

MINUTES OF THE CITY OF HULL MAYOR AND COUNCIL

August 26, 2021

Meeting Held in Person at Jackson EMC Meeting Room

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Paul Walton. Those in attendance in addition to the Mayor and the Clerk were council members Brian Koepnick, Marilyn Walton and John Barber. Council member Donna Sherrer-Gantt was present via telephone due to illness. . City Attorney, Freddrell Green was also present along with Cynthia Hobbs, Mayor of Carlton and Nefertara and John Green from the Green and Green law firm from Elberton, Georgia.

Mayor Walton called the meeting to order after the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silent prayer.

The minutes of the July meeting which had been provided prior to the meeting to Mayor and Council were approved after a motion by John Barber and a second by Brian Koepnick with council members Koepnick, Barber, Walton, and Gantt voting in favor of said motion and novotes against.

The financial reports which were also provided prior to the meeting were approved after a motion by council member Walton and a second by council member Koepnick with Council members Koepnick, Barber, Walton and Gantt voting in favor of said motion and no votes against.

Mayor Walton then recognized Mayor Hobbs and the Clark Law Firm as guests at the meeting. Mayor Walton reminded council that attorney Green had resigned and while he was completing work he had started, the City would need to appoint a new City Attorney. He has spoken with the members of the Clark and Clark Law firm and he asked that they introduce themselves and share a little about their experience and rates. Attorney John Clark shared that he has represented the City of Bowman for a number of years and his daughter, Nefertara, had worked with him for a number of years. They also shared information concerning their fees. Both attorney Green and the Clerk shared their experience working with this firm. After some questions and discussion by council Mayor Walton advised that he would be recommending this firm to serve as the City Attorney. A letter of engagement will be forthcoming.

Mayor Walton gave an overview of the ongoing uses of the ARPA funds and in this regard attorney Green advised that his research was almost complete and he was almost ready to draft a proposed application to be used with respect to distribution of these funds. He advised that it is important that the City comply with all State and Federal laws with regard to the use and disbursement of these funds.

Mayor Walton then presented a Resolution concerning an attendance policy for consideration for council members. The Clerk was requested to read the resolution in its entirety. After some discussion, A motion was made by council member Walton and seconded by council member Koepnick to approve this Resolution. Council members Walton, Koepnick, Barber and Gantt voted in favor of the Motion. There was no opposition.

Mayor Walton advised that there were still a few details to work out before the final hearing on the Zoning Ordinances and this matter was tabled until the September meeting.

Council Member Koepnick advised that he had taken over the weeding and treatment of the area

where the new plantings were as he felt like this was outside of Mr. Sorrells area of expertise. He anticipated that it would cost around \$200.00 to purchase the chemicals and equipment to do this for the rest of this year. In addition, he is still working with Mr. Redd with respect to watering the area as needed. With the rain we have had there has not been a need for too much additional watering so far.

Mayor Walton advised that he had talked with Commission Chairman Higdon regarding the FireFly Trail and the County's participation and he is on board. There are two homeowners that have to be consulted. We are still waiting on some information from Athens-Clarke County but both the Mayor of Winterville and the Mayor of Athens-Clarke County are in favor of the trail running through Hull. John Devine of the NEGRC has indicated that they will be glad to assist with planning if the project moves forward.

Mayor Walton again emphasized that uses of the ARPA funding was an ongoing process and the permitted uses of the funds were continuing to change. He did learn that any interest earned on the funds could be transferred to the general fund.

Mayor Walton advised that he had not had any luck contacting the residents on Davis and Easy Streets to get their feelings on adding speed bumps to these road. He will draft a letter and after he can obtain the names and addresses of those residents will send out a letter asking for feedback.

With respect to the new City Hall loan processing Mayor Walton advised that NEGRC had sent out the required 11 letters to the different agencies who had to review the application and advise whether or not there was any objections from any of these agencies such as environmental issues, etc. The 2020 audit will be completed next week which is required to complete the application as well.

The Clerk reported that qualifying had concluded last week and that Brian and John had qualified to maintain their seats and Mike McElroy had qualified for Marilyn's seat which will be vacated. There was no opposition for any of the positions so an election will not be necessary. These candidates will be sworn in at the January 2022 meeting.

Under new business Mayor Walton advised that GDOT had informed him that they would be paving Highway 72 in the near future.

Mayor Walton advised that he would like to see the City do something honoring former Mayor Paul Elkins as the oldest living former Mayor. He suggested having a ceremony at the Well and presenting a Plaque honoring him for his service. The cost for the Plaque would be approximately \$120.00. It was decided to do this on September 18th at 2:00 p.m.

Council member Marilyn Walton provided some information for consideration concerning installation of City Christmas decorations. Council member Walton asked that council set a budget Christmas Decorations so that she could begin looking into options for this year. Last year's budget was \$2,500.00 and she was requesting a budget for this year of \$3,000.00. After some discussion a motion was made by John Barber and seconded by Brian Koepnick to set a budget for Christmas Decorations at \$3,000.00. The motion passed with council members Barber, Walton, Koepnick, and Gantt voting in favor of the Motion. There were no opposed.

Mayor Walton advised council that he had recently found out about a T-Mobile Grant that might

be available to the City to revitalize the area at the Well. The deadline for applying for this grant is September 30th and NEGRC is willing to assist in the preparation of the application. Since College Pro had already developed a plan most of the requirements would be met using that information. There was some discussion about getting some other design options that would include the flags. Council member Koepnick will look into this keeping in mind that we are on a short time frame. Mayor Walton pointed out that a special called meeting might be necessary.

As a final matter of business Mayor Walton requested input from the council with respect to how they receive their compensation. Currently Mayor, Council and Clerk are paid once per year in December. After input from the council a motion was made by Brian Koepnick and seconded by John Barber that beginning in 2022 compensation to Mayor, Council and the Clerk will be paid semi-annually in June and December. Council members Koepnick, Barber, Gantt and Walton voted in favor of the Motion. There were no opposed.

Mayor Walton presented a Plaque to attorney Green in appreciation for his service to the City and members of council expressed their appreciation for his service.

There being no further business a motion was made by John Barber and seconded by Donna Gantt to adjourn the meeting. Council members Koepnick, Barber, Gantt and Walton voted in favor of the Motion. There were no opposed.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Pou
City Clerk