

Council Work Session

August 17, 2021

Mayor Harley called meeting to order at 5:00pm.

Invocation given by Councilman Wright.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilman Armijo.

Welcome extended to all by Mayor Harley.

Present were Mayor John R. Harley, Councilman Robert D. Bird, Jr., Councilman J. Micheal Evans and Councilman Edward Armijo. Absent City Attorney Rebecca Tydings.

Public Comments

Dumpster Fees-David Hodes, 200 Chalet Cove, Centerville, Ga. 31028, informed all that he is a general contractor. Here tonight before Mayor and Council to discuss fees that are being charged for dumpster services. Provided a handout and discussed the following pages 1-3 for current construction sites in Centerville. The handout provided with detail of charges for Mayor and Council to review along with application for Centerville. Contractual obligation that the contractor has to use the cities dumpster's and mentioned that he had met with Mayor Harley at an earlier date and had Mayor Harley had confirmed the same. Added that the following do not require a specific company to supply dumpster services; Houston County, Peach County, Bibb County or City of Warner Robins. Centerville only regulates this for whatever reason. Does not understand why Centerville requires this and no one else does. Provided the last 2 bills, which are unpaid and does not require a pick-up fee, requesting from the city two things: Supply dumpsters at a competitive price of \$375 or allow the use of another company that he so chooses to provide the same service. This is not fair that the city requires, asking again for one of the two points mentioned along with reduction of the bills that are unpaid or remove from the account.

Councilman Armijo stated he is over the Department, made a note of 3 points mentioned. Will take this information provided and review and make contact with Mr. Hodes and set up a meeting. Mayor and Council informed all that the fees were increased at the beginning of the year and fees went into effect 90 days later. There is a roll off fee and land fill fee.

Mr. Hodes, stated this is not a new problem for him. Disagrees with this policy, was not notified or given a choice would have been present at the meetings.

Director Brumfield reminded everyone that this ordinance has been in place for the past 40 years.

Councilman Armijo thanked Mr. Hodes and confirmed he will be in touch after further review.

Susan Lemme, 219 Mason Drive, bay gall creek notice listed on the agenda. Concerned about the bay gall creek drainage, due to paving the last 20+30 years, drainage ditch, several property owners that these effect. When doing more projects that does cause more draining in easements, hopes there is more global planning.

Councilman Wright encouraged Ms. Lemme to fill out a citizen action form to note draining issues. The appropriate department can respond and follow-up with issue.

## Old Business

2nd Public Hearing-Notice of Proposed Property Tax Increase: Mayor Harley read press release. Copy is attached and made part of official minutes.

Opened public hearing at 5:22pm.

Mayor Harley stated since 2016, 305 new residential home permits have been issued. Also, there has not been a tax increase since that time. Highest taxes 12.001 in 2010 currently 11.944. Mentioned the prior millage rates from 2016 to current 2020. At this time tax support senior exemption, this has been a savings to the citizens, \$2,497,210 over a 10-year period, quite a bit of money, close to our current budget, keep in mind we get additional funds from other sources, insurance and franchise fees. Police Department and Fire Department are over 3 million, property taxes do not support the entire Police and Fire budgets. Also, stated this meeting will be the 2nd of 3 public hearings to inform the citizens that the Mayor and Council propose to maintain the 2020 millage rate of 11.944 which will fund the FY 2022 maintenance and operations of the city. This proposed millage rate remains the same as the 2020 millage rate. The proposed millage rate will generate a 3.32% increase over the 2020 tax levy. This increase requires three public hearings advising the public that the city could roll back the millage rate by 4.20%. Not rolling back the millage rate the city will gain an additional income of \$ 79,783 over the 2020 city taxes levied to help fund the FY 2022 General Fund Budget of \$ 5,541,669. This \$ 76,783 is anticipated income only since 100% of property taxes would have to be collected to realize this full amount. Since proposed millage rate of 11.944 is being maintained as last year's rate, the only way a property owner would see an increase in property taxes is if their property has been reassessed at a higher value during the year.

Councilman Evans stated we do look at the \$293,000 senior exemption and does continue to increase, have to find other funding sources for the budget. A dilemma we have to continue to deal with each year.

Councilman Wright stated we need to be mindful of our spending, already looking at appropriation, the budget is tight, not doing our best service to our citizens, have to be cautious, uncertain time this year with revenues.

Mayor Harley asked City Accountant Harrison if she knew the amount of last year revenues that were rolled over to the current budget. Mrs. Harrison stated she did not have the total figure on hand. Mayor Harley reminded everyone that we have to have money in the budget for emergencies, ex: water well goes down, have to fix it. Stated he agrees with Councilman Wright's prior comments.

Closed public hearing at 5:32pm and opened council meeting.

Resolution Street Name Change – Center Park Circle to Veteran's Drive: Director of Operations Brumfield stated there is a resolution in your packet for review. Councilman Armijo asked Mayor to open for a public hearing for comments. Opened public hearing at 5:33pm. No comments. Mayor Harley closed public hearing at 5:34pm.

Public comments were open on social media 2 weeks as stated by Director of Marketing Hogan. No comments received.

Mayor Harley closed public hearing at 5:33pm and opened council meeting.

Motion made by Councilman Armijo to adopt resolution to change Center Park Circle to Veteran's Drive'; seconded by Councilman Bird. Motion carried. See Resolution 2021-9.

Proposed Street Name Change or Public Place Dedication Ordinance: Mayor Harley state this has been discussed many times in meetings. This ordinance provides a method on how to request the change. Motion to approve made by Councilman Wright; seconded by Councilman Evans. Motion carried. See Ordinance 2021-3.

### New Business

Home Based Business License: Ruth O Clothing, 161 Back Cedar Lane (owner: Delbert & April Golden): Councilman Wright made motion to approve; seconded by Councilman Armijo. Motion carried.

Centerville Independence Day Celebration Fireworks Contract: Councilman Armijo recognized Event coordinator Alicia Hartley. Mrs. Hartley provided a copy of the 2021 fireworks contract with Pyrotechnico. Seeking approval to confirm event Saturday July 2 with Pyrotechnico fireworks. There is a credit of \$1000 left over from 2019. The contract needs to be approved in order to secure the date for the show of July 2, 2022. Motion made by Councilman Armijo to approve; seconded by Councilman Evans. Motion carried. Councilman Wright inquired if the contract had been reviewed by City Attorney Tydings. Mrs. Hartley informed that this is the same contract that the city has approved for the prior events with Pyrotechnico, no changes. Councilman Wright requested that the motion be amended. Councilman Armijo amended motion to include to authorize Mayor Harley to sign after city attorney has reviewed contract; seconded by Councilman Evans. Motion carried.

Point of Information: GMA Health Grant: Councilman Armijo recognized Mrs. Hartley. Mrs. Hartley informed all that grant 2022 GMA Health Grant was submitted on Friday form had to be submitted by August 16. Current health promotional activities: Farmers Markets, CPR Classes, local blood drives. The city received 2018 & 2020 grant funds. Health promotional programs, flu shots for employees in the fall, world health, lunch and learn programs. New additional AED for the Police Department and City Hall. No motion or action taken.

Approval to Apply for State Recovery Funds under ARPA for Project- Bay Gall Creek Sewer Line: Councilman Armijo recognized Director of Operations Brumfield. Mr. Brumfield provided a packet of cost estimates that he would like to send into the ARPA project-state recovery funds. This would be a great benefit. Mr. Brumfield stated he is seeking approval tonight for the project; probable estimated project cost is \$ 2,746,155.50.

Motion made by Councilman Evans to approve; seconded by Councilman Armijo. August 31 is deadline. This is something we have looked at over the years. Councilman Wright inquired type of pipe being used. City Accountant Harris informed all that we have to get funds obligated by 2024 and spent by December 2026. Mayor Harley called for motion. Motion carried.

### Comments from Council

Post 1 Councilman Bird, thanked the folks that came out for public comments today, communication is the key.

Post 2 Councilman Wright, echo what I said 2 weeks ago, difference in an opinion does not equal dissent, good to have the discussions. Look forward working with you all.

Post 3 Councilman Evans, thank you to all department heads and city workers for efforts you to provide every day. Stay on top issues, times and dates that they need to be done. To the Council discussions, points are made, share and learn. Appreciate the opportunity to serve.

Post 4 Councilman Armijo, stated he has a different tone, everybody's responsibility when you go to the park, sort of like to think, that everyone assumes some responsible, call 911 if you see something that should not be going on. It's for everyone, ask each of you to help us look after it, don't hesitate, and help us protect our resources. Tax payers end up paying for this, help us, and work together.

Mayor Harley, this was a great council meeting. Appreciate everything and everyone.

Mayor Harley adjourned meeting at 5:52pm.

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Mayor John R. Harley

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Attest by City Clerk Krista Bedingfield

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Date