

Council Work Session

March 21, 2023

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

Invocation given by Councilman Wright.

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 J. Micheal Evans, Councilman Edward Armijo and City Attorney Rebecca Tydings.

Public Comments

None

Old Business

Sanitation Rate Increase Approval: Councilman Bird recognized Director of Operations Brumfield. Mr. Brumfield introduced Representatives from Ryland-James Lanier (managing partner/owner) and John Nail-General Manager Operations Troy Winfrey- General Division Manager, Kelvin Jackson -Centerville Daily Operations Manager. Mr. Brumfield stated the proposed rate increase had been tabled at the prior council meeting due to a request by Councilman Bird that Ryland representatives attend meeting to answer questions.

Councilman Bird requested a more detailed explanation of justification for the proposed rate increases, stating that it is important to let the public know the reason.

Mr. Lanier thanked Mayor and Council for giving him the opportunity to be here before them tonight. Mr. Lanier stated that, "Centerville, is very dear to our company, it is one of the first municipalities to begin using Ryland in the Middle Georgia area. Over the last 2 years, Ryland has incurred significant operational cost increases due to inflation: the cost of trucks and parts/tires; carts and containers; fuel; and labor. Additionally, the City requests that Ryland use the Houston County landfill for waste disposal and the landfill has also raised its rates, which are passed on to Ryland. Trucks that company had purchased 2 years have doubled in price. Carts have to be continually replaced/provided and those have increased in cost as well. Ryland wants to be sure all replacements of equipment are done with quality pieces. Centerville continues to enjoy one of the lowest prices for sanitation in the area. Specifically, other nearby cities pay more for sanitation and get less service. Everyone knows how fuel prices have increase – even more so with diesel. All of these factors have combined to result in the requested/proposed rate increases. I am here to answer any questions."

Councilman Bird asked for clarification of why residential carts are subject to the highest percentage increase. Mr. Lanier stated that residential cart collection is the most labor-intensive piece of the business, from picking up extra waste on the roadside as well as extra labor costs for workers who drive and ride on the truck to empty the carts and put them back.

Councilman Armijo stated that they (elected officials) get questions from citizens on why there is an increase. Mr. Lanier encouraged them to also feel free to refer customers to Ryland so they can speak with them and answer questions.

Mayor Harley agreed with the comments and understands the rising costs for maintenance, tires, and ; noting that even the City has had to raise employee pay in order to attract and keep good employees.

Councilman Armijo thanked the Ryland representatives for coming and clarifying the proposed rate increases.

Councilman Bird made a motion to approve the rate increases effective April 1ST; seconded by Councilman Wright. Motion carried. Director Brumfield stated the increase will be reflected on the May billing.

New Business

Cox Commercial Services Agreement- Optical Internet Speed: Councilman Wright/City Clerk Bedingfield stated that a contract has been provided in packets for review. This will I, which will allow more data to be downloaded simultaneously without bogging down the system. The cost is an additional \$20.00 per month for services. City Attorney Tydings has reviewed agreement and sees no issues. Motion made by Councilman Wright to approve and authorize Mayor to sign; seconded by Councilman Armijo. Motion carried.

2023 LMIG Bid/Contractor Approval: Councilman Bird recognized Director of Operations Brumfield. Mr. Brumfield provided a copy of the recommendation letter submitted by Saunders Engineering Consultants, Inc. The bid opening took place on March 9, 2023 with Reames and Sons submitting the lowest bid for the project at \$154,557.21. The recommendation is to award the contract to Reames and Sons. Motion to approve made by Councilman Bird; seconded by Councilman Wright. Motion carried. Copy of letter attached and made part of official minutes.

Discussion/Approval New Job Description: Councilman Bird recognized Director of Operations Brumfield. Mr. Brumfield provided a copy of a new job description for review (Assistant Officer Manager). This is being done to recognize an employee who has stepped up and taken on some additional important tasks successfully. Director of Operations Brumfield plans to promote from within/fill the position in house. Motion made by Councilman Bird to approve; seconded by Councilman Evans. Motion carried.

Comments from Council

Post 4 Councilman Armijo, complimented Director Brumfield - appreciates him very much. Attended the farmer's market, freezing cold but still a great time, encouraged everyone to attend, come out and support, lots of great and talented vendors. Thanked Ryland again. Happy 80th Birthday to sister city .This coming Thursday there will be a Neighborhood Watch meeting in Eagle Springs, local law enforcement will be coming out, this is an attempt to get this effort restarted – want to keep everyone informed of safety and concerns , 7pm at Eagle Springs club house.

Post 3 Councilman Evans, thanked Ryland again for coming tonight nice to meet everyone. Appreciate all of the city employees.

Post 2 Councilman Wright, thanked Director of Operations Brumfield and staff working to get parking lots restriped in a timely fashion.

Post 1 Councilman Bird, thanked Ryland again, good to talk to everyone and see new faces. Thanks to Director Brumfield for helping him while he is over department, learning a lot. Also, attended the farmers market this weekend, nice variety of vendors. Volunteered at Recycling

Center recently and is definitely on board with improving the recycling center, all containers are full, they are busy, we need to upgrade the facility.

Mayor Harley, also attended Farmer's Market, a lot of fun, made some purchases, mentioned getting new signs for advertisement to help boost attendance. Recycling is always on my mind, still looking for volunteers. Nice to meet everyone from Ryland.

Mr. Lanier stated he has brought people to the City of Centerville Recycling Center, city does the best job they have ever seen and dealt with, thanked Mayor and Council for allowing them to do this and show the right way recycling should be done.

Meeting adjourned at 5:27pm.

Mayor John R. Harley

Attest by City Clerk Krista Bedingfield

Date