

MINUTES OF THE CITY OF HULL MAYOR AND COUNCIL

October 22, 2020

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Paul Walton at 7:00 p.m.. Those in attendance in addition to the Mayor were the Clerk, and council members Marilyn Walton, Brian Koepnick and John Barber. Due to the current State of Emergency due to Covid 19 the meeting was held via Zoom. In addition, Donna Sherrer-Gantt joined the meeting..

A moment of silent prayer followed the pledge of allegiance.

The minutes of September meeting were approved with one correction after a motion by Brian Koepnick and a second by John Barber..

The Financial Reports were approved after a motion by Marilyn Walton and a second by Brian Koepnick.

Mayor Walton gave an update on the CARES Funding and how the distribution of funds worked. the City initially received 30% of the funding it was entitled to which funds were used to provide the Care Packages. Mayor Walton had set up a separate CARES Funding Account in anticipation of receiving additional funding. The remaining 70% which was anticipating will not be disbursed to Georgia Cities as these funds are being used to reimburse the Georgia Unemployment Trust Fund so that hopefully it will not be necessary to raise the unemployment tax rate to employers. Fortunately our City did not expend any of the anticipated funds as some other cities have done. The Clerk has been instructed to close the existing account and any funds remaining will go into the general account. This amount will be approximately \$288.00. Mayor Walton encouraged the council members to try and come up with some other ways that the City might be able to help in the community.

The Zoning matter was tabled until the November meeting.

Mayor Walton thanked council for attending the work session concerning the new City Charter. He advised that he had spoken with Senator Frank Ginn and hopefully we will be able to finalize the Charter and vote to accept so that he can present it to the General Assembly and the Legislature during the upcoming session for approval. All council members indicated that they had received the sample of the proposed Charter and were still in the process of reviewing. The matter was tabled until November when hopefully there can be a vote to accept or deny. Mayor Walton feels confident than once presented it will be accepted by the General Assembly and the Legislature. Council member Brian Koepnick did express some concern that the document was still showing Athens-Clarke/Madison County. Mayor Walton will get clarification on this from the City Attorney.

Mayor Walton advised that he had spoken with Keith Callaway of Garrett Paving and they are beginning their work in Hidden Falls Subdivision and hope to finish this project earlier than expected. Council Member, Marilyn Walton did have a question about the patching on Carrie Lane but it was pointed out that this would be done prior to re-paving not instead of re-paving. Hidden Falls Court and Carrie Lane Court will not be paved.

Council Member Brian Koepnick reported that he had met with Mr. Dan Butler to review the plans for the beautification grant. Brian gave a run-down of some of the plans and potential problems with the Railroad markings, etc. but is hopeful that all of this can be worked out. After

their meeting and due to the fact that the grants funds are not quite as much as requested Mr. Butler will be making some revisions. Brian indicated that if everything works out and is approved that the installation of plants, etc. could begin as early as December. There was some discussion about the type of plans and the necessity to make sure that the plants are watered during the Winter months. He has spoken with Mr. Sorrells and it's possible that he might be able to secure a tank big enough that he could take care of the watering. However, where to get the water was discussed as well as this would be an ongoing project to keep the plants watered and taken care of as well as replacing mulch, etc. There was some discussion about hiring a sub-contractor to care for the improvements and future maintenance. Mayor Walton advised that he had talked to a representative of the Railroad as well as Mr. DeGrace, with respect to some of these issues. Mayor Walton also pointed out that this was still in the planning stages and we would be receiving a confirmation letter from GDOT which would include additional instructions on how to proceed going forward to accomplish the project. The GDOT letter is supposedly on the Commissioner's desk waiting for a signature.

Mayor Walton advised council that the upcoming budget would be more challenging than past budgets. There will be new revenue to consider as well as added expenses. He and the Clerk will be working together to present a proposed 2021 Budget and he encouraged council to share any thoughts they have with respect to same.

Mayor Walton advised that he had spoken with Mike Reilly with respect to what the agreement is between the Civic Club and the City concerning the City continuing to maintain the landscaping around the Civic Club area that is not owned by the City. Mr. Reilly advised that as far as he knew it was just something that the City had done. Mayor Walton then advised Mr. Reilly that he felt like the Civic Club should reciprocate by allowing the City to use the building for its meeting without charge. Mr. Reilly indicated he would discuss this with the Board and get back with Mayor Walton. As of tonight's meeting Mayor Walton had not heard anything. Therefore he has instructed Mr. Sorrells not to touch the Civic Club Property until further notice. Mayor Walton expressed that he would like to work together with the Civic Club and hopes to hear something back from Mr. Reilly.

Council Member Marilyn Walton advised Mayor and Council of her ideas for the new Christmas Decorations which ideas were well received by Mayor Walton and the other council members. Council Member Walton advised that Mr. Sorrells had trimmed the tree at the well as well as the bush at the corner. She also expressed her desire to have a timer for the lights so that no one is responsible to have to turn them on and off. Council Member Walton advised that she should be able to stay within budget for the decorations but may go over slightly if we have Mr. Sorrells to help with the installation.

Under new business Mayor Walton advised that the new owner of the old Golden Pantry had some issues obtaining her background checks but hopes to have everything back from the FBI soon. Due to Covid she was unable to get her fingerprints and GCIC check local since our Sheriff was not doing this at this time. She has paid her \$100.00 application fee and the Clerk is holding her \$1,000.00 check for the license until everything is approved. She has also provided the necessary site survey. Mayor Walton is hopeful that everything will be in place shortly to issue the license. The City will then begin to receive an excise tax associated with the sale of Beer and Wine at that location.

Mayor Walton advised the Council that he would again be submitting an application to receive the LMIG funds that the City is eligible to receive which is \$3,052.51 and hopefully this amount

can be used to offset the GEO Survey expense.

Council Member John Barber advised Mayor and Council that he has spoken with a fellow fire fighter who works for DOT concerning the Yield Sign at 72 and Glenn Carrie and he had indicated that there would have to be a traffic study performed to determine if a Yield Sign is needed at that location. Mayor Walton also advised that had spoken with Mr. Jeremy Durrance and he had indicated he could have an engineer take a look at that intersection. Mr Parker Niebauer is over our area. There was some further discussion between Mayor and Council about how to increase safety at that intersection including flashing yellow light similar to what's at the 72 Intersection at Kroger and at the 29 Intersection at Ingles. Mayor Walton expressed his hope that Mr. Niebauer will review and be back in touch.

Mayor Walton advised that he had spoken with Jackson EMC regarding the security lights and is waiting to hear back from them.

Council Member Brian Koepnick advised that he had spoken with a Mr. Kevin Adamson concerning street sweeping and is waiting to hear back from him with some cost information.

Mayor Walton then advised Council that he had been advised by the Clerk that we needed to make some budget amendments concerning legal expenses and office supplies and expenses. With the most recent invoice from the city attorney that budget line item is \$1,050.00 over budget as previously amended. Mayor Walton advised that he did not anticipate any major legal expenses going forward to the end of the year. The Clerk recommended that the legal budget be amended to add an additional \$1,500.00. Motion was made by Brian Koepnick and seconded by John Barber to approve this recommendation. Motion passed. With respect to Office Supplies and Expenses the Clerk advised that Mayor Walton had needed to purchase a new cell phone and this expense had taken this line item over budget. The Clerk recommended that we add \$500.00 to this line item which should be sufficient to finish out the year. Motion was made by Brian Koepnick and seconded by Marilyn Walton to accept this recommendation. Motion passed. Mayor Walton expressed his thanks to the Clerk for staying on top of the budget and bringing these items to the attention of Mayor and Council.

Mayor Walton then presented a proposed Resolution for the collection of Franchise Fees from Charter Communications. He has given this to the City Attorney for review but hopes to have their approval shortly so that we can move forward with passing the resolution which will be forwarded to Mr. Ryan Fender with the office of the Secretary of State for review and then a letter will be sent to Charter with respect ot same. Mayor Walton is hopeful that the City can then move forward with doing the same thing with Windstream and AT&T.

Mayor Walton then advised Mayor and Council that he is arranging a meeting with the Mayor of Winterville, Mr. Dodd Ferrell for a tour of their City Hall and revitalized auditorium and the FireFly Trail. Mayor Walton's vision for the City of Hull is to be able to connect up with the FireFly Trail. Everyone is invited to attend the meeting. More information will follow via e-mail.

Mayor Walton indicated to council that our American Flag needs to be replaced. He asked council member Koepnick to look into this. Council Member Koepnick will get with Mr. Sorrells.

Ms. Sherrer Gantt expressed her appreciation again for all that the City is doing to move the City

forward. She did have a question concerning the "Milling" process in Hidden Falls and whether or not this would disrupt any telecommunication and was advised that it might be loud for a short period of time but would not disrupt telecommunication service.

There being no other business at this time the meeting was adjourned after a motion by Brian Koepnick and a second by John Barber..

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Pou
City Clerk