

Council Work Session  
May 16, 2023

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

Invocation given by Councilman Armijo.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Harley.

Welcome extended to all by Mayor Harley.

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

Motion made by Councilman Armijo to add the following agenda as item # 6: Approval Buy Out Portion Crawford County Police Officer; seconded by Councilman Wright. Motion carried.

Public Comments: Jamar Thomas, 125 Concord Ridge, Centerville, Ga. 31028: Sidewalks-Old Stone Crossing- No show.

Old Business:

None

New Business

Contract Approval for Pyrotechnico Independence Day Celebration: Councilman Wright stated the contract is the same as last year's. Director of Economic Development Bryant this is the same as previous years and stated that City Attorney Tydings has reviewed and no issues. Motion made by Councilman Wright to approve; seconded by Councilman Armijo. Motion carried.

Resolution for Land and Water Conservation Fund Pre-Application and Funding Commitment: Councilman Wright informed Mayor and Council there is a copy of the resolution in their packet for review. Director of Economic Development Bryant seeking approval tonight of resolution to submit pre-application for Land and Water Conservation Fund, and if approved and funding provided by Department of National Resources, the city would agree to finance 50% percent of the total project cost. The pre-application process is for the 2022-2023 Land and Water Conservation Fund. Seeking funding for playground equipment at the park for small children. The pre-application is due May 30, would know in September if approved. Awards would come out Fall 2024, then have 2024-2026 to complete project. Would require 50/50 match; \$100,000 grant with \$ 50,000 from the city. Councilman Wright stated this is a standard resolution as part of the application process. Motion to approve as written made by Councilman Wright; seconded by Councilman Bird. Motion carried. See Resolution 2023-3.

July 3, 2023 Floating Holiday: Mayor Harley recommending that floating holiday be observed on July 3. Motion made by Councilman Armijo to approve July 3 as floating holiday; seconded by Councilman Wright. Motion carried.

Approval - Implement Convenience Fee On-line and In Office Credit/Debit Transactions: Councilman Wright reminded everyone that this was discussed 2 weeks ago, fees are getting larger and larger, costing city up to \$ 100,000 annually.

City Accountant Harrison provided recommendations, based on official code annotated cannot charge more than what we are being charged by percentage. Convenience fee to actual cost of whatever fees that are on our platform.

Councilman Bird stated he had an issue with 4.5 %, has researched other entities that only charge 1.5-2%. Recommending to look at other credit card companies for a better rate.

Councilman Wright made motion to move forward with adopting an ordinance that would approve actual cost; seconded by Councilman Armijo. Motion carried.

Approval Buy Out Portion Crawford County Police Officer: Chief Duncan stated he has a potential candidate for hire. The officer that has worked with Crawford County for one year and is under contract. Chief has met with City Attorney Tydings and City Accountant Harrison to discuss options on moving forward. The cost to buyout the officer would be \$ 6,303.66, adding he can absorb this extra expense in current budget, has funds available. If an agency hires another officer under 15 months, shall owe entire training cost and salary; 408 hours x hourly wage for the mandate training. Our duty to pay is statutory, the contract is one that the officer signs with training agency, what triggers our duty to pay is the State statue. Approval to reimburse Crawford County under the statue if the officer comes to work here. Motion to approve made by Armijo to buyout portion using the appropriate funds identified by Chief Duncan; seconded by Councilman Bird. Motion carried.

Comments from Council

Post 1 Councilman Bird, no comment.

Post 2 Councilman Wright, stated it only took 6 1/2 minutes to talk about credit card fees vs short fall in budget.

Post 4 Councilman Armijo, recognized public works getting the splash pad back up. Farmer's Market and dates on our web site. Congratulations newspaper reports getting married.

Mayor Harley, on vacation last 2 weeks, thanked Councilman Bird for doing an outstanding job as serving as Mayor Pro Tem. Wished everyone a great week.

Mayor adjourned meeting at 5:26pm.

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Mayor John Harley

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Attest by City Clerk Krista Bedingfield

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Date