

Council Work Session

January 28, 2025

Meeting called to order by Mayor Pro Tem J. Micheal Evans at 5:00pm.

Invocation given by Councilman Justin Wright.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilman Edward Armijo.

Welcome Extended to all by Mayor Pro Tem J. Micheal Evans.

Present were Mayor Pro Tem J. Micheal Evans, Councilman Robert D. Bird, Jr., Councilman Justin Wright, Councilman Edward Armijo, City Attorney Rebecca Tydings, City Administrator Krista Bedingfield.

Public Comments

Mayor Pro Tem J. Micheal Evans recognized former Mayor John R. Harley and former Councilman Randall Wright.

No public comments were made.

Old Business

Amendment to Resolution 2025-1: City Attorney Rebecca Tydings, recommended a single amendment to Resolution 2025-1, to include specific language giving the authority to City Administrator Krista Bedingfield to sign grant documents. Motion made by Councilman Robert Bird to approve the signature resolution as written; seconded by Councilman Justin Wright. Motion carried. Unanimous. (Resolution No. 2025-2)

New Business

2025 Middle Georgia Community Action Agency Appointment - John R. Harley: Mayor Pro Tem Micheal Evans, recommended former mayor John Harley be appointed as the representative to the Middle Georgia Community Action Agency for 2025. Mr. Harley's appointment was praised, and he was recognized for his qualifications. Motion made by Councilman Edward Armijo to approve appointment of John Harley; seconded by Councilman Robert Bird. Motion carried. Unanimous.

The Governing Body took a moment to recognize the following individuals for their recent achievements:

- John Harley was recognized for being part of the inaugural Mayor's Leadership Academy and was presented with and awarded for his achievements.
- Councilman Robert Bird was recognized for completing 74 hours of continuing education through the University of Georgia Institute of Government and was presented with a certificate for his achievements.

Point of Interest – Fence Repairs: Chief Cedric Duncan, discussed maintenance issues related to the Police Department's fence/gate mechanism. He provided two quotes reflecting the separate services each company would provide; one from Chapman Fence Company and the second from S. Richardson Service, LLC. They will be replacing the gate and the motor components, as well as providing new remotes, for a total cost of \$18,400.00. These services will be paid from the Police Department budget allocated for repairs/maintenance. No motion or action taken.

Approval 2025 LMIG: Councilman Justin Wright mentioned the city has been able to use the LMIG Grant for various city projects, and that it has been a great benefit for the city. Provided were copies of two quotes for review, from Rick Saunders, of Saunders Engineering for the 2025 LMIG project. The first quote is for Elberta/Wilson to Patriot Way in the amount of \$141,449.85. The 2025 LMIG Grant awarded funds are \$108,950.56, with a required 30% match in the amount of \$32,685.17, for a total project cost of \$141,635.73. While the second quote is for extending the project from Collins Ave/Wilson/Elberta to the Houston Lake Road intersection. A recommendation was made tonight to approve the LMIG as proposed from Elberta to Houston Lake, in the amount of \$ 214,291.00, to have this project completed, and next year focus on another area in need of resurfacing. Also with that recommendation, seeking authorization for Rick Saunders, of Saunders Engineering, to move forward with the LMIG application process on the GDOT website; with the deadline to complete set for Feb 1, 2025. City Accountant Carol Harrison confirmed funds are available for this in the WS Fund. City Administrator Krista Bedingfield added an additional component regarding the project; she spoke with Mr. Saunders, and he did say once the application is submitted, that it is a two to three week period for them to respond and submit the funds. Also adding, that once Houston County bids out that work, likely

sometime in March or April, the anticipated timeline from start to finish would be April to October. Completion being in October.

Motion made by Councilman Justin Wright to approve as written; seconded by Councilman Robert D. Bird, Jr. Motion carried. Unanimous.

Approval Design and Quote – Greater Southern Recreation – LWC Grant- Playground Equipment – Center Park: City Administrator Krista Bedingfield seeking approval on a quote from Greater Recreation for the Land & Conservation Grant for playground equipment at CenterPark. The total quote is \$167,499.75, of which \$117,099.75 being the city's portion as specific to the above mentioned grant, and its requirements per the application. The actual grant is a \$50,000 with a \$50,000 match by the city, for a total of \$100,000. The grant is for the playground structure for ages 10 and under, to also include musical and sensory equipment. The other \$67,499.75 in the quote is specific to the safety surface, which would be placed under the new playground structure, but is not covered by the grant funds. This is the same style of safety surface as under our existing playground structure in the park. Councilman Robert Bird inquired where the funds for our portions would come from; City Accountant Carol Harrison explained that the match portion of \$50,000 would come from the General Fund-Parks Dept. budget and the additional \$67,499.75 would come from the SPLOST 2024 funds. Motion made by Councilman Justin Wright to approve as written; seconded by Councilman Edward Armijo. Motion carried. Unanimous.

Resolution-Preparation/Submittal CHIP Application and Certified Assurances Form: City Administrator Krista Bedingfield, sought approval of resolution which allows the Governing Authority of the City of Centerville to hereby authorize submittal of the grant application and enabling the City Administrator and Mayor Pro Tem to execute all documents related to the submission and administration of the grant. Councilman Just Wright pointed out that the biggest change was the increase to the income rates allowed, expanding the opportunity for more individuals to become eligible to participate. Motion made by Councilman Justin Wright to approve resolution as written; seconded by Councilman Robert D. Bird, Jr. Motion carried. Unanimous. (Resolution No. 2025-3)

City Administrator Krista Bedingfield, recommended combining agenda items 7, 8 & 9 together. Explaining that Randall Wright resigned effective 01/14/2025 from the boards listed below. Each resolution listed below is seeking approval tonight for the following changes: removing Mr. Wright from each board, appointing Michelle Gremboski to the Zoning Board of Appeals, and adding City Administrator Krista Bedingfield to the Animal Control Board.

- Resolution-Planning and Zoning Commission Members: the members and terms for the Planning and Zoning Commission shall be as follows: (Resolution No. 2025-4).
 - 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
 - Vacant 4-year term expires 07/22/2025
- Resolution-Zoning Board of Appeals Members: the members and terms for the Zoning Board of Appeals shall be as follows: (Resolution No. 2025-5).
 - Margaret Szomy 3-year term expires 06/01/2028
 - Steve Bertram 3-year term expires 06/01/2027
 - Gary Davey 3-year term expires 06/01/2026
 - Lee Garrett 3-year term expires 06/01/2026
 - Michelle Grembowski 3-year term expires 06/01/2027
- Resolution-Centerville Representative Animal Control Board: the Governing Authority of the City, added that the City Administrator, shall now be designated and serve as the City's Representative on the Animal Control Board (Resolution No. 2025-6).

Blanket motion was made by Councilman Edward Armijo to approve resolutions as written; seconded by Councilman Justin Wright. Motion carried. Unanimous.

Comments from Council: Post 1-Councilman Bird expressed thanks to the City's employees and Department Heads for their continued dedication and hard work. He expressed his gratefulness for the opportunity afforded to the Governing Body, which allows them to attend conferences and training, were they are able to receive valuable knowledge and experience through a collaboration of education and networking with other city officials within the State of Georgia. Post 2-Councilman Wright expressed thanks to the Public Works Department for their hard work keeping the roads safe and clear, and all services functioning properly during the recent inclement weather event. He stated his appreciation to the citizens and partners in the community,

whom expressed willingness to help during this event, providing special recognition to longtime resident, Keith Newton, for extending his help and any equipment if needed. Post 4-Councilman Armijo expressed his pleasure at the continued effort to further enhance the Center Park and its public spaces; reflecting a commitment to serving all citizens. He also reiterated Councilman Wright's sentiments for the city's First Responders, Police & Fire and Public Works, for all their hard work keeping the roads safe and clear, and all services functioning properly during the recent inclement weather event. In closing, Post 3-Councilman Evans reiterated similar sentiments as Councilman Armijo regarding the park; he also recognizing Police, Fire and Public Works, with a special recognition given to Chief Stoner, Houston County EMS and City Administrator Krista Bedingfield for their proactive and supportive roles, providing timely up-to-date information throughout last week's weather event.

Mayor Pro Tem Evans adjourned meeting at 5:30pm.

Mayor Pro-Tem J. Micheal Evans

Attest by City Clerk Lee Siefert

Date