

Council Work Session

July 11, 2023

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

Invocation given by Councilman Evans.
Pledge of Allegiance led by Fire 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 Tydings.

Public Comments

None

Adoption of Minutes: Motion made by Councilman Bird to approve both sets of minutes as written; seconded by Councilman Wright. Motion carried.

- June 6, 2023
- June 20, 2023 Council Work Session

Councilman Wright made motion to add an agenda item: Ordinance-Amend Section 2-373 “Fee Schedule, fees established by resolution” to agenda; seconded by Councilman Evans. Motion carried.

Old Business

None

New Business

Approval – Purchase Command Vehicle/Equipment – Fire Department- Funding Source SPLOST: Fire Chief Jones reminded everyone that this was originally approved in FY 2023. Proposed funding source is SPLOST funds. Unfortunately, the vehicle was not available until the FY 2024. Seeking approval to purchase and designate funding source from SPLOST funds. Motion made by Councilman Evans to approve; seconded by Councilman Armijo. Motion carried.

Approval Motorola Service Agreement-Police Department: Councilman Armijo recognized Chief Duncan. Chief Duncan stated this is a recurring agreement for police car radios and portable radios. Seeking approval tonight to execute agreement. Motion made by Councilman Armijo to approve; seconded by Councilman Wright. Councilman Evans asked if this was annually and if we have a replacement schedule for these radios. Chief Duncan explained this is only a warranty agreement/ support for services. Mayor called for the question. Motion carried.

Discussion 2023 Millage Rate: Councilman Wright recognized City Accountant Harrison. Mrs. Harrison provided (3) documents PT32.1 (Computation of millage rate), 2023 Property Tax Comparison with rollback rate, current 2022 millage rate and 11 millage rate, and email that Mrs. Harrison had provided to Mayor and Council.

Discussion- Councilman Bird stated he doesn't agree to adopt the roll back rate, recommends keep the current millage rate, budget has grown to the point that we need the extra funds to provide services that citizens expect. Councilman Bird stated he would like to keep millage rate the same as tax year 2022, 10.364 millage rate.

Councilman Evans agrees with him and stressed future growth will determine the need for more employees to provide services.

Councilman Armijo expressed this has been discussed along with budget committee, made a responsible decision to determine this FY 24 budget and city continues to grow, in favor of keeping the current millage 10.364 and not in favor of a 11 millage rate.

Made motion to set 10.364 millage rate by Councilman Armijo; seconded by Councilman Evans.

Councilman Wright stated this is a great way to raise taxes and blame it on the county.

Councilman Bird disagrees with comment, stating this is our budget and we are voting to keep services and responsibility for the budget.

Mayor Harley stated that the city does not do the assessments this is directed by the state. Last year millage rate, we did a significant cut, there were a lot of expenses, anticipate costs in the future. Also, there has been an increase in the senior exemptions, they are our customers whether they pay taxes or not.

Mayor Harley called for question. Mayor Harley, Councilman Bird, Councilman Evans and Councilman Armijo vote in favor. Councilman Wright opposes. Motion carried.

Appointment Council Over Departments FY 2024: Mayor Harley stated he had discussed this with all Council; read list with names that are over departments, primary and secondary Council members. This would be effective July 11, 2023. Motion made by Councilman Evans to approve; seconded by Councilman Armijo. Motion carried.

Ordinance-Amend Section 2-373 "Fee Schedule, fees established by resolution": Motion to approve by Councilman Wright; seconded by Councilman Armijo. Mrs. Tydings explained that the language in the ordinance was developed in order to cover any future amendments to fees. A notice will be placed with details of reserving the right to charge a fee. Mayor Harley called for vote. Motion carried.

Comments from Council

Post 1 Councilman Bird, thanks to everyone that came out and help to put on the Independence Day Celebration, amazing time, crowds were incredible, food was great, music was good, fireworks were good. Think it's one of best events we do each year, look forward to continuing.

Post 3 Councilman Evans, a lot of comments received about the Independence Day Celebration. Great job to everyone involved. Enjoyed it

Post 4 Councilman Armijo, amazing celebration, took all departments to make this happen. A lot of compliments regarding fireworks being done at city hall. No incidents to speak about, everything was perfect. Thanked everyone. GMA convention, thanked the city for nominating him to serve as District 6 representative; have gone through the installation. Recognized Councilman Bird for his accomplishment, received his first certificate for training, milestones for levels of education, congratulated him, very proud of him.

Mayor Harley, echoed comments proud of Councilman Bird, getting his achievement so quickly, outstanding. Recognized Councilman Evans stating he has been appointed to GMA-municipal training board, proud of him. Councilman Evans stated they work on all schedules and curriculum for GMA and also work along with CVIOG, appointed by the president of the board; a 4- year term.

Mayor Harley mentioned the Robert Knox training is the only course needed for Councilman Wright to receive his final certifications. Fourth of July celebration was great; outstanding, great comments. Really enjoyed it.

Councilman Evans recognized the Fire Department for their efforts handling all of the separated children and parents, they were very busy.

Mayor Harley stated he has had meetings with the county re: SPLOST 2024. The last meeting was held last night, will announce it for County wide projects and city projects, if SPLOST is approved. Estimated SPLOST proceeds \$ 200 million, 2.7% of the total will come to the city, would help us do a lot of great things. Some of the proposed projects entail: Public Safety, Transportation, Water & Sewer Infrastructure, Recreation, General Capital Obligations and Relocation of Recycle Center.

Councilman Bird stressed that some of the county projects will be a benefit for the city. Mayor mentioned other items that could potentially benefit city if SPLOST is approved. Copy of projects attached and made part of official minutes.

Mayor Harley adjourned meeting adjourned at 5:40pm.

Mayor John R. Harley

Attest by City Clerk Krista Bedingfield

Date