

Council Work Session  
December 21, 2021

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

Invocation given by Councilman Armijo.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilman Bird.

Welcome extended to all by Mayor Harley.

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

Public Comments

Eva Folsie, 280 Collins Avenue, thanked Mayor and Council for their service and praised them for doing a great job.

Old Business

None

New Business

Home Based Business-Express Roofing & Remodeling (owner: Cjamtu Aldana, 827 Collins Avenue): Councilman Wright made motion to approve; seconded by Councilman Bird. Motion carried.

Approval to Move Forward and to Set Parameters for Actuarial Study – OPEB Trust and Retirement Plans: Mayor Harley recognized City Attorney Tydings. Mrs. Tydings informed all that she serves as Chair of GMA's REMBS Boards of Trustees. She reminded Mayor and Council that they had previously agreed to and included in the budget an actuarial study, program that provides pre 65 retirees with insurance until they reach Medicare eligibility at age 65. Want to set parameters. Mrs. Tydings recently attended a meeting of the Boards and spoke with Mr. Robert Burrell (actuary) with Segal. She mentioned that the City was interested in a retirement plan amendment as well as the OPEB trust. Mr. Burrell recommended that the City combine the OPEB trust study with a retirement plan amendment study since both use the same data. Tonight's agenda item is seeking approval for the cost of the combined studies as well as the parameters for the proposed OPEB Trust and retirement plan amendments.

1. Approve cost for joint studies in an amount not to exceed \$5,000.00.
2. Set parameters that pre-65 retirees would be eligible to participate in the OPEB trust once they meet the rule of 80; benefits under the OPEB Trust would terminate upon retirees' Medicare eligibility (age 65).
3. Increase employee's retirement factor from 1.5 to 2 %; this has not been amended since 1980 when plan was created.
4. Elected officials are vested immediately, if you want to amend, current amount is \$40 a year. Need to decide if they would like to increase the monthly amount and by how much.

Councilman Wright stated this has been discussed, wanting to use this for recruitment and retention.

Councilman Evans would like to set the levels and parameters today for the study.

Councilman Wright recognized City Accountant Harrison who stated that increasing employees' retirement factor from 1.5% to 2.0% would a 30% increase (there has been no increase for over 41 years).

Please see summary of discussion with items to consider for approval.

1. Move forward with doing studies for the OPEB Trust study and two Retirement Plan Amendments
2. OPEB Trust – Employees would be eligible to participate when they meet the Rule of 80 (age plus years' service = 80); plan would cover pre-65 retirees only and would terminate upon Medicare eligibility at age 65; City pays 100% of life and health coverage (which include medical and prescription coverage) for the employee only; employees would have the option to continue dental and vision coverage at their cost (100%); coverage would be employee only – not offered to dependents.
3. Employee retirement plan amendment - Increase employees' retirement factor from 1.5% to 2.0%.
4. Elected official's retirement plan amendment – elected officials are vested immediately upon taking office and currently receive \$40.00 monthly for each year of service; the proposal is to increase the \$40.00 to \$80.00 monthly for each year of service.

Motion made by Councilman Wright to adopt item #1 cost not to exceed \$5,000.00; item #2 OPEB trust with parameters as proposed; item #3 increase 1.5%-2% employees; and item #4 increase elected officials monthly amount to \$52.00; seconded by Councilman Bird.

General discussion among Mayor and Council.

Councilman Wright recommending to consider raising elected officials to a higher amount than the \$52.00 since the plan has not been amended since 1980. We have to pick a number to put it in the study in order to do the study, need to do set an amount specific and not a good, better best option. Give freedom to add a larger number.

Motion amended by Councilman Wright approve 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> third set parameters to include increase 1.5% to 2.0%; seconded by Councilman Bird. Motion carried.

General discussion to set amount for Governing Authority amount to do study with parameters for elected officials. Councilman Wright recommended increase monthly amount to \$80.00.

Motion made by Councilman Bird for item 4, to set elected officials monthly fee to \$80 for study; seconded by Councilman Wright.

Councilman Armijo expressed concerns, have a tight budget, try to be careful, not sure he feels great about the increase for elected officials.

Councilman Bird inquired what city pays into the retirement. City Accountant Harrison stated these are allocated funds, and there are a lot of variables that go into that, such as how is the market doing. Funds are paid by GMA from the city's contribution. Need to look at measurement tool.

Councilman Evans stated we chose to be elected and this is a part time position, not our lively hood, personally not concerned about elected officials; concerned most about employees who have given their entire careers to the City.

Councilman Wright reiterated this is just setting parameters.

Councilman Evans stated he understands that when you commission to do a study this tends to be what is adopted.

Mayor called for vote. Motion carried.

Discussion Trellis Walk Project & Funding: Councilman Bird/ Director of Operations Brumfield/ City Accountant Harrison Funding – Trellis Walk – Total Project Cost is \$395,895.

Mr. Brumfield stated December 6, a new bid opening on the project, one contractor \$395,895. Could add this to the LMIG project and basically put a band aid on the project or move forward with the project. A copy of the bid cost provided in packets for review.

Councilman Bird, referenced map, small curve, does not cover the rest of the road. Mr. Brumfield stated the rest has minor issues compared to the portion covered by the bid. Councilman Bird noted that the bid included \$15,000 for the actual project while traffic control cost is \$144,720.

Mr. Brumfield stated cost for traffic, can include barricades, signs, and flaggers. There is a lot to this project.

Councilman Wright inquired, how long we can anticipate to begin. Mr. Brumfield stated in the beginning 2 weeks.

Councilman Armijo asked what redirecting traffic will need to be done. Mr. Brumfield added the biggest problem will be the people traveling on the road during repair.

General discussion concerns among all council members.

City Accountant Harrison provided the following potential funding sources.

- Budgeted \$150,000 in GF Street Department
- Potential use of ARPA funds under the Project “Provision of Government Services due to Loss Revenue” for Calendar year 2022. Conservative estimate is between \$150,000 -200,000 of loss revenue for calendar year 2022.
- Water & sewer fund \$98,895

Councilman Armijo made motion to award project to Reeves Construction in the amount of \$395,895 and fund project using 3 sources provided by Mrs. Harrison; seconded by Councilman Evans. Motion carried. Councilman Armijo thanked Councilman Bird for placing this on agenda.

Point of Information – Agree to Purchase (7) GETAC Laptops for the Admin Staff with a Grant Awarded from GOHS: Councilman Evans recognized Chief Duncan. Chief Duncan reported that he had applied for the Grant back in August. The grant will cover the price of the computers 100%.

Motion made by Councilman Evans to authorize Chief Duncan to sign document and carry out the grant; seconded by Councilman Armijo. Motion carried.

Propose to Retire K-9 Callie: Councilman Evans recognized Chief Duncan. On the last recertification, although she recertified, it was very taxing on her and recommendation made by Officer NeeSmith trainer to retire K-9 Callie.

Motion to retire K-9 Callie and approve agreement with authorizing Mayor Harley to sign; seconded by Councilman Armijo. Motion carried.

Chief Duncan informed Mayor and Council, Officer Eisner is currently working on a K-9 that he wants to purchase and utilize with Centerville Police Department. Would like to see a new K-9 work the same as the current agreement as Officer Nelson and his K-9 Storm. The officer would own the K-9 but would work the K-9 under an agreement with Centerville Police Department.

Agreement to go into a Contract with the Georgia Association of Chiefs for the Centerville Police Department to become a Certified Agency through the State of Georgia: Councilman Evans this has been talked about over the years; recognized Chief. Chief Duncan stated the program is set by the state of Georgia, there are 140 standards, have 3 years to meet all. With this certification Centerville Police Department would be working by current standards and procedures, also allow GIRMA to reduce on insurance once certified.

Motion made by Councilman Evans to approve and authorize Chief Duncan and Mayor Harley to sign agreement; seconded Councilman Armijo. Motion carried.

#### Comments from Council

Post 1 Councilman Bird, very pleased we can move forward on Trellis Walk, this has been the most requested item by citizens in Eagle Springs.

Post 2 Councilman Wright, also glad about Trellis Walk, glad we can move forward. Read letter received from Mr. Jeffrey Kane, thanking Fire Department for their speed, professionalism and performance, responding to fire in his yard. Copy of letter attached and made part of official minutes.

Post 3 Councilman Evans, glad we are moving forward on Trellis Walk, want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Post 4 Councilman Armijo, stated he wore his Christmas tie tonight because Councilman Evans wears his hat during Christmas, wished all Merry Christmas. Thanked all the citizens for locking up cars, home helping cut down on theft. Great comment about the mall, they are working on bringing people in. People feel safe in our community. Mayor Council to all, staff give 200% efforts.

Mayor Harley, talked to county commissioners about Trellis Walk, worked closely with them and Mr. Brumfield, appreciate their help, we all are partners, work together. Mall has been packed with people, love it. Merry Christmas everyone and Happy New Year.

Mayor Harley adjourned meeting at 5:55pm.

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Mayor John R. Harley

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Attest by City Clerk Krista Bedingfield

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Date