

Council Work Session

May 17, 2022

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

Invocation given by Councilman Wright.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Chief Jones.

Welcome extended to all by Mayor Harley.

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

Public Comments

None

Old Business

None

New Business

Approval Performance Agreement- July 1, 2022 Music Entertainment-Swingin Medallions 2022- Councilman Bird recognized City Clerk Bedingfield. Mrs. Bedingfield informed everyone that the event committee met May 4 to discuss the upcoming July 1 event. Part of the planning process is to secure entertainment. The Swingin' Medallions were chosen for the musical entertainment. In your packets tonight is the agreement for approval. Mrs. Tydings has reviewed all documents and there were no issues. This is a budgeted item, seeking approval to execute the agreement along with authorizing me as the representative to sign the document. Motion made by Councilman Bird to approve; seconded by Councilman Evans. Motion carried.

Discussion Benefit Study for changes in GMEBS Retirement Plan: Councilman Bird recognized City Accountant Harrison to discuss the study.

Mrs. Harrison provided a copy of documents from Segal; discussed summary of benefits, liability piece of the pension discussed. Benefit study for suggested changes to increase the benefit multiplier from 1.5 to 2.0% for employees and change the monthly benefit from 40 to 80 for elected officials.

With inclusion of the above increases the City's Net Pension Liability would increase 1.24 mil for the employees' portion of the plan and t\$150,0000 for elected officials' portion of the plan. As of 06/30/2021 the city reported a net pension asset of \$ 538,025 (overfunded by this amount) and as of the most recent actuary study Jan 1, 2022 (measurement date is 09/30/2021) the City's Net Pension asset grew to \$1,532,602 (overfunded). With the above changes to the plan the current overfunded portion would absorb the increase of the 1.24 million and the \$ 150,000, thus the city would still be overfunded for this year in the amount of \$ 146,602.

Another factor to consider is required annual contributions to keep the pension funded at the new multipliers. The increase for FY 2023 annual contributions would be \$ 65,625 for employees and \$ 11,505 for elected officials.

Councilman Bird provided Mayor and Council retirement calculations. See below.

Retirement Calculations - Regular Employees vs. Elected Officials-Regular Employees (not including Department Heads)

Regular Employee

Average Salary: \$41,850

Retirement Factor: 0.02

Retirement Benefit (annual) = Salary (average 5 highest years) x Retirement Factor x Years of Service.

A 20-year employee with a high-five salary of \$50,000, the retirement benefit is:

$\$50,000 \times 0.02 \times 20 = \$ 20,000$ annually or \$ 1,666.67 per month.

A 20-year employee with a high-five salary of \$41,850, the retirement benefit is:

$\$41,850 \times 0.02 \times 20 = \$ 16,740$ annually or \$ 1,395 per month.

Elected officials

Currently receive \$40 per month per year of service.

Mayor and Council requested that the benefit study measure the costs to increase benefit to \$80 per month per year of service

For a 20-year elected official at the current \$40/month/year of service:

$\$40 \times 20 = \800 per month

For a 20-year elected official at the study rate of \$80/month/year of service:

$\$80 \times 20 = \$1,600$ per month

Recommendation from Councilman Bird not to increase the elected official's retirement to \$80/month/year of service. Stressing this is a part-time position, not a way to support ourselves. Stated for us to have the same retirement benefits as full time employees, believes excessive, recommends keeping it close to the 40, maybe increase \$5.00 to \$10.00. Recognized Councilman Evans.

Councilman Evans confirmed there had been some discussion, willing to increase benefit \$ 5.00 or \$ 10.00 dollars, not many part-time jobs that have a retirement benefit. Agrees does not see a need to increase, already received a salary increase January 1, 2020. Can't see a part time elected official being paid as much as a full-time employee, kind of excessive.

Councilman Bird stated there was no motion intended just a point of information, no controversy on the 2% for the increase. City Attorney Tydings informed all that staff does need some kind of guidance, so this can be adopted before end of June.

Councilman Bird recommended to others that in the next couple of weeks review, does not have a controversy with the employee's retirement benefit increase.

Motion made by Councilman Bird to amend retirement plan agreement revising regular employees changing retirement factor from 1.5% to 2%; seconded by Councilman Evans.

Motion carried.

Mrs. Tydings recommended at the very latest give guidance at the June 7th regular council meeting. Mayor and Council agree.

Comments from Council

Post 1 Councilman Bird, reminded everyone of farmer's market going on this weekend. Excited about food trucks coming as well, one of his favorite events. Encouraged all to come out.

Post 2 Councilman Wright, excited to ride by the park and see people at the splash pad, a good time to be in Centerville.

Post 3 Councilman Evans, exciting in Centerville, however, those efforts that it takes for employees to keep splash pad going, Mr. Brumfield and his staff, a lot of work goes into keeping Splash pad up and going. In addition, Police and Fire efforts at the park keeping everyone safe.

Post 4 Councilman Armijo, echoed comments about the splash pad. Informed everyone that the annual water quality report has been released, if you have any questions call the city. Encouraged the public to be careful driving down Gunn Rd, do not use the park as a means for cut through to avoid stop sign or traffic light. Please avoid doing this, children are playing in the park. Enjoy yourself at the park, thanked Fire and Police keeping safe. Thanked Mr. Brumfield for all of their work. All administrative for keeping things going. Thanked Mrs. Harrison for all of her work, does a great job for the city.

Mayor Harley stated that he and Councilman Wright had an opportunity to talk to the Robins Region Leadership class today; great opportunity. Reminded everyone of upcoming holiday June 19 is a national holiday, will be observed on Monday June 20-Juneteenth.

Mayor adjourned meeting at 5:21pm.

Mayor John R. Harley

Attest by City Clerk Krista Bedingfield

Date