

Regular Council Meeting

May 2, 2023

Meeting called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Robert D. Bird, Jr. at 6:00pm.

Invocation given by Councilman Evans.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilman Wright.

Welcome extended to all by Mayor Pro Tem Bird.

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

Public Comments

None

Adoption of Minutes: Blanket motion made by Councilman Wright to adopt as written; seconded by Councilman Armijo. Motion carried.

- April 4, 2023
- April 18, 2023 Council Work Session

Old Business

None

New Business

Budget Committee Recommended FY 2024 Budget Submitted to Governing Authority: Councilman Armijo recognized City Accountant Harrison. Mrs. Harrison provided a copy of the FY 2024 recommended budget along with budget summary for review. Public hearing will be on June 6. No motion or action.

Councilman Wright inquired about shortfalls of the budget for the revenues. Also, requested a to see memo from department that are requesting personnel. Evaluation on contingency funds, would like to see what funds that have not been used. History of transfer for Water and Sewer for data.

Councilman Armijo responded, stating these explanations were brought before budget committee during the budget meetings. The decisions made were conservative.

Councilman Wright stressed, everything is costing more, we will be getting a little of a bail out with the county.

Mrs. Harrison stated she did look at revenues that could come in from reassessment, however, there are things that should be considered such as exemptions, this is an unknown. Also, this will be our last year for AARPA funds, with that said, how will we replace this in future years.

Mayor Pro Tem Bird thanked Councilman Armijo and Mayor Harley for serving on the committee.

Discussion Surcharge Fees for On-Line and Credit Card Payments: Councilman Wright recognized City Accountant Harrison. Mrs. Harrison informed all that one of the topics - surcharge fees came up during the budget meetings. Mrs. Harrison provided a work sheet to Mayor and Council for review. Reminded everyone that this had been brought before Mayor and Council in the past for discussion. Could be either a flat or percentage fee, however, credit card machines can only be programmed for a percentage fee. The city incurs these surcharges monthly due to transactions made online and or in person by credit card. In addition, there are bank fees included with these charges; bank fees have also increased.

Councilman Evans asked Mrs. Harrison to provide a recommendation and bring before Mayor and Council to consider for approval. Councilman Wright agreed. Mayor Pro Tem Bird noted this is to be placed tentatively on the next meeting agenda. No motion or action taken.

Housing Team GICH Points Letter Recommendation: Councilman Wright read letter that Director of Economics Bryant provided. Mrs. Bryant stated if approved, will draft a letter for the developer and it would be submitted to DCA before 19th of May.

Councilman Wright is a proponent for this type of project. Good results from the one behind the mall.

Motion made by Councilman Wright to award (2) GICH points for the project; seconded by Councilman Armijo.

Councilman Evans seeking clarification, looking at the development behind the mall is good for the city, community and will give people that have limited opportunity for affordable housing.

Mrs. Bryant clarified this does not mean the project is approved, only providing points in the process.

Mayor Pro Tem Bird stated he is very impressed with the development, a very nice place to live, very encouraged that we can have another place in addition to the apartments at the galleria that we can grow our city and population into the center.

Councilman Armijo stressed that workforce development is important, county is growing, need more housing for the community. This will be a great opportunity.

Mayor Pro Tem Bird called for the vote Motion carried.

Comments from Council

Post 2 Councilman Wright, none.

Post 3 Councilman Evans, none.

Post 4 Councilman Armijo, special announcement, thank you “Snellgroves Seafood” 30- year family-owned business in our city, thanked owners Debbie and Andy Cannon. Informed all of former Mayor-Bubba Edwards who recently passed away, please keep his family in your prayers. Congratulated, Centerville Rotary Club on the recent CAB award. Thanked the community for coming out for the Centerville Lions Club barbeque fund raiser, thanked all for their support. In

closing, encouraged those to join Boy Scout Troop 400, they are looking for new recruits; contact city hall for more information.

Councilman Bird, May 5, splash pad opens and food truck Friday from 5-9 pm, great food and live music. On Saturday May 6 from 9-1, Farmers Market at Center Park. Encouraged everyone to come out and enjoy.

Executive Session-Personnel Matters: Councilman Wright made motion to enter into executive session at 6:34pm; seconded by Councilman Armijo. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilman Wright to close executive session and reconvene meeting at 7:00pm; seconded by Councilman Evans. Motion carried.

Affidavit and Resolution: City Attorney Tydings read resolution. Motion made by Councilman Wright to adopt resolution; seconded by Councilman Evans. Motion carried. Affidavit executed by Mayor Pro Tem Bird and notarized by City Clerk Bedingfield. Documents attached and part of official minutes.

Mayor Pro Tem Bird adjourned meeting at 7:01pm.

Mayor Pro Tem Robert D. Bird, Jr.

Attest by City Clerk Krista Bedingfield

Date