

Regular Council Meeting

November 7, 2023

Mayor Harley called meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Invocation given by Councilman Wright.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilman Armijo.

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

Discussion: Homeless Issue in Centerville & Safety Concerns: Stephanie Hall, 103 Cedar Glen Ct & Melissa Randall, 123 Willow Glen & Stephanie Kutay, 119 Willow Glen

Stephanie Hall, 103 Cedar Glen Ct, stated the trouble started back in 2020 homeless squatters taking over home on Cedar Glen, police helped resolve this along with squatters in the woods. The home has been renovated and sold. Homeless are trying to come back into the woods, scary thing, have lived in Centerville for 30 years. This had been resolved; however, the homeless issue is becoming a problem again. Thanked Councilman Wright for his help 3 years ago. Have spoken with Chief Duncan about the issues, believes there is a plan in place to shut down vacant lot access to 109 Willow Glen.

Recent shooting a couple of weeks ago, squatters are coming again into the area. Expressed concerned about grandchildren, fear from people coming out of woods wandering up to home owner's property. Stressed that she is a tax payer and should not have to deal with this situation, up against a losing battle. We should not have to be scared in our own home.

Melissa Randall, 123 Willow Glen, homeless people are very confrontational, very rude, getting in fight with them, very mean people, have weapons. Have called the 911 emergency line 4-5 times. Should not have to take someone to get hurt. A couple of landowners, homeless will continue to be an issue, took (2) dump trucks to move out things, they relocate, we need to try to fix the issues.

Councilman Wright stressed to those present at the meeting to work with us, when you see something, go to web site complete citizen action request form. Tough to get a permanent solution on this issue to solve problems. The way of the world we live in. Mrs. Randall recommended to have a follow up the hot spots where the homeless are staying in the area.

Councilman Wright stated this is not the only neighborhood, we appreciate your patience to help resolve issue. Jessica Kutay 119 Willow Glen, homeless has turned into violence. Reported that her sister's home was damaged by gunshot. Concerned about the recent shooting in the area, this is turned into violence, no repercussions, individuals arrested and let go. Have small children, concerned for safety, hear gun shots, what is to say they are not shooting at each other, what is it going to take to address this issue.

Councilman Armijo thanked her for coming and bringing this to our attention, situations need to be addressed. Mayor and Council, Police we will follow up on this to situation, please keep us abreast of the situation to support you.

Adoption of Minutes; Motion made by Councilman Evans; seconded by Councilman Armijo. Motion carried.

- October 17, 2023 Council Work Session

Old Business

Motion made by Councilman Evans to move agenda item # 7 to #6, agenda items #5 and #6 will become #6 and #7 on the agenda; seconded by Councilman Armijo. Motion carried.

New Business

Centerville Fire Department Firefighter of the Year: Councilman Armijo recognized Chief Jones. Chief Jones recognized, Firefighter Redd as firefighter of the year. This award is recognized by all of his co-workers. This is a great peer award. Presented plaque to Engineer Redd. Mayor and Councilman Evans stated they appreciate the Fire Department and encouraged them to keep up the good work.

Centerville Fire Department Fundraiser Check Presentation to the MDA: Chief Jones reminded all of the annual boot drive and golf tournament.

The MDA representative, Bridgette Monroe, thanked Mayor and Council for their support and Fire Department to go out into the community to share awareness. Centerville Fire Department has been important part of boots on the ground since 2006. Last year raised \$16,500, throughout their participation and support for the past 17 years have raised \$160,000. The money benefits and provides research to improve lives to serve and live a quality life. The FDA have approved 3 new medications in 2022, as of today. November 2023, 8 additional drugs have been approved. Summer camp back in person 24 camps and some virtual, resource center and advocacy for concerns in Washington for all disabilities, accessible air travel they should have access to do things. MDA new born screening, due to drugs becoming available, the earlier diagnosis the better you are alternating the projection of mobility and disease. 2.5 minute video of little boy with SMA spinal muscular atrophy.

Chief Jones presented check to Ms. Monroe in the amount of \$16,500. Ms. Monroe thanked everyone again for their continued support.

Approval Budget Amendment Confiscated Funds: Councilman Wright stated he was notified by Chief Duncan about the purchase of fire arms. Will be using \$8,100 to purchase guns. Motion made by Councilman Wright to amend budget; seconded by Councilman Bird. Motion carried.

Veteran's Day Proclamation: Councilman Armijo recognized Economic Development Director Bryant. Mrs. Bryant informed everyone this year in recognition of Veteran's Day, did things a little different, referenced white table representation, honor those who have not come home, and a table of honor. This will be up for all week and also space to write notes. The notes will be taken to the Veteran's Association to be distributed them locally to veterans. Councilman Armijo read proclamation Jimmy Faulkner President of Chapter 94 the Enlisted Association. Nationwide organization, help with veterans' day and programs, visit canopy once a month, partnering with Daughters of Veterans with the "moving wall" next year. Mayor Harley invited the group to Calvin Smith 100th birthday celebration, which will be held at Centerville Community room on December 29, 11-2pm.

National Hospice and Palliative Care Month – November 2023: Mayor Harley recognized all the representatives of Pine Pointe Hospice (Fatima Alarcon Tinoco, Stacie Walker, Tamika Chambliss, Michelle Cuffie, and Scott Jones)

Councilman Wright read proclamation and presented to the group. Mayor Harley thanked them for their services.

Comments from Council

Post 1 Councilman Bird, reminded all that the polls are open for 12 more minutes, appreciated all who has come to vote today and early vote.

Post 2 Councilman Wright, talked a little bit about homelessness, this is frustrating, not easy to solve, it's a complex problem, proud of the work that Chief Duncan and Director Brumfield, trying to be proactive, commend them on the excellent job they are doing.

Post 3 Councilman Evans, "ditto" both comments, work the issues and take of our citizens concerns.

Post 4 Councilman Armijo, agree with comments, special right that we have to vote, thanked the veterans, this evening as we read the proclamation, service and sacrifice, thanked all for their service and time. Thanked them for their service.

Mayor Harley, there are homelessness and within that group there are veterans that are in need of help. We all are working, Warner Robins is working on this issue and doing a good job, getting assistance with this area. We all need to help as much as we can. Councilman Wright is a reverend and sees this a lot too, keeps him busy. Mayor Harley added that he was in the service for 34 years in the service and has witnessed veterans in need. Enjoyed his time serve and was important to him.

Mayor Harley adjourned meeting at 6:54pm.

Mayor John R. Harley

Attest by City Clerk Krista Bedingfield

Date