

## Regular Council Meeting

April 4, 2023

Meeting called to order by Mayor Harley at 6:00pm.

Invocation given by Mayor Harley.  
Pledge of Allegiance City Clerk Bedingfield.  
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

Adoption of Minutes: Motion made by Councilman Evans to adopt as both sets of minutes as written; seconded by Councilman Armijo. Motion carried.

- March 7, 2023
- March 21, 2023 Council Work Session

### Old Business

None

### New Business

Proclamation-April 2023 Safe Digging Month: Mayor Harley recognized Councilman Bird. Councilman Bird read proclamation declaring April 2023 Safe Digging Month.

Resolution-Recertification GMA Certified City of Ethics: Mayor Harley read resolution. Motion made by Councilman Armijo to approve as written; seconded by Councilman Bird. See Resolution 2023-2.

Point of Information GICH Program: Councilman Wright read GICH point information letter, prepared by Director of Economics Bryant.

- The Georgia Initiative for Community Housing (GICH) helps communities improve their quality of life and economic vitality through the development of locally-driven housing and revitalization strategies.
- The City of Centerville completed the 3-year GICH program in 2021.
- Currently, we are in active alumni status which gives us full benefits of the program.
- Since taking part in the program, the city has received numerous requests for consideration of housing projects through DCA's Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) program.
- As a GICH participant, the City of Centerville can send a letter of support for one LIHTC project each year, awarding 2 points toward their total application score.

- Both phases of Abbington at Galleria received letters of support from the city and went on to receive the funding for those projects from DCA.
- We have received a request from a developer for our support of a new project. They will be presenting at the April 18<sup>th</sup> meeting and the Housing Team will bring our recommendation to the city at the May 2 council meeting.

Councilman Wright stressed that one of the comments heard is about the need for workforce housing. Some voiced concern that this development would cause increase in crime. Reached out to Chief Duncan re: Abbington at Galleria – there have only been 13 calls of various nature – domestic, wellness check, unwanted person, etc. Therefore, the concerns about an increase in crime do not seem to be true. Councilman Wright has a staff member that lives in the complex.

Councilman Wright recognized Director of Economic Development Bryant, if anyone had further questions. Mrs. Bryant provided a summary of timeline. There will be a call in October-November for developers, have a process for collecting data, zoning letter, utilities letter of support will bring this forward at the next council meeting. Mayor and Council can award 2 points from GICH. Wanted to provide a run down on how the program works. Councilman Wright stated the value of this GICH certification and continuing to do the work, this is what gives you the ability to give points during the award year, if you have multiple competing projects. Looking forward to seeing what will come. Ms. Bryant mentioned the process of prior scoring for Abbington at Galleria, Rubric to evaluate, and documentation for the program.

Councilman Evans inquired about letters of support at this time? Mrs. Bryant reported the requirements for community, showing proof that they have support from other organizations, zoning letters. Also, stated even if the point is awarded, this still does not mean the project will happen? No. DCA is the final determining factor. The proposed location would be off Houston Lake Blvd. The project would comprise of 2 phases, 1<sup>st</sup> phase is a 73-unit complex, 3 levels to grow with the grade of the land.

Councilman Armijo asked when the GICH team has to award points. Mrs. Bryant clarified, “no” this would be brought to the Mayor and Council for consideration to award point. Councilman Wright stated DCA could still provide a point for the project. City of Centerville is a small piece of the scoring process, but can be an important factor.

Mayor stated the team will evaluate everything thoroughly before making decision.

#### Comments from Council

Post 1 Councilman Bird, will have spring cleanup April 17-21, put out trash by the street. More info to come soon. Regularly schedule pick up day. Splash pad will open May 5. Personal note farmer’s market was good again. Continue to be impressed by different vendors.

Post 2 Councilman Wright, no comment.

Post 3 Councilman Evans, getting excited about the splash pad opening for the kids. It has been a great adventure since we have opened up the park, challenges, but a good thing for the city.

Post 4 Councilman Armijo, inquired if there will be a list published for the spring cleanup. Director Brumfield replied yes, if appliances, call the office. Will not pick up tires and construction materials. No dumpsters. Very pleased about the splash pad opening, enjoy it with grand kids, also food truck Friday. Final note, attended the farmer’s market, thanked the staff that goes out there along with those that work behind the scenes.

Mayor Harley, starting the meeting process for next FY budget encouraged citizens to speak out and share some of their ideas. Wished everyone a great Easter.

Mayor Harley adjourned meeting at 6:25pm.

---

Mayor John R. Harley

---

Attest by City Clerk Krista Bedingfield

---

Date