

Council Work Session

May 18, 2021

Meeting called to order at 5:00pm.

Invocation given by Mayor Harley.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Police Chief Duncan.

Welcome Extended to all by Mayor Harley.

Present were Mayor John R. Harley, Councilman Wright (will be arriving late, attending Houston County Commissioner's meeting on behalf of city), Councilman J. Micheal Evans, Councilman Edward Armijo and City Attorney

Public Comments:

Facebook Questions About Agenda: Mayor Harley/ Director of Economic Development Hogan

- Mr. Michael R. Williams, 107 Creekview Trail- asked if June 15, 2021 is Special Election. Mayor Harley confirmed.
- James Ingram, 110 Collinstown Ave, asked will this be live stream or only on Facebook. The City of Centerville began live streaming meetings, Spring 2020 to connect residents due to the challenge of COVID 19. We have enjoyed the opportunity to engage more and will continue. Facebook has been a reliable and streaming platform for over a year. After our meetings we do upload them to you tube and post on Centerville, Ga. Facebook page.

Old Business

None

New Business

Discussion Postpone June 15, 2021 Council Work Session to June 22, 2021: Mayor Harley this will be an election day in the city-Special Election to fill Post 1 seat. If changed this will not interfere with the elections, will also give us enough time to have votes verified and would be able to swear the candidate. There are 3 candidates, so could be a potential for a run off. Motion to change June 15, 2021 meeting to June 22, 2021 made by Councilman Evans; seconded by Councilman Armijo. Motion carried.

Point of Information/Clarification: GICH Points: Councilman Evans recognized Director of Marketing Hogan (2) points were awarded to Abbington project Phase 2. Wanted to clarify this in the meeting. Copy of letters of support from Mayor Harley and Centerville Housing Team to Department of Community Affairs. Letters are attached and made part of official minutes.

Point of Information Centerville Business Survey: Councilman Evans recognized Director of Marketing Hogan. Mrs. Hogan stated over the past month and half have had the opportunity to meet and rate city services. Provided a copy of the comprehensive overview, had a 50%

response rate, 70 % response rate with the mall. Provided the detail of survey. Councilman Evans complimented on the pamphlet, what we will do with this. Mrs. Hogan stated she had met with Mrs. Bedingfield, City Clerk, will include pamphlet with commercial business applications. Councilman Armijo very good report, how often will we do this, areas to improve upon, all this is visibility to attract business into Centerville. Mrs. Hogan stated that she a lot of hours spent to visit, a very great plan, a lot of actionable items, look out to do again in the next 2 years. Councilman Evans recommended she provide a copy to 180 businesses in Centerville.

Discussion Implementation Convenience/Surcharge Fee On-Line & Credit Card Payments:

Councilman Evans/ City Accountant Harrison this came up during budget meetings and noticed how the fees have increased, would like to introduce a possibility of implementing convenience fee tonight. Provided a 5 year history of fees to give some idea of how fees have changed 2016-2021. Currently accepting (2) methods of payments on line or in person with office credit card terminal. In 2020 \$ 1,636 million in sales, the fees charged 2-3 %, averaged at 2.5% \$40,914 fees paid, this is an estimate, and each month fluctuates based on volume. Spoken with both Harris Local Government and Credit Card Company. Harris Local Government could program a flat or percentage for online payments. The credit card company can only do a percentage for in house credit card terminal would have to be a percentage. Could charge a flat fee per transaction, to recoup fees. The credit card terminal can only program a percentage. Recommend look only at flat fee for online payments. This is only an introduction if Mayor and Council wish to adopt in the future.

General discussion re: overall cost and where it comes from and reason why this is being presented because of increase in fees for transactions. Councilman Armijo stated this was talked about during the budget committee meetings. Wanted to bring this to everyone's attention, cost continue to go up and city incurs cost. Councilman Evans stated this is something that we have been doing for citizens and now asking customers to help us with cost. Mayor Harley recommended to place on the next council agenda June 1st. Seeking comments from public on the discussion and allow Governing Authority to discuss with Department Heads.

Councilman Wright arrived to meeting at 5:25pm.

Home Based Business License- Bronner Lawn Care Service and Pressure Washing (312 E Church ST-owner: Quinterius Bronner): Councilman Evans, self-explanatory. Motion made by Councilman Evans to approve; seconded by Councilman Armijo. Motion carried.

Compensation for Elections: Councilman Evans reminded all that we have a Special Election on June 15, 2021 to fill Post 1 seat. Along with the potential to have a run-off election. Generally for city elections the City Clerk acts as Superintendent for the city, as stated in contract. However, the County will serve in this capacity for the 2021 election cycle, in order to use the Dominion equipment. Recommendation to compensate City Clerk Bedingfield in the amount stated in employee contract for services provided in the elections.

Motion made by Councilman Evans to approve and compensate City Clerk Bedingfield 2021 city elections; seconded by Councilman Wright. Motion carried.

Approval of Agreement- Police Department K 9 Bono: Councilman Evans recognized Chief Duncan. Informed all that this is Lt Sauls last day, K 9 officer and K 9 relationship, the dog is with him 24 hours a day. Councilman Evans read bill of sale and agreement. Motion made by Councilman Evans to approve agreement and authorize Mayor and signatory; seconded by

Councilman Armijo. Motion carried. A copy of bill of sale and agreement attached and made part of official minutes.

Discussion Reopening City Hall & Government Buildings: Mayor Harley opened discussion. Looking at the point to reopen city hall, look at things a little different due to COVID 19. Early voting starts Monday, propose to open up May 24, have signs out front re; mask and social distancing. Motion to made by Councilman Armijo to follow guidelines by Mayor; seconded by Councilman Evans.

Councilman Wright referenced that normal day to day business hours, council meetings are different, just left County meeting temperatures being checked at the door, standing room only. Should we at least consider procedure before council meeting, should have a procedure for this room. Councilman Evans stated as things get better more people get vaccinated, the appropriate thing for us to do is screen people when they come in, encourage mask, but it will happen slowly, not going to be able to stop it. Councilman Wright recommended to continue to follow state law, large meetings, comply with these, there are other areas that are stricter due to larger reported numbers; we are ok. City Attorney Tydings stated municipal court is under a different order- judicial order, when this is revised will update.

General discussion re: court lobby, customers and executive order guidelines. Councilman Wright need to come up with specifics, clear direction; move forward with temperature checks before public meetings. Councilman Evans add to that if someone is going behind locked doors, do checks and let the employee make the decision if they are wanting to wear a mask. Councilman Wright signage, include symptoms, at least until we get a broader all clear with the CDC guidelines.

Councilman Armijo amended motion to include language on signs –COVID symptoms , temperature checks prior to entrance into public meeting, strongly encourage mask and social distancing, effective May 24, 2021; seconded by Councilman Evans. Motion carried.

Mayor Harley mentioned the Municipal Court, small lobby, if there are any issues, Department Head has the authority to as customers to wait outside.

Comments from Council

Post 2 Councilman Wright, reiterated comments at the Houston County Commissioner's meeting. Grateful we are to them for their assistance with Center Park. Donated 1,786 dump truck loads of dirt, a lot of earth moved. Literally moved mountains to get the park on the way. Have been in classes at GMA with entities butting heads with counties. We work as a team, thanked Chairman Stalnaker. Glad to see the park open and full, rocking and rolling.

Post 3 Councilman Evans, thanked Councilman Wright for going to Houston County Commissioner's meeting and representing city. Food truck Friday was a great evening, Center Park has been a great success, appreciate all employees that had something to do with getting it off the ground. Mayor and Council have the foresight to invest the money in addition to the county to make this happen. Reminder of upcoming of events June 4, food truck Friday, June 5 farmers market, encouraged everyone to come out.

Post 4 Councilman Armijo, rode by Center Park, yoga and farmer's market. Did go to movie night, laid a blanket out and chairs, Mrs. Hogan handed out popcorn and popsicles; 350 in

attendance. Fire Station is almost done, people asking if we are having a “shindig’ grand opening, tour of station. Chief Jones working on that and will announce when this will happen. Thanked SPLOST funds. Received several compliments on the public works department, Public Works do a great job, nice to extend a little gratitude, are responsive to all types of issues. Recognized Mr. Brumfield , utilities do a great job; wonderful people. Received a compliment about Fire Chief Jones, someone had called and Chief returned call with quick response. This past Monday popsicles in the park with the Police Chief, he had an opportunity to go out and greet them, thanked Chief Duncan for everything that you have done to reach out to the community.

Councilman Evans, kids are getting out of school next week, park will be getting a lot of usage, finding things to do, public works, fire fighters, police will be putting in time. All of them are recognized as first responders.

Mayor Harley, people love seeing Police at the Park, received comments. Encouraged Police to drive through the park when they have time. Originally didn’t think Center Park was big enough, it’s the right size. It makes a family community. Have spoken to several people from all different places. Have voting coming up, this is a polling place, cannot have any campaigning activity 150ft from the entrance to the door or inside the building. There is an ordinance also regarding signs, please don’t put on the city right of way. Want to have a great election.

Mayor adjourned meeting at 6:05pm.

Mayor John R. Harley

Attest by City Clerk Krista Bedingfield

Date