

## **SUMMARY OF DECEMBER 23, 2021 COUNCIL MEETING**

Mayor and Council met for the regular meeting on December 23, 2021, in person at the Jackson EMC Community Meeting Room. The Mayor, Clerk and council members Brian Kopenick, John Barber, and Marilyn Walton were present. Council member Donna Sherrer-Gantt was out of town for the Christmas holiday but did join the meeting via telephone. City attorney Nefetara Clarke was also present along with councilmember elect Mike McElroy. attendance.

Minutes of the November meeting and the November Financial Reports were approved.

Mayor Walton presented a recommendation that the stipend for the Mayor and Council Members be increased by 100% beginning in January, 2022, payable semi-annually. Recommendation was approved after a motion by Brian Koepnick and a second by John Barber.

Mayor Walton gave a recap of the expenditures so far from the ARPA funds. He also advised that after sending notices to all businesses profit and non-profit that we had only received one request and that was from the Chevron. The Clerk has now received all the necessary paperwork properly signed. They are requesting \$2,400.00 in premium pay. This request was approved after a motion by Marilyn Walton and a second by Brian Koepnick. The Clerk will forward the funds. Mayor Walton further advised that he had requested City Attorney Clarke to explore the possibility of providing premium pay to Mayor, Council and the Clerk under the ARPA funding guidelines and the fact that unlike other cities our Mayor, Council Members and the Clerk wear many hats since there are no full time employees or department heads performing tasks that they are called upon to perform. Attorney Clarke presented a report which included a recommendation that the Mayor and Clerk receive \$1,750.00 per year for 2020 and 2021 and that council members receive \$975.00 per year for 2020 and 2021. Her written report explained the basis for this recommendation. The recommendation was approved after a motion by Brian Koepnick and a second by John Barber.

Council member Barber provided an update on the installation of the speed bumps on Easy and Davis Streets.

Council member Koepnick provided an update on the placement of the flags at the Well in conjunction with the Hometown Grant that the City is applying for. He provided some pictures for review as well as cost estimates. Mayor Walton advised that the Grant would be between \$0.00 and \$50,000.00 and he sees no reason that if the City is awarded the Grant that we would not be able to proceed with this part of the project.

Mayor Walton provided some information about the Cities United Summit in January and encouraged everyone to participate as much as possible during the 3½ days of training and the awards luncheon. As of now, he and council member Gantt plan to attend.

Council Member Barber reported on the Commission meeting he had attended at the request of the Mayor concerning TSPLOST funding.

Council Member Walton provided updated numbers on the Web Site which were very encouraging.

Mayor Walton advised that since Council member Walton's term was ending the council needed to decide if they wanted to continue with the Web Site and Newsletter which council member Walton has been responsible for. Consensus of council was that this was a very important part of the City and should continue. In this regard Mayor Walton advised that unless someone on the council was willing to undertake this task that we consider compensating council member Walton to continue to administer the web site and prepare and distribute the newsletter at the rate of \$25.00 per month for administering the web site and \$200.00 per quarter for preparing and distributing the newsletter. This amount has already been included in the proposed 2022 Budget. This was approved after a motion by Brian Koepnick and a second by John Barber.

Mayor Walton gave an update on the status of the new City Hall and that the application was in the final stages of approval.

The 2022 Budget was approved after a motion by Brian Koepnick and a second by John Barber. Council member Gantt abstained from voting since she was not able to attend the budget meeting.

The Clerk advised that the City of Hull along with all other cities in the County had received a letter from the Board of Elections terminating the Intergovernmental Agreement to conduct City elections.

A Resolution to Adopt The Northeast Georgia Regional Solid waste Management Plan was approved after a motion by council member Gantt and a second by council member Walton.

Mayor Walton inquired as to the thoughts of council of having a mural painted on the side of the building at the Chevron which would include all members of humanity. The consensus was that this was a good idea and council members were invited to bring their ideas back to council. Mayor Walton will explore funding options.

Mayor Walton advised that he had met with an Engineer from Jackson EMC about suggestions to improve lighting on Glenn Carrie Road that would improve safety. Jackson EMC advised that they would recommend placing 6 LED 400 Watt lights along Glenn Carrie Road. The costs to the City would be \$152.00 per month. This amount likewise has been included in the 2022 Budget. Motion was made by council member Barber and seconded by council member Gantt to proceed with the installation of the lights. Motion passed.

There was concern about the traffic light not working properly and about the number of large truck traveling down Glenn Carrie Road. Mayor Walton will follow up with GDOT.

Council member Gantt gave an update on the food drive coming up early next year in conjunction with Huff Grove Baptist Church.

Mayor Walton expressed his gratitude to council and the Clerk for all their hard work this past year. Council members and the Clerk shared their final words for the year.

The meeting was adjourned after a motion by Brian Kopenick and a second by John Barber.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Pou, City Clerk