

Regular Council Meeting

May 4, 2021

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

Invocation given by Councilman Wright.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Fire Chief Jones.

Welcome extended to all by Mayor Harley. Informed everyone that Councilman Evans is not present tonight, visiting his mom, it's her birthday. Mayor Harley wished his mom "Happy Birthday".

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

Public Comments

Face Book Questions About Agenda: Mayor Harley/ Director of Economic Development Hogan Mrs. Hogan reported that no questions received tonight.

Adoption of Minutes

April 6, 2021 Regular Council Meeting: Motion made by Councilman Wright to adopt as written; seconded by Councilman Armijo. Motion carried.

Old Business

None

New Business

Recommended FY 2022 Budget to Governing Authority: Councilman Wright stated that a proposed copy of the budget is provided tonight for review. Thanked Councilman Armijo and City Accountant Harrison as well as all Department Heads. We all worked really hard this year as we do every year to be mindful of funds. Last year being such a strange year due to COVID 19, we had some unexpected challenges that had to be addressed. Coming out of the gate there were some expenses that were mandatory along with necessary expenses for departments, Public Safety. Large amount of funding in this budget to complete some projects. All the advancement and changes found us making sure we were keeping up with everything. Trying to make sure we stay within our budget and fiscal responsibilities for the citizens and be good stewards of taxpayer dollars.

City Accountant Harrison informed all that the proposed budget is on the Centerville website and a hard copy is located in the front window of City Clerk's Office.

Councilman Armijo mentioned that the Trellis Walk repair project is in the budget, a lot of people are looking for this and it is funded. He echoed comments about budget expenditures and challenges due to events last year because of COVID. Thanked City Accountant Harrison and Councilman Wright for their hard work.

City Accountant Harrison reminded everyone of the Public Hearing on the budget on June 1, 2021 as required by law and proposed adoption on June 22, 2021.

Point of Information - New Fire Station Furnishings: Councilman Armijo recognized Chief Jones. Chief Jones thanked the budget committee for working on the budget this year. This agenda item is about furnishings for the new Fire Stations. Chief Jones is requesting approval to purchase, list included in Mayor and Council's packet. This was discussed during the budget meetings. Looking at up to \$135,000 for furnishings, this includes shipping fees. Tonight's request is to expend up to \$ 75,000 - have identified in this year's budget funds available. Councilman Wright reinforced the statements, confirming that during the budget committee meetings, Chief Jones and City Accountant were instructed to review current Fire Department budget to review available funds that will not be spent or have not been allocated by June 30, to reallocate and use to purchase some of the furnishings. Chief Jones seeking approval tonight to spend up to \$75,000 and utilize some of those allocated funds from this budget to purchase new fire station furnishings. Motion made by Councilman Armijo to approve expenditure up to \$75,000 for the new fire department furnishings; seconded by Councilman Wright. Mayor Harley agrees, stating this is a really good idea, spending funds before they lapse at the end of this fiscal year. Mayor Harley called for the vote. Motion carried.

Requesting Approval - FIRST Contract (Picture Fund Raising Event): Councilman Armijo/ Chief Jones picture fund raiser, this is something that the Fire Department has done for several years and is a good idea. Chief Jones is seeking approval tonight to enter into the agreement with authorization for the Mayor to sign. Have used funds from this project in the past to buy equipment. This is a door-to-door fund raiser. Motion made by Councilman Armijo to approve contract and Mayor Harley as authorized signer for the FIRST contract fundraiser; seconded by Councilman Wright. Motion carried.

Point of Information - MDA Fund Raising Events (Boot Drives and Golf Tournament): Councilman Armijo/ Chief Jones fund raising events have been on the back burner due to COVID. Once again, however, you will see the guys out collecting funds with boots, will practice safety protocols. Serves as a point of information, no motion or action taken.

Intergovernmental Agreement for Conduct of City of Centerville Elections: Councilman Armijo and City Clerk Bedingfield provided a copy of the agreement in packets tonight for consideration. The agreement is with Houston County/ Houston County Board of Elections to conduct 2021 election cycle. This agreement will allow the city to use the County's new voting equipment in the June 15, 2021 Special Election and will cover the remainder of the 2021 election year. City Attorney Tydings has reviewed document. There was one minor revision made with no issue. Houston County Commissioners voted and approved the contract at their 9am meeting this morning. Seeking tonight approval of agreement and authorization for Mayor to sign. Motion made by Councilman Armijo to approve agreement as written; seconded by Councilman Wright. Motion carried.

LIHTC 2021 (GICH Point) Discussion and Approval: Councilman Wright reminded everyone that last year the GICH team awarded 1 point to the Abbington at Galleria Mall Phase 1. The same developer is looking at a point for Phase 2, there have been some changes to the plans. Recognized Director Hogan to give a brief run down on some of the changes. Mrs. Hogan provided and referred to a packet of information given to Mayor and Council. Have scaled down the proposed addition to the project back to Phase 2. There are some topographical challenges to the mall property. Mrs. Hogan reported initial project would have been 160 units and now down to 138 units. Mrs. Hogan read letter of support from Houston Galleria Mall. Copy attached and made part of official minutes.

Councilman Wright stated they are planning to make a walk friendly community, adding a walkway from the mall to Center Park. Made a decision through this project what would be best for the community. Have done good things to protect the city and help steer project that will be very beneficial. Have a good relationship with the developer, very excited. Final part of the project is not scheduled to be completed until 2024. Mrs. Hogan stated they are very excited to be a part of Centerville, pedestrian connectivity is a big part of this project and how the Housing Team rates projects. Motion made by Councilman Wright to approve GICH team's recommendation to award point to Phase 2 Ray Ventures; seconded by Councilman Armijo. Motion carried.

Comments from Council

Post 2 Councilman Wright, echo Mayor's comments earlier, Councilman Evans mom's birthday "Happy Birthday". Reminded of Food Truck Friday night, food and local music. Glad to have the park open and running for the citizens. Splash pad is open.

Post 4 Councilman Armijo, popsicles in the park with the Police Officers, May 12 at 4pm. It is important to put on these events and for the public to come out and support local events. Thanked public works for getting the repairs done in the park. Recognized Mrs. Hogan re: touch a truck, his grandsons were very excited. This is what make us a community, encouraged all to come out and participate. Boy Scout Troop 400, work out of the United Methodist Church, seeking more children for scouting. Come out and support.

Mayor Harley 200th Anniversary the founding of Houston County. Houston Tx, was founded in 1837, Houston County Ga. was founded in 1821, a great day today, number of speakers, Senator Sam Nunn, learned a lot about history and families that have impacted over the years. Sheriff Talton spoke, will have served 52 years after he finishes this term as Houston County Sheriff. We have not reopened city hall, however, will be discussed at the next council meeting. Seeking input from citizens, giving a 2-week notice.

Meeting adjourned at 7:39pm.

Mayor John R. Harley

Attest by City Clerk Krista Bedingfield

Date

