

MINUTES OF THE CITY OF HULL MAYOR AND COUNCIL

September 23,, 2021

Meeting Held Via Zoom

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, Donna Gantt and John Barber. City Attorney, Nefetara Clark was also present.

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

The minutes of the August meeting and the called meeting and the August Financial Reports all of which had been provided prior to the meeting to Mayor and Council were unanimously approved after a motion by Brian Koepnick and seconded by John Barber with a minor correction to the minutes. Mayor Walton advised that it had been called to his attention that it might be a better practice to list the names of those voting however in his training it is proper to indicate unanimously approved and only list names of anyone voting no or abstaining as long as the minutes contained the names of everyone in attendance. He indicated that we would continue as we have done in the past.

Mayor Walton advised that a final draft of the Zoning Ordinances had been presented by NEGRC and Mayor Walton advised that the final public hearing would be held at 6:30 prior to the next regular meeting on October 28th via Zoom. The Clerk is requested to make sure the proper notice is placed in the newspaper to run at least 15 days prior to the meeting.

Mayor Walton advised that we needed to have an application form for ARPA funds for citizens to be able to complete and submit for funding requests. Attorney Green is requested to prepare this application for review and approval. Mayor Walton asked for a vote approving the application that had been prepared by Green and Green for submission by City businesses requesting consideration for funding. Motion was made by Marilyn Walton and seconded by Brian Kopenick to approve this application. Motion passed unanimously. There was some discussion has to how to determine whether or not businesses submitting applications had not received any other funding as provided in the application. Council was advised that there were at least two links where this information could be accessed. Mayor Walton advised that we had received two requests at this time and asked the Clerk to provide this information. The first request was from Heaven Bound Ministries wherein they were requesting \$3,106.00. This was for additional supplies required such as masks and sanitizer and additional audio visual equipment to continue to conduct services. After some discussion it was pointed out that this organization was not a business but rather a non-profit corporation and would need to re-submit the new generic application as it was prepared. The City had also received an application from 10244 Highway 72 LLC (Chevron) for \$2,400.00 for loss of revenue from the Deli having to be closed. Motion was made by Brian Koepnick and seconded by Donna Gantt that we grant this request and provide these funds provided we verify that they have not received any additional funding through other programs. Council member John Barber pointed out that he had been in the Chevron almost every day and the Deli had been opened a good portion of the time and when it was no open his understanding was that it was not because of Covid. The motion passed with council members Koepnick, Gantt, and Walton voting yes and council member Barber voting no. Mayor Walton also advised that he had spoken to the owner of Angie's Place and he is expecting an application from her to be used for additional wages for her employees amounting to

\$3,360.00. The consensus of council was to wait until she actually submitted the application and it could be verified that she had not received any additional funding. After further discussion it was suggested that the City Attorney prepare a verification to be submitted along with the application which would provide additional confirmation, under oath, that the business had not received additional funding and that the funds requested were legitimate requests. Given the concern of council a Motion was made by Council Member Gantt and seconded by Council member Koepnick that we hold off on disbursing funds to the Chevron until we can obtain the signed verification and confirm that no other funding has been received and bring it back before council. This motion passed unanimously. After further discussion a motion was made by Marilyn Walton and seconded by Donna Gantt that we extend the November 1st deadline until December 1st. Motion passed unanimously. Mayor Walton then had the Clerk read a thank you letter from the Sheriff's Department for the Tasers that had been purchased by the Sheriff's Department. Sheriff Moore had also presented an invoice for \$3,594.00. The council had previously voted to allow the Sheriff to spend up to \$3,600.00 which would be reimbursed by the City from ARPA funds. The Clerk will make this disbursement. The Clerk was then requested to read the information presented by the Fire Department for Turn-Out Gear that the City had previously discussed to provide to the Fire Department using ARPA funds. The initial discussion was to provide one set of Turn-Out Gear at a cost of between \$2,500.00 and \$3,000.00. The information provided by the First Department which included a Coat and two different type pants totaled \$3,900.00 for one set. There was discussion between Mayor and Council about the number of turn-out suits that were needed. Mayor Walton indicated that in his discussion with Chief Austin his understanding was that they were only requesting one set of gear however Council Member John Barber who serves on the fire department indicated that they were about to order four sets. After further discussion concerning the need and the funds available through ARPA council felt that the City could afford to do more than one suit. Mayor Walton wanted an opportunity to go back to the Chief to make sure that they were only needing one suit. Council Member Barber indicated again that they were about to order 4 suits and his understanding was that the department would provide the actual cost of one suit and then the City could decide how many they were willing to fund. At this time council member Brian Koepnick made a motion that the City provide four sets of turn-out gear consisting of the Coat (number 1 on the estimate) and pants (number 3 on the estimate) in the amount of \$2,750.00 per set totaling \$11,000.00. The motion was seconded by Marilyn Walton and approved unanimously.

Mayor Walton advised council that he had obtained the addresses from the mailboxes on Easy Street and Davis Street and prepared a letter to these residents which the Clerk had mailed requesting feedback on the placing of speed bumps on these two streets and they no feedback had been received. After some discussion Mayor Walton recommended that we proceed with the installation of movable speed bumps on these two streets to make them safer. Council member Gantt made a motion to accept the Mayor's recommendation which was seconded by Brian Koepnick and unanimously approved. Council member Barber was requested to verify costs and look after the installation and placement of proper signage warning of the speed bumps. It was pointed out that these project could be paid from SPLOST funds since it was considered road improvement. After discussing approximate costs for the speed bumps; installation and signage a motion was made by council member Koepnick and seconded by council member Barber that we proceed with the project with authority to spend up to \$9,000.00 from SPLOST funds to complete. Motion passed unanimously.

Council member Walton asked if anyone had any suggestion for the upcoming Newsletter which would be mailed in October. The Clerk suggested that although it was probably too late for the October newsletter than it might be a good idea to do a "Spotlight" on the Mayor, Council

members, the Clerk and City Attorney for future issues.

Council Member Koepnick discussed the estimate he had received to add two flag poles to the Well area. After further discussion this matter was tabled until October to allow time to discuss with the landscaper on the best way to incorporate this with the potential landscaping project through possible grant funding.

The Clerk advised that an amendment was necessary in the amount of \$4,000.00 to the budget for Auditing. These funds would come from the miscellaneous line item. This is necessary due to the fact that the 2019 and 2020 audits were both completed and invoiced in 2021 and not because the auditor charged more than the agreed upon amount. Motion was made by council member Koepnick and seconded by council member Barber to amend the audit budget by \$4,000.00 with funds coming from the miscellaneous line items. Motion passed unanimously.

Council member Gantt advised that she would like ideas from Mayor and Council as to how to spend the remaining funds from the CSX Railroad Community Service Grant. She was thinking that we might be able to do another food drive closer to Thanksgiving. Mayor Walton advised that council member Walton was knitting blankets and gloves to provide to the Senior Center and this might be an idea as well. Everyone was requested to come back to the October meeting with ideas and suggestions.

There being nothing further the meeting was adjourned after a motion by council member Koepnick and a second by council member Gantt.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Pou, City Clerk