

Regular Council Meeting

September 3, 2024

Meeting called to order by Mayor Harley at 6:00pm.

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

None

Director of Operations request to amend agenda and add item: Sanitation to add additional trash pick-up day with certain neighborhoods and new residential development effective September 1, 2024. Motion made by Councilman Wright to add item to agenda as # 11; seconded by Councilman Bird. Motion carried.

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

- August 6, 2024
- August 20, 2024, Special Council Meeting
- August 20, 2024, Council Work Session

Old Business

3rd Public Hearing 2024 Property Tax Millage Rate: Mayor Harley read press release. Closed meeting and opened public hearing at 6:05pm.

Crystal Jolly, 504 Eagle Springs Dr, new resident lived here 2 years. My only question as a first-time homeowner, are the taxes going up 4.15 %, - there was no increase last year. Do you know when there will be another increase? Mayor Harley mentioned the recent reassessment by Houston County. Councilman Bird stated he had heard about a possible new law that is being considered to cap property taxes. Houston County is also feeling pressure due to reduction in state funds, have to keep up with sale prices of homes and valuations they have to be in a certain percentage. We can try our best to keep millage rate low.

City Attorney Tydings explained to Ms. Jolly that the Mayor and Council adopt a millage rate every year, if you look back historically very rarely have they raised millage rate. For homeowners, it depends on the assessment and the millage rate adopted. Traditionally Mayor and Council do not raise taxes. Councilman Bird looked at his prior year's taxes (6), only a few dollars of increase in property taxes.

Councilman Evans stated we try to be fiscally responsible. Mayor Harley reminded everyone that we also have to recognize that it costs more for the city to operate every day.

Councilman Bird publicly correct previous statement, the roll back rate was not adopted last year for 2023 taxes.

Mayor Harley closed public hearing and reconvened council meeting at 6:11pm.

New Business

Ordinance 2024 Property Tax Millage Rate: Mayor Harley called for a motion. Councilman Armijo made motion to approve; seconded by Councilman Bird. Four votes yes. Council Wright opposed. Motion carried. See Ordinance 2024-4.

Fire Department-Surplus Property Declaration - 2002 F-150 Truck: Councilman Bird recognized Chief Jones. Chief Jones requested to Mayor and Council approval to declare 2002 F 150 truck as surplus and post for sale on GovDeals website. Motion made by Councilman Bird to approve; seconded by Councilman Evans. Motion carried.

Promotion of Sergeant Christopher White to Lieutenant: Councilman Evans recognized Chief Duncan. Update for Council in the last couple of weeks we have lost a few people, have been doing some great recruiting. There are some new officers starting Sept 16 along with some cadets that will be going to mandate. Chief stated that Corporal White has been his right hand. Chief Duncan officially promoted Sergeant White to Lieutenant. He will continue to do a great job for Centerville.

Planning and Zoning Appointments: City Attorney Tydings informed all that it would be appropriate to take both items together. Director of Operations Brumfield informed all that it time to reappoint our board members. These terms are staggered, included language to fill in expired term until someone is appointed. Motion made by Councilman Wright to approve the below appointments; seconded by Councilman Bird. Motion carried. See Resolution 2024-3.

Ronnie Babbitt	4-year term expires 07/22/2027
Michelle Grembowski	4-year term expires 07/22/2027
Michael Cohen	4-year term expires 07/22/2026
Steve Honrath	4-year term expires 07/22/2026
Randall Wright	4-year term expires 07/22/2029

Zoning Board of Appeals Appointments: Motion made by Councilman Wright to approve the below appointments; seconded by Councilman Bird. Motion carried. See Resolution 2024-4.

Marge Hartwig 3-year term expires 06/01/2025
Vacant 3-year term expires 06/01/2027
Vacant 3-year term expires 06/01/2026
Lee Garrett 3-year term expires 06/01/2026
Randall Wright 3-year term expires 06/01/2027

Approval Resolution and Agreement DNR Grant: Mayor Harley approval of a resolution and agreement for the city's recent award of \$50,000 grant from the DNR. The City of Centerville is very appreciative and excited for the wonderful opportunity to partner with the National Park Service. The city will use the grant fund to enhance Center Park , by providing new playground equipment for children under 10 as well as equipment that provides sensory and inclusionary activities for people of all ages. This is a matching grant with the city's portion of \$ 50,000.

Thanks goes out to Congressman Bishop and Land and Water Conservation Fund State and Local Assistance Program.

Mayor Harley entertained motion. Motion made by Councilman Evans to approve and authorize Mayor Harley as signatory; seconded by Councilman Armijo. Motion carried. See Resolution 2024-5.

Sanitation to add additional trash pick-up day with certain neighborhoods and new residential development effective September 1, 2024: Seeking approval to add that additional day of service. Director of Operations Brumfield and Office Manager Kim Johnson have spoken with Ryland. Due to the continued growth in the city, Ryland is asking to add the north end subdivisions a Friday route, Ryland will notify the customers and place on their social media for notification. Would like to start this new schedule November 1, 2024. City Attorney Tydings will work on contract amendment and ordinance amendment to have ready for approval at the September work session.

Comments from Council

Post 1 Councilman Bird, thank you for coming out and speaking on the millage rate issue, encourage any citizen to contact us, question or concerns. All contact information is on the website.

Post 2 Councilman Wright, no comment.

Post 3 Councilman Evans, no comment.

Post 4 Councilman Armijo, received a letter informing him that he has been appointed to GMA's equity and inclusion advisory council. Great for the city and councilman. Mayor Harley recognized Councilman Evans who is on GMA's training board and City Attorney Tydings who serves as a Trustee on RMEBS Boards. Councilman Armijo stated that it took a while, but that he is on the slate of officers for GMA's District 6.

Mayor Harley asked about the upcoming LMIG project. Director Brumfield stated there are several areas that are included in the LMIG project: (4) cul-de-sacs in Eagle Springs, paving Collins Avenue from Watson to Wilson, and restripe Houston Lake Blvd to Dunbar Rd.

Mayor Harley adjourned meeting at 6:30pm.

Mayor John R. Harley

Attest by City Clerk Krista Bedingfield

Date