

Regular Council Meeting

May 7, 2019

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

Invocation given by Councilman Wright.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Michael Harbuck, Boy Scout -Troop 400.

Welcome extended to all by Mayor Harley, recognized Commissioner Jay Walker, former Councilman Randall Wright and Cheryl Wright (spouse).

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

Rules of Decorum: Mayor Harley went over Rules of Decorum.

Public Comments

None

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

- April 2, 2019
- April 16, 2019 Council Work Session

Old Business

None

New Business

Home Based Business License-A & T Cleaning Service, 312 E Church Street (Annette Windom): Councilman Andrews made motion to approve; seconded by Councilman Evans. Motion carried

Home Based Business License-Thingz of Joy (Joynell Brown), 147 Back Cedar Lane: Councilman Armijo made motion to approve; seconded by Councilman Andrews. Motion carried.

Centerville Seniors Group Donation to Center Park: Councilman Wright recognized Director of Marketing Hogan. Mrs. Hogan recognized Ms. Doris Holt and Ms. Beth Grady with the Centerville Senior Citizens Group. The City of Centerville received a donation of \$66,000 for the construction of the Center Park Pavilion. This donation comes from their building fund, members have contributed money for several years. The city is extremely grateful for this donation as it will help in the Phase 1 Development of Center Park.

F.I.R.S.T Agreement: Councilman Armijo recognized Fire Chief Jones. Chief Jones informed all this is their annual picture fund raising event. Requesting donations for the Fire Department. Citizens will receive a free 10x13 portrait. Seeking approval to enter into agreement and authorize Mayor Harley and Chief Jones to sign agreement. Motion made by Councilman

Armijo to approve and designate the Mayor and Chief Jones as signatory; seconded by Councilman Andrews. Motion carried. Chief Jones reported that donations will go towards equipment for ladder truck and additional needed equipment for Department.

Point of Information – Proposed FY 2020 Budget Submitted to Governing Authority for Review:

Councilman Armijo reported that the budget committee (Councilman Armijo, Councilman Wright) met with City Accountant Harrison on May 3 for a final review of proposed budget. There were 3 meetings prior to the final review, meeting with department heads to discuss proposed budgets for their departments. A lot of work was put into the budget, everyone did a great job.

Mayor Harley reminded all this is a proposed budget, no voting on this tonight, only a work document.

City Accountant Harrison stated the budget committee is submitting this as a recommended budget for FY 2019-2020 to Mayor and Council. Copies provided to Governing Authority and a copy of the recommended budget placed in the window of the City Clerk's Office for public inspection. Also, there will be a public hearing for the proposed budget at the June 4, 2019 Regular Council Meeting with proposed adoption to be at the June 18, 2019 work session. This serves as a point of information. We are on schedule for presenting and all advertising has been completed.

Councilman Wright stated when reviewing proposed budget, encouraged all to take note, there are higher capital expenditures, however, these are a one-time expense; replace necessary equipment and vehicles. We are going to get a good return on our expenses. The department heads did a really good job. There are no luxury items. All items presented by department heads were to do their job better. Publicly thanked City Accountant Harrison for her hard work and due diligence.

Mayor Harley agreed, city accountant and department heads did some hard work.

Fire Station Discussion: Councilman Andrews stated most of you know we are in early stages preparing to build a Fire Station. Wanted to go on the record publicly about his position on the project. I believe it's a good project, I am for the new Fire Station. I like the plans, but very hesitant when reviewing them, in favor of the plans in its current form. I like the architect, a friend and a professional colleague. What I am not for, is not building a Fire Station in this budget year. We as a governing body may not always agree on everything. The work of the city council is at times discussed with one on one conversations. A lot of the things need to be out in the general public for transparency, don't want to preach but need to talk about it. Need to take time, at least a calendar year to collect SPLOST revenue; funds have been down. Expressed caution before we commit to a 4-million-dollar project, watch for another year and have money in our pocket. Review again in our FY 2020-2021 budget. Support having a continual discussion and provide update on where we are with funds. Also stated he understands if we delay it will be more expensive. Good business to have money for a rainy day, it has not always been that way. Thanked the budget committee, City Accountant Harrison and Department Heads, stressed that there is no tax increase in the proposed budget.

Councilman Evans stated that all the points mentioned by Councilman Andrews are correct, but we need to consider a couple of things. When the SPLOST was taken to vote and approved, the fire station was the # 1 project listed. Cost will continue to go up, need to come to a consensus to start on this ASAP, whether it's 6 months from now. We need to show the voters we meant what

we said, we are people of our word. Needed to budget for it this year. We will talk about it at the retreat, just because you put something in the budget doesn't mean you have to spend it.

Councilman Armijo stated he wanted to bring to everyone's attention, Fire Station immediate needs:

- Bay area not adequate (Fire Apparatus out in the weather; Brush Truck, Reserve Engine)
- Mold in crawlspace area of fire station (under office and kitchen areas)
- Small Training Room 210 sq. ft. (Cannot conduct proper training or conduct staff meetings with entire department personnel at same time)
- Two Small Bunk Rooms 169 sq. ft. each (two beds per room with 10 lockers in each room for all line duty personnel) (20 personnel share 4 total beds) No separate bunkroom for Females
- Small Kitchen/Dining Area 200 sq. ft. (Personnel must eat in shifts or in other locations of the station due to the kitchen table/area not having enough room for all on-duty)

Councilman Armijo, stated he understood the budget, also reminded everyone there is 2 million SPLOST funding allocated. Had a discussion with City Accountant Harrison and council to find ways to fund Fire Station at least get it started. Even with the 2 million, the city will still have to finance additional cost. This is not any different than any other of our new facilities (Police Department, Utilities Complex). They all have started and finished the same way. Looking for a commitment from Mayor and Council for a start date. This was voted and placed as priority one. There are a lot of conditions that we are living with today. I know the budget is tight, but want us to agree it's not going down the road for 5 years, has been in discussion since 2010, voters put us here to follow through, we owe it to them, a working facility. All departments deserve the same things.

Councilman Wright appreciated the process for Water & Sewer (Utilities Complex), however, different fund paid for new facility. Mayor and Council agreeing with 85%, don't want to wait 5-10 years, moving forward with deliberate speed. Stating it's honestly a coin flip what SPLOST funds will be, due to presidential election, people get nervous and uncertainty. Abundant of caution do not want to get half way through project adding the Fire Station plans were just presented for review.

Councilman Armijo stated the first plans were discussed 2016. Looking for the "head nod" for the commitment. The longer we wait, mold will get worse, our people will get sick, we care about our employees, lets show them.

Councilman Evans stated he is looking forward to the retreat, 2 days, open forum, this will be discussed further.

Mayor Harley, SPLOST 2 million for project, totally shocked with Fire Department 3.8 million for construction, normally go through a loan, 2 million will come from SPLOST. This is a lot of money, need to hold off and see where we can get funding. Have to consider cost to equip new fire station. Agreed to hold off until we can identify where money will come from for new fire station. Reminded all that we are committed by law to do project and we have always done what we said we will do.

Councilman Andrews thanked everyone for their discussion.

Comments from Council

Post 1 Councilman Andrews, no comment.

Post 2 Councilman Wright, encouraged everyone to come out to coffee with a cop, May 15 - Houston Galleria, Chick Fil A. Also, reminded everyone of ongoing events: Food Truck Friday, Puppies and Pilates and Farmers Market.

Post 3 Councilman Evans, had an opportunity to attend the last food truck Friday, weather was nice and had a great time. Thanked everyone for coming out tonight.

Post 4 Councilman Armijo, informed everyone that May 10, Fire Department will be hosting a golf tournament, Southern Landings golf course. Fire Department is working with local businesses regarding lock boxes regulations. Fire hydrant testing has started and will continue until September; 20% has been completed. Annual muscular dystrophy boot drive has begun, encouraged all to donate for a good cause. June 8 is going to be Lions Club golf tournament at Waterford, encourage all to come out and support.

Mayor Harley, informed all that he attended first responders' event, Saturday. The theme was "American Pride". Also attended event on May 2 at Hill top Elementary, song was performed "American Tears". In addition, on May 2- National Day of Prayer- theme- "Love One Another", God Bless America sang by all. Once again thought about "American Pride", see it all the time. Great to live in America.

Mayor Harley adjourned meeting at 7:42pm.

Mayor Pro Tem Cameron Andrews

Attest by City Clerk, Krista Bedingfield

Date