

Council Work Session

March 19, 2019

Meeting called to order by Mayor Harley at 5:00pm.

Invocation given by Councilman Wright.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Captain Boney- Police Department.

Welcome extended to all by Mayor Harley; recognized Slayton Carter with Congressman Austin Scott's office, 21st Century Partnership representatives Jamie Cook and Dan Rhoades.

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

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

Public Comments

Dan Rhoades, 21st Century Partnership, 410 Redding Drive, Kathleen Ga. 31047, addressed key points from the "State of the Base" meeting held today; RAFB looking to expand, new missions, this is excellent news. A lot of this has to do with budgets in Washington, mission capability, provides a lot of material goods, so there is war fighter capability. Houston Home Journal will start including inside the Robin's Feature section of paper, last Saturday of the month, monthly report. Mayor Harley mentioned the current jobs being filled at RAFB. Mr. Rhoades reported that 1200 jobs were to be filled in 12 months, currently, 800 of those positions have been filled. These positions were direct hire positions filled from individuals living in Middle Georgia. Councilman Evans stated that many of the people getting hired live here in Centerville. Mr. Rhoades stated Middle Georgia was designated as a defense community-number 2 in the state, selected with 5 other bases. Councilman Armijo thanked 21st partnership for all they do, keeping the Base viable and continuing to help sustain the community.

Old Business

None

New Business

Car City - Family Promise –Executive Director-Nicole Rosser: Mayor Harley recognized Ms. Rosser. Ms. Rosser informed everyone that Family Promise is located here in Houston County, former Hodac building. Mrs. Rosser, introduced board member Carolyn Schomer, she is here tonight to talk about the signature fund raiser, which is in its 5th year. Mrs. Schomer stated the event will be held, April 26; combined fund raiser and promote awareness. Hopes the event continues to grow. Councilman Armijo asked in the event we know of a homeless person, should we contact Police Department. Captain Boney stated if they are contacted, will try to assist and find shelter. Mrs. Schomer stated this program is for intact families. Councilman Wright stated there is a great need. Mrs. Schomer informed all that they are limited to 14 families, using churches to convert their space, day center, this is an intense program and they have to work hard.

Intergovernmental Agreement Houston County Board of Elections: Councilman Armijo recognized City Clerk Bedingfield. Mrs. Bedingfield stated the agreement is with Houston County Board of Elections(HCBOE) to use DRE machines & Express polls for the November 2019 General Election. City Attorney Tydings has reviewed agreement; no changes, same as previous years. Seeking approval tonight to enter into agreement with HCBOE and authorize Mayor Harley to sign document. Motion made by Councilman Armijo to approve; seconded by Councilman Wright. Motion carried.

Centerville Housing Team: Councilman Wright recognized Director of Marketing Hogan. Mrs. Hogan stated the housing team was started last year when they city received the Ga Housing Community Initiative (GICH) status. Team members, Dan Carter and Nicole Rosser are present tonight. Team comprised of a great group of local people and non-profit organizations. Provided a copy of document to include projects; improve existing housing and new homes, stronger engagement, these are broad goals. Specific actions steps, Councilman Wright and Mrs. Hogan have met with Code Enforcement Officer Fauquier to discuss code issues in the city. Looking at applying for grants when necessary, potential housing expo, public feedback, hoping to create a best yard campaign, pride and place for residence. Thanked housing team. Councilman Wright publicly thanked Senior Pastor Anthony McPhail, First United Methodist Church, he is doing great things in our community.

Mayor Harley mentioned House Bill 346 – which would amend Article 1 of Chapter 7 of Title 44 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to landlords and tenants generally, so as to prohibit retaliation by a landlord against a tenant for taking certain actions such as reporting failure to repair and other rental housing deficiencies; to provide for circumstances that are not considered retaliation; to provide for remedies; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Point of Information-Northside High School Community Engagement: Councilman Wright stated he had the opportunity several weeks ago to participate in mock interviews with NHS seniors; engineer, novelist and football player. Met with teachers that were passionate about their seniors and school. Left that day thinking this facility has an amazing staff, have a lot of excellent things, athletics and fine arts. There are so many challenges they face – many successes and some failures. Northside needs someone that can advocate on their behalf, sometimes this gets bogged down. Participated with other leaders that day, a lot of good people at the table and later met with Dr. Jody Dean. The meeting and conversation was clouded by the issue that a gun had been found the day before at the school. Wants community to thrive and grow. Holding out hope to change this culture, taking the risk to make comments, should this be fixed by the government, churches, and citizens? The answer is “yes”. Start the conversation; started a “study committee”. Members are comprised of Dr. Jody Dean, Dan Rhoades, Jamie Cook, and Councilman Andrews. Cannot answer what this looks like, don’t know what will work. We are not going to focus on the “who’s, why’s or how’s” that got us here. Need to focus on the good things about the school – and there are so many. Not negative things. Councilman Wright recognized-Dan Rhodes, Jamie Cook, 21st Century Partnership. Mr. Rhoades stated RAFB looks at the quality of life as an important characteristic. All schools in Middle GA have some positive things they are doing and are also working to identify solutions to problems, but we have to try as a community. Jamie Cook, local work force is vital to keeping RAFB open - need to accentuate all of the positive and good news stories, share some. Part of the Middle Ga Stem Alliance, helping students. Eagle Springs, became one of the first stem certified schools in Middle Ga. Earlier this year Thomson Middle School -1st Title 1 in the state, outstanding stem

school; served on one of their committees. Museum of Aviation, STEM summer camps-engineer design process; outstanding students. Central Ga robotics team, did very well on their own, competed this past weekend and made it into the final round with teams across the state. Will compete in Columbus -completive robotics. Just a few of the great things happening in Middle Georgia. Councilman Armijo stated these are very great points and informed everyone that Mayor Harley did recognize Eagle Springs Elementary when they received their certification. Councilman Armijo is proud to say that his daughter was a teacher and part of the program when launched. Mayor Harley thanked everyone and stated this is a tremendous effort for working towards the future. We have a great community here. Mr. Rhoades looking at the data for the schools, a lot of the schools have increasing statistics, encourages our students and population. Part of the aspect is telling the whole story; every place has issues and we are working on these and focusing on the positive. Councilman Armijo stated the city has invited students in the past to come to city hall and speak with government officials, interfacing with them.

Severance Agreement Approval: Councilman Armijo/City Attorney Tydings - seeking formal council approval. Councilman Armijo made the following motion to approve and to authorize the Mayor to sign all documents necessary to finalize and for city staff to take all actions to finalize the Settlement Agreement and Release in full on behalf of the City. This includes payment of \$2,500.00 (gross – subject to normal withholding) as consideration for settlement and release and waiver of claims; seconded by Councilman Evans. Motion carried.

Workers Comp Claim Settlement Agreement Approval: Councilman Armijo, because this item does not require any action by the City Council, I make a motion to permanently remove the item from the agenda; seconded by Councilman Evans. Motion carried.

Comments from Council

Post 2 Councilman Wright, informed everyone that “Snellgrove’s Seafood” restaurant is up for “best” seafood as part of the munch madness competition. Encouraged everyone to visit: 13wmaz or city Facebook page to cast vote.

Post 3 Councilman Evans, commented on the recent events held at city hall, farmers market and health fair. Had the opportunity to come out and visit both them. Events going on are for you to come out and participate.

Post 4 Councilman Armijo, reported to all that the Fire Department will be testing fire hydrants in the city. Encouraged everyone to be careful; do not through water or allow children to play in the water.

Mayor Harley thanked guest for coming to the meeting tonight and speaking.

Meeting adjourned at 5:45 pm.

Mayor John R. Harley

Attest by City Clerk Krista Bedingfield

Date