870.66 and select the company Ten-8 for the refurbishing project; seconded by Councilman Evans. Motion carried.

Point of information- Georgia Forestry Commission VFA Grant Update: Councilman Wright recognized Fire Chief Jones. Chief Jones reported that the grant was submitted in November 2017, received notification in December that it had been denied due to lack of funding. However received email notification that there are funds available and the grant has now been awarded. The grant funds have to be expended by June 15; money was already in the budget. No motion or action.

Presentation Proposed FY 2019 Budget/Public Hearing: Councilman Andrews recognized City Accountant Harrison. Mrs. Harrison presented power point for FY 2019, any revisions would have to be made prior to June 19. The proposed adoption will be at the June 19 council work session. No motion or action taken. A copy of the presentation is attached and made part of official minutes.

Mayor Harley closed regular session and entered into public hearing at 7:31pm.

Mayor Harley made the inquiry about wages- is there a 2% COLA and merit increase included in this amount? City Accountant Harrison directed that question to Budget Committee (Councilman Evans & Councilman Wright). Councilman Evans stated at this time, there is not a merit increase included only a 2% COLA. The merit increases are pending the pay study, this will allow opportunity to review. Councilman Wright confirmed Councilman Evans comments and stated they wanted to be able to move forward and present proposed budget and will address potential merit increases and adjust budget if necessary at a later date.

Councilman Wright likes the comment about debt extinguished and the Police Department being paid off. It's important to remember that the city is not taking on any debt. Volunteered to sit on budget committee. Another important fact slides 11-pointed out that there is a small increase of .95% from last Fiscal Year, less than 1%, the city is making the best of resources.

Susan Lemme, 219 Mason Drive, asking question about the budget line item-professional services in the Economic Development Department. Does this include a new web site for the city? Mrs. Hogan stated this is part of 3-year strategic plan, only have rebranding in the budget, no web services, seeking FY 2020 for web services. There are a lot of different elements in that are included in the professional services line item.

Councilman Armijo, stated that everyone did an outstanding job on budget. Reiterated that when the pay study is received, we (Mayor & Council) will review to determine if changes are necessary.

Mayor Harley closed public hearing at 7:37 pm and reconvened the Regular Council Meeting.

Point of Information: Environmental Assessment for LWCF Grant at Center Park Property: Councilman Evans stated that we have talked about funding opportunities to improve Center Park, fortunately there are grants available, and we do not have use city funds. Director of Marketing Hogan stated we have been working on this grant since August 2017, were notified that the city had been awarded the grant. However, have to go through Federal Government, due diligence, passed the historic preservation. Now need an environmental assessment, which is required for State / Federal Grant. Preston Engineering proposal provided for review. Also, the second quote GEC proposal is all encompassing. Seeking approval for expenditure to move forward with assessment, funds are available. Mrs. Hogan is recommending Preston engineering. Motion made by Councilman Evans to approve expenditure and accept Preston

engineering; seconded By Councilman Wright. This is a \$ 100,000 matching grant 50/50; would receive October/ November 2018. Motion carried.

Comments from Council

Post 1 Councilman Andrews, no comment

Post 2 Councilman Wright, good week this week, in middle of sports camp, 92 elementary school children for a whole week. A need for affordable child care, while having a lot of fun this is an issue. Child care is tremendously expensive, falls to us as citizens to do something at the local level, shift some of the legislation.

Post 3 Councilman Evans, thanked all the council members for giving him the opportunity to serve on the budget committee, rewarding experience and to be a part of being good stewards of city's moneys. Thanked City Accountant Harrison and department heads for their hard work on the budget.

Post 4 Councilman Armijo, thanked City Accountant Harrison for her hard work on the budget this year, appreciates her efforts and department heads. Everyone did an outstanding job.

Mayor Harley thanked everyone for their hard work on the budget. Attended RAFB museum memorial 44 years in existence, military members and civilian members, Chairman Stalnaker was a keynote speaker, wonderful thing to be able to go out and share in this experience. Attended a signing ceremony with RAFB and vector center, designed to retrain veterans, military services, stationed in Warner Robins, first one in the country. Individuals come from all around the world and stay in the dorms while receiving training.

Mayor Harley adjourned meeting at 7:50pm.

Mayor John R. Harley

Attest by City Clerk Krista Bedingfield

Date