

Regular Council Meeting

June 4, 2024

Meeting called to order by Mayor Harley at 6:03pm.

Invocation given by Councilman Bird.

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

None

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

- May 7, 2024
- May 21, 2024 Council Work Session

Old Business

New Business

Presentation to Centerville Fire Department- Firehouse Quilts Houston County-Patsy Ennis: Councilman Armijo recognized Fire Chief Jones. Chief Jones recognized Mrs. Patsy Ennis. Mrs. Ennis thanked the Chief for all they do for the community. Chief Jones stated that they appreciate them and a total of 131 quilts have been given to Centerville Fire Department. Quilts are kept in truck and delivered to other fire departments in the county; a feel-good story. Chief Jones wanted to display some of their MDA boot drive t shirts and this was a great way to do so, a way to give back to community. Thanked the ladies from the Firehouse quilts of Houston County for their hard work.

Approval of Centerville Fire Department and Houston County Fire Department Automatic Aid Agreement: Councilman Armijo recognized Chief Jones. Chief Jones stated this is an agreement for the Centerville Fire Department to automatically respond with emergencies with entrapment, areas are included in the agreement re: responsive. Have a good working relationship with Houston County Fire Department. This will provide more man power for the citizens and departments. The current mutual aids will remain in service. Motion made by Councilman Armijo to approve as written; seconded by Councilman Evans. Motion carried

Houston County Chief Stoner thanked Mayor and Council.

Homebased Business-Shoe Shiner LLC (Michael McSwain, 311 Vanessa Dr): Councilman Bird has reviewed application.

Motion to approve made by Councilman Bird; seconded by Councilman Armijo. Motion carried.

Approval Revised Code Enforcement Job Description: Councilman Wright tremendously important position, ask Chief Duncan to make some changes to current description. Councilman Wright recognized Chief Duncan. Chief Duncan reported revisions were made, this is a standard code enforcement position, will not be a requirement for a mandated officer to staff this position. Introduced Code Enforcement Officer Amber Bowden, currently is working 20 cases.

Motion made by Councilman Wright to approve revised code enforcement job description with changes; seconded by Councilman Bird. Motion carried.

FY 2025 Proposed Budget Presentation: Councilman Evans stated prior to the public hearing, there were a few changes to proposed budget.

Tonight the Budget committee is submitting the FY 2025 budget to the Governing Authority for review. The budget is available for citizen's review as well and is posted to the City website on the home page with a hard copy available outside the window of the City Clerk's Office.

The proposed FY 2025 Budget is \$17,017,827 vs the FY 24 Amended budget of \$15,015,793 which reflects a \$2,002,034 increase or 13.33%.

The increase of \$2,002,034 is made up of:

1. Extra Payment of \$680,163 on the loan payable for construction of the fire station. This will be the last payment extinguishing early the original loan of \$4,350,000 and reducing the loan term from 8 to 4 1/2 years as well as reducing the interest expense on the loan from \$398,493 to \$197,972.
2. Increase in Infrastructure and Capital purchases in the Enterprise Fund by \$1,027,610. FY 2025 Enterprise Fund Infrastructure and Capital Purchases are \$4,773,610 vs FY 24 amended budget of \$3,746,000.
3. The balance of the increase of \$294,261 is for the increase in operating costs; contracts, software, agreements, retirement, wages, insurance, etc., as well as 2 new police officer positions.

Public Hearing FY 2025 Proposed Budget: Mayor Harley closed regular meeting and opened public hearing at 6:21pm.

Susan Lemme 219 Mason Drive, stated she attended the Houston County Commissioner's meeting and stated she was pleased to hear they intend to use the roll back rate, hope that the leaders of Centerville are considering to roll back millage rate to meet their budget needs. If everyone's property taxes have increased in value, wanted to make that recommendation for consideration to Mayor and Council. Thanked the county for considering the roll back rate, it's appreciated.

Mayor Harley closed public hearing and reconvened council meeting at 6:23pm.

Amended Municipal Court Judge's Employment Agreement: Councilman Bird recognized City Attorney Tydings changes to law in regards, amended contract for a 2 year term and the other is the grounds for removal, this has been sent to Judge Grube and Municipal Court Clerk Caldwell,

amending contract to reflect and comply with state law that reflects for municipal court. Motion made by Councilman Bird to approve; seconded by Councilman Armijo. Motion carried.

Comments from Council

Post 1 Councilman Bird, thankful for anyone who came out to discuss budget and hope more people will get involved. A great education for me, proud how we use our resources and tax payers' funds are used, looking forward to getting budget going.

Post 2 Councilman Wright, as critical as I have been at time this year, the committee has submitted a budget that is tight this year, 2.5% increase all but \$ 294,261 is paid for with other designated funds, SPLOST funds, have to make a few adjustments. Commended the budget committee, hope to see revenues increase and be able to roll back rates along with the new valuations, we are in good shape.

Post 3 Councilman Evans, going through the budget process, put a lot of effort into this, had to make some tough decisions, thanked all who was involved, presented a reasonable budget.

Post 4 Councilman Armijo, "ditto" in response to Councilman Wright comments, spot on, 100 % right, the work that has come to the budget today is exceptional. A reminder about food truck Friday, encouraged all to come out and enjoy the park, splash pad is open and people are enjoying the city. Recognized Centerville Police they are making sure we are safe, commended all the people in public safety and public works department.

Mayor Harley, best budget we have had in a long time, keep cost down as much as we can. Also pay property taxes and has experienced an increase. Appreciate all the work everyone did in keeping it down and reasonable. Great foresight on this budget, thanked Councilman Bird and Councilman Evans.

Councilman Bird thanked City Accountant Mrs. Harrison for her hard work on the budget.

Mayor Harley adjourned meeting at 6:31pm.

Mayor Pro Tem Justin Wright

Attest by City Clerk Krista Bedingfield

Date