

Regular Council Meeting

December 3, 2019

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

Invocation given by Councilman Wright.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Troop 400 Boy Scout, Jose Padilla.

Welcome Extended to by Mayor Harley.

Present were Mayor John R. Harley, Councilman Cameron Andrews, Councilman Justin Wright, Councilman J. Micheal Evans and Councilman Edward Armijo. Absent 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 Andrews; seconded by Councilman Armijo. Motion carried.

- November 5, 2019
- November 19, 2019

Old Business

None

New Business

Higdon Property Purchase – Contract Modification: Mayor Harley recognized City Accountant Harrison. Mrs. Harrison provided a copy of the form ref: purchase of the additional piece of property outlined in the 2014 contract at the request of the seller to be sold by Dec 13 vs Dec 3. Making sure tenants are out of the building prior to the sale of property. Motion made by Councilman Evans to approve; seconded by Councilman Wright. Motion carried.

Holiday Schedule December 23, 2019: Mayor Harley recommending that we make Monday December 23 a holiday for employees. Employees are already scheduled off for Tuesday & Wednesday (Christmas Eve & Christmas Day). The employee personnel manual allows Mayor and Council to designate additional holidays immediately preceding or following a named holiday. Motion made by Councilman Wright to approve; seconded by Councilman Andrews. Councilman Wright asked if there are any deadlines of city business at calendar year end that would be affected. Mayor Harley stated he had spoken with City Attorney Tydings and there were no issues. Councilman Evans stated that citizens will not be missing services due to our generosity to our employees. Councilman Armijo inquired how many times have we used the floating holiday this year. Mayor Harley confirmed once, July 4th. Motion carried.

Point of Information-Employee Christmas Bonus: Mayor Harley read memo re: preapproved budgeted Christmas bonuses for full time and part time employees.

Acceptance of Gifted Property 204 Gunn Road and Approval of Costs: Councilman Andrews recognized Director of Marketing Hogan. Mrs. Hogan reported that the city was approached by WR Animal Hospital about a year ago. They were interested in giving land to a non-profit organization or city. Seeking approval to accept gift. There were some legal expenses associated with the property, under \$ 2000.00 that was absorbed under Economic Development budget and 2019 property taxes \$ 584.18. Motion made by Councilman Andrews to accept; seconded by Councilman Armijo. Motion carried.

Point of Information Citizen's Academy: Councilman Andrews stated that he has looked at the booklet and there is a lot of work that has been put into this and it is going to be really neat. Director of Marketing Hogan reminded all that at the June planning retreat the citizens academy was discussed and approved. This will be important in order to have good citizen input opportunities. Hiring a full-time event coordinator, Mrs. Alicia Hartley has been a great asset. Mrs. Hartley presented an overview of the upcoming Citizen's Academy program: it is a 6-week program; limited to 25 participants; that will provide an opportunity for citizens to learn the ins and outs of daily city business. Forms to apply to be a participant are available on the City's website. Mayor Harley stated that he has also reviewed the document and agrees it is very good. Councilman Evans also stated that he has had an opportunity to look at the product and feels that it is very professional based on materials presented. Mrs. Hartley stated that is the goal of the material – to present a document that is well-written and professional with lots of good information. Materials were created with department head feedback.

2020 LMIG Street Resurfacing List for Approval: Director Brumfield provided a proposed list of 2020 LMIG street re-surfacing projects for consideration. The re-surfacing costs will be budgeted in next year's FY budget. Seeking approval tonight of LMIG project list and authorization for signature on LMIG application. Motion made by Councilman Andrews to approve LMIG list and authorize Mayor to sign LMIG application; seconded by Councilman Armijo. Motion carried. Councilman Armijo stated that the work done last year on Eagle Springs Drive was exceptional. Requested Mr. Brumfield please pass along to group that they do great work.

Approval of Bid for Replacement of the Building Inspector Vehicle: Director Brumfield provided 3 bids for review. This is a budgeted expense. Recommended to go with low bid from Riverside Ford \$ 23,765. Councilman Andrews made motion to accept low bid from Riverside Ford in the amount of \$ 23,765; seconded by Councilman Armijo. Motion carried.

Approval to Sell 3 Police Tahoe's to Twiggs County: Councilman Wright recognized Chief Hadden. Chief Hadden recommending to table item until next meeting. Motion to table made by Councilman Wright; seconded by Councilman Armijo. Motion carried.

Approval to Purchase Budgeted Vehicles (3 Dodge Chargers from Jimmy Britt Dodge): Councilman Wright recognized Chief Hadden. Chief Hadden provided 3 bids. Seeking approval to accept lowest bid from Jimmy Britt Dodge- \$24,932 each to purchase 3 Dodge chargers. Motion made by Councilman Wright to accept low bid Jimmy Britt Dodge \$ 24,932 each for 3 Dodge chargers; seconded by Councilman Andrews. Councilman Evans asked what is the purpose of the 3 new vehicles? Chief stated that he will be replacing Tahoe's with chargers. Councilman Armijo asked if any of the new chargers will be suited with tag reader? Chief Hadden stated eventually will suit tag reader on one more of the vehicles. Mayor Harley called for vote. Motion carried.

Comments from Council

Post 1 Councilman Andrews, encouraged all to come to the lighted Christmas Parade.

Post 2 Councilman Wright, no comment.

Post 3 Councilman Evans, stated here in Houston County we have good relationships - for example, the LMIG project. Stated that it is really refreshing to be able work together to get things done for the citizens.

Post 4 Councilman Armijo, reminded all about the 10TH Annual Christmas parade this Saturday. The weather is going to be good. The Grand Marshal will be Dr. Walter Stephens, former Thomson Middle School Teacher and currently Houston County Board of Education Director of Student Services. Parade safety meeting was held last night, all went well. Participants donated toys for "Toys for Tots". We have partnered with Georgia State Patrol for the past 10 years collecting Toys for Tots. There are 67 participants, the largest parade so far. Food Drive going on in the city partnering with Centerville United Methodist Church.

Mayor Harley, reminded everyone that the last 3 or 4 years the city has canceled the work session in December, but this year we have a lot of great things coming.

Meeting adjourned 7:29pm.

Mayor John R. Harley

Attest by City Clerk Krista Bedingfield

Date