

Regular Council Meeting

February 2, 2021

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

Invocation given by Councilman Andrews.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Police Lt Zachary Sauls.

Welcome extended to all by Mayor Harley.

Present were Mayor John R. Harley, Councilman Cameron Andrews, Councilman Justin Wright (joined by zoom), Councilman J. Micheal Evans and Councilman Edward Armijo. Absent City Attorney Rebecca Tydings.

Public Comments

None

Adoption of Minutes Motion made by Councilman Evans to adopt minutes as written; seconded by Councilman Armijo. Motion carried.

- January 19, 2021 Council Work Session

Old Business

Update on Council over Departments Assignments: Mayor Harley provided brief background summarizing council over departments. Council over Departments acts in place of a city manager or administrator. There are (2) Council members over each department, one primary and one secondary; each serve one year (July 1-June 30). The (2) Council members serve as the liaison between Council and Department, so we all are kept aware of city activities. The assignment of Council over Department is approved by the Governing Authority at council meeting in June.

Mayor Harley stated that one Councilman has decided they do not want to be involved over departments, will have to redo assignments. Mayor Harley entertained comments. Councilman Armijo stated that this would be until June 30, 2021. Councilman Evans stated he would be move up as primary over the Police Department. Councilman Wright agreed to serve as secondary over Police Department.

Councilman Evans made motion to approve the revisions as follows-Councilman Evans will move up to primary over Police Department and Councilman Wright as secondary, Councilman Armijo will be secondary in Administration; seconded by Councilman Armijo. Motion carried.

New Business

Home Based Business License: The Beautiful Boutique-owner Millicent Phillips, 121 Arbor Creek: Councilman Evans stated this will be an online boutique, no business or traffic at home, motion to approve; seconded by Councilman Armijo. Motion carried.

Submittal of the 2020 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG): Councilman Armijo recognized Fire Chief Jones. Chief Jones stated this will be a 5% cost match, requesting \$500,000 grant (requesting a fire truck), city's portion would be \$25,000. Seeking approval to submit the 2020

AFG Grant for a new fire engine. Motion made by Councilman Armijo to approve application submittal; seconded by Councilman Evans. Motion carried.

Approval – Budget Resolution 1st Budget Amendment FY 2021: Councilman Evans / City Accountant Harrison provided a copy of the budget summary to Mayor and Council for review. Motion to approve by Councilman Evans; seconded by Councilman Armijo. Motion carried. See Resolution 2021-1.

Center Park: Calendar of Events: Councilman Evans really stated he was excited the park is open and recognized Director of Marketing Hogan. Mrs. Hogan provided a copy of events for review. Went over the scheduled events. Excited to start these up. If COVID is an imminent threat will meet with event committee to discuss and reschedule. Councilman Andrews asked how we are advertising for the events. Mrs. Hogan informed everyone, radio campaign interview with local media, television stations. Weather camera on top of mall that also looks down on the park on the WGXA channel. Mayor stated that he actually has had people comment to him about seeing this on TV.

Land Bank Authority Update: Councilman Evans recognized Director of Marketing Hogan. Mrs. Hogan stated that over the past couple of months we have discussed a Land Bank Authority (LBA). City Attorney Tydings and I reviewed the IGA and Bylaws and provided them to Mayor and Council for review. The Land Bank Authority is a statute enacted by the General Assembly that allows for one or more cities and the county containing such cities to enter into an Intergovernmental Cooperative Agreement for the purposes of establishing a single LBA. A LBA may acquire tax-delinquent properties, blighted properties, or other underutilized properties in need of redevelopment. For example: total loss fire structures like 248 Collins Ave and 218 Valencia Circle; any home with overdue taxes more than 3 years; we have many heir properties in which the current owners have not even visited the property; or donating underutilized property to Habitat for Humanity. There are many opportunities for Centerville with an LBA. LBA's may manage, maintain, protect, rent, lease, repair, insure, alter, sell, trade, exchange, or otherwise dispose of any property on any terms and conditions determined in the sole discretion of the LBA. The Centerville-Houston County Land Bank Authority IGA and Bylaws outline five-person board, (2) Centerville appointees and (3) Houston County appointees. This is the same structure as the Perry-Houston Land Bank Authority, and it seems to be functioning well. Mrs. Hogan informed all that Houston County Chairman Stalnaker has mentioned over the past several months has reviewed the possibilities of entering into cooperative agreement to establish a single property land bank. Mrs. Hogan added that she is seeking direction from Mayor and Council.

Mayor Harley stated that we are not in a business to acquire and maintain property, this has been discussed with Chairman Stalnaker.

Councilman Andrew stated that his verdict is still out.

Councilman Wright does not mean that we have access, dealing with blighted property, should move forward.

Councilman Evans stated that this is just another tool in the tool box, but still undecided.

Councilman Armijo undecided as well, would like more information on the program.

Councilman Wright if you find a property could be kicking the property down the road, no cost to initiate membership of land bank, but if there is a property that you have to deal with, would rather have an option.

Councilman Evans inquired how long it takes to establish a land bank.

Mrs. Hogan to start up a land bank that is fully function whether by funding or donations, takes about 90 days, boards appointed then meet with both parties (city and county) establish by laws. Inquired if Mayor and Council would like for her to come back with some failing homes to consider. They will be familiar, were provided in the 2018 Housing Assessment.

Councilman Andrews stated he would like to hear City Attorney Tydings feedback on this and Councilman Evans agrees. Mrs. Hogan briefly summarized the steps. General discussion on how the meetings / city council/ land bank and deed title work. Mayor Harley stated that we are looking at abandoned properties with delinquent taxes. There is a legal process.

Council Wright suggested to contact Mara Shaw with UGA to present at the next planning retreat; she is an expert on this matter. Mrs. Hogan stated she can facilitate this with a zoom meeting at a regular council meeting if Mayor and Council so choose.

No further discussion. No motion or action taken.

Change Order # 14 New Fire Station: Councilman Armijo recognized Fire Chief Jones. Chief Jones is seeking approval to move forward with change order. It consists of many different items; majority of the cost is changing color of the roof. The color was different than the initial color presented. Director Brumfield also agreed, instead of a red color it was orange color. Install conduits underground for Windstream and Cox from the power pole next to the retaining wall to the power pole at the drive way.

Motion made by Councilman Armijo to approve; seconded by Councilman Andrews. Councilman Evans inquired about the colors of the roof. Director Brumfield stated the color was different on paper than in person. Mayor Harley called for vote. Motion carried.

Comments from Council

Post 1 Councilman Andrews, none.

Post 2 Councilman Wright, none.

Post 3 Councilman Evans, none.

Post 4 Councilman Armijo, none.

Mayor Harley, early voting coming up for March 2021 Special Election. Yesterday was the start of Black History month. Mayor Harley wanted to share article he had read in the American Legion "The Unsung Soldiers of the Six Triple Eight". The only battalion of African-American women sent overseas during World War II. They had volunteered to come in to the Army and serve their country. Inside warehouses in England letters and packages were backlogged, shortage of qualified postal officer challenged the delivery of mail. The woman worked around the clock, needed only 3 months to clear the backlog. They then went to France, doing their job with dignity and respect.

Executive Session Personnel Matters: Councilman Evans made motion to enter into executive session at 7:43pm; seconded by Councilman Armijo. Motion carried.

Mayor and Council reconvened at 8:17pm.

Affidavit & Resolution: Motion made by Councilman Evans to adopt resolution as written; seconded by Councilman Armijo. Motion carried. City Clerk Bedingfield read affidavit. Mayor Harley executed Affidavit and City Clerk Bedingfield notarized document. Affidavit and Resolution attached and made part of official minutes.

Mayor Harley adjourned meeting adjourned at 8:19pm.

Mayor John R. Harley

Attest by City Clerk Krista Bedingfield

Date