

MINUTES OF THE CITY OF HULL MAYOR AND COUNCIL

September 24, 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 there were several guests at the meeting. Stephen Jacques from NEGRC, Woody McNair from Hawkins & McNair, Chris DeGrace REBC, Donna Sherrer-Gantt, and Mia in addition to City Attorney Greene..

A moment of silent prayer followed the pledge of allegiance.

The July minutes and Financial Reports presented at the August meeting were approved after a motion by Brian Koepnick and a second by Marilyn Walton.

The minutes of August meeting were approved after a motion by Brian Koepnick and a second by Marilyn Walton.

The Financial Reports were approved after a motion by Marilyn Walton and a second by John Barber.

Mayor Walton reported on the CARES Act Funding including the purpose of the funds and how the City was able to use the funds to provide 100 care packages to the community. Mayor Walton also expressed his appreciation to council members Koepnick, Barber and Walton for their help along with Boy Scout Troup 777 and other community members including Ms. Sherer-Gant and some of her sorority sisters. Council member Marilyn Walton gave an overview of the items that were included in the care packages.

Stephen Jacques reported that the finished draft of the Zoning Ordinance was ready and could now be put out for public comment. He did suggest that Mayor and Council meet to determine how the ordinance would be administered.

Mr. DeGrace reported that the City had been recommended to receive a grant in the amount of \$46,803.00 for the beautification of the City. The next step is for the matter to be submitted for final approval from DOT. Council member Brian Koepnick is requested to follow up with Mr. DeGrace to monitor the progress and assist as needed.

City Attorney Greene advised Mayor and Council that he was working on the final working draft of the new City Charter and hoped to have that complete by the first of next week. He suggested that he meet with Mayor and Council to begin reviewing the draft and working towards a final draft. It was decided that Mayor and Council would meet with attorney Greene via Zoom on the following Wednesday at 6:30. The Clerk was requested to send a reminder e-mail.

Woody McNair of the CPA Firm Hawkins & McNair reported that the 2019 audit was almost complete. The State had delayed the deadline due to Covid-19 and his office had not been deemed as an essential service so their office had been closed for a period of time which has resulted in a delay in getting the audit complete but he is working closely with Mayor Walton to provide the information needed to move forward with the loan application concerning the new City Hall. Mr. McNair expressed his thanks to Mayor and Council for allowing their firm to provide service to the City and looks forward to many years of service going forward.

Mayor Walton then presented information concerning the paving of the roads in Hidden Falls Subdivision, SPLOST funding, etc. with respect to same. Garrett Paving had provided a revised proposal a copy of which is attached to the minutes. Garrett Paving had submitted the only bid previously and since it has been determined that there were more SPLOST funds available than originally thought Mayor Walton was recommending that we accept the revised proposal to add some additional work. The new amount is \$63,630.00. After some discussion a motion was made by Brian Koepnick and seconded by John Barber that the City proceed with the work shown in the revised proposal. Motion passed.

Mayor Walton thanked council member John Barber for the work he did in securing the new "City Limit" sign on Glenn Carrie Road and for the landscaping work done to remove limbs and debris around the sign.

Mayor Walton advised that we were very close to having everything together and ready to submit with regards to the loan application for the new City Hall. He advised that we did need to have a Boundary/Topography survey completed the cost of which would be approximately \$4,250.00. This amount would be paid from the new SPLOST funds. It is also necessary to locate all the underground utilities, etc. The cost for this would be approximately \$1,250.00 however Mayor Walton is going to explore the possibility of having this done without charge. Motion was made by Brian Koepnick and seconded by John Barber to proceed with these items. Motion passed.

Under new business the Clerk presented a letter received by Mayor Walton from Larry H. Hanson, Executive Director of GMA requesting that he serve on the Advisory Council for the 2020-2021 year. Mayor Walton advised that he was honored to be asked to serve and had accepted the request.

Mayor Walton then discussed the Roles and Responsibilities of the Council and Staff. He reminded everyone that we answer to the citizens of Hull and it was important to be present and involved and to bring any issues to the table if and when they arise.

Mayor Walton then requested to know if anyone knew the history of why the City provided lawn maintenance to the Civic Club and whether or not the City wanted to continue this service. Council Member Marilyn Walton expressed her opinion that the City should discontinue this service since the Civic Club was wanting to charge the City to use their building now and in the future during construction of the new City Hall. After some discussion on the matter Council Member Koepnick suggested that someone talk to the former Mayors for some insight. Additionally, Attorney Greene, advised that in his opinion there needed to be some communication between the City and the Civic Club to get a better understanding of all the issues and not do anything without being better informed. This matter was tabled.

Mayor Walton then requested Attorney Greene to speak to the Alcohol Ordinance that had been prepared by his office and sent to Mayor, Council and Clerk for review. Attorney Green advised that he felt like the Ordinance was very thorough with respect to regulating and enforcing. After some discussion a motion was made by Marilyn Walton, seconded by Brian Koepnick and approved to adopt this ordinance.

Council Member Marilyn Walton gave a report on the City Website and provided some numbers as to how much traffic on the web site had increased over the last few months. Council member Walton was recognized for her hard work on the web site.

Council Member Marilyn Walton advised Mayor and Council that she has begun looking into the purchase of additional Christmas Decorations to add to what had been purchased last year. She requested that she be given a budget of \$2,300.00 to purchase additional decorations for this year. There was discussion about what additional decorations she was interested in purchasing and although she had been looking at different ideas she had not decided on specifics but wanted to be able to get a budgeted amount to work with. She felt like she would be able to save money by going through Universal Concepts since they would provide us with a discount. Mayor Walton suggested that we table this until next month however Council member Walton felt like waiting until the end of October would be too late. After the Clerk advised that there was no line item in the budget for Christmas Decorations but that there were sufficient funds in the "Miscellaneous" budget to cover this expenditure the matter was brought before the council for a vote. Motion was made by John Barber and seconded by Brian Koepnick to allow Council Member Marilyn Walton a budget of \$2,300.00 for purchasing Christmas Decorations.

Mayor Walton again welcomed and thanked our visitors. Ms Sherrer-Gantt expressed her appreciation and excitement for all the progress that was being made in the City and for all that she has learned by participating in the meetings.

Mayor Walton advised that he was continuing to visit and contact businesses within the City to see how Mayor and Council can offer assistance.

The Clerk then advised Mayor and Council that we needed to move the November meeting due to Thanksgiving. Her recommendation was that we meet on November 19th. This was approved after a motion by Brian Koepnick and a second by John Barber.

Just as a matter of information it was suggested that someone contact Jackson EMC about the light pole damage at Yarbrough Road.. Council member John Barber was requested to check into this.

There being nothing further the meeting was adjourned after a motion by Brian Koepnick and a second by John Barber.

Respectfully submitted,



Sandra Pou
City Clerk