

MINUTES OF THE CITY OF HULL MAYOR AND COUNCIL

January 27, 2022

Meeting Held in Person at Jackson EMC

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, Donna Gantt, and John Barber. . In addition, council member elect, Mike McElroy was present along with the City Attorney, Nefertara Clark. Mr. Keith Terrell of the Wesley-Peachtree Group was present via telephone. Several members of council member elect, Mike McElroy's family were also in attendance.

The Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silent prayer was observed prior to the start of the meeting.

The minutes of the Budget meeting and December meeting and the financial reports all of which had been e-mailed to everyone prior to the meeting for review were unanimously approved after a motion by John Barber and a second by Donna Gantt.

At this time council member elect, Mike McElroy, was sworn in by the Clerk.

The first item of business was a vote on the recommendation that the stipend for the Mayor be raised from \$1,250.00 to \$2,500.00 annually and the stipend for Council Members be raised from \$650.00 annually to \$1,300.00. The required notice had been published in the Madison County Journal. Motion was made by Donna Gantt and seconded by John Barber and unanimously approved to accept this recommendation.

Mayor Walton advised that the Final Rule with respect to uses of ARPA funds had been approved and again all council members to familiarize themselves with this. He also recapped for those in attendance that so far we have allocated funds to the Fire Department to purchase four turn-out suits; to the Sheriff's Department to purchase refurbished Tazers; to the Chevron for premium pay for employees and premiums pay for the Mayor, Clerk, and council members. We will be receiving additional funds during the current year.

Council member John Barber reported that the speed bumps and signage was in place on Easy and Davis Streets and he had received several positive comments from residents..

Mayor Walton gave a report on the Cities United Summit which has recently taken place in Atlanta. He and Marilyn; Donna and her spouse, and Brian and his spouse had all been able to attend the awards luncheon and he and Donna had attending training during the event.

Mayor Walton reported that all reports had been completed and submitted with respect to the loan application for the proposed new city hall and we are waiting on final approval so that we can seek an underwriter and move forward with the construction.

The Clerk advised that she had met with Voter Registrar, Tracy Dean, and her Board along with other City Clerks and several Mayors to discuss the Intergovernmental Agreement between the Cities and Board of Registrars and the County Commission. The main concern of her office is that lack of staffing to be able to handle city elections along with the other duties of her office. The Cities, Board of Elections, and the County will continue to work toward a resolution and a new Intergovernmental Agreement whereby the County can continue to conduct elections for the

cities.

Council member, Brian Koepnick, advised that he would like to move forward with advertising for a new landscaping contract and that he has been working on the specifications and was going to make a few modifications and would send to everyone for review. In this respect dates for the bidding and the opening of the bids were discussed and the Clerk was requested to place an add in the next addition of the Madison County Journal with bids being accepted until the next meeting. There was some discussion about Mayor and Council holding a work session to fine tune the specifications. Brian will be the contact person for those wishing to bid who have questions. Bids will be turned into the Clerk and opened at the February meeting.

Council member Gantt reported that she was having trouble getting feed back from Huff Grove Baptist Church with respect to the proposed joint food distribution and requested that this matter be tabled until further notice.

Council member Gantt also advised that she was working on potential funding for the placement of a mural on the side of the Chevron building and had spoken with two artists in Athens who expressed interest in the project.

The request by 20244 Highway 72, LLC (Chevron) to renew their alcohol license was unanimously approved after a motion by Brian Koepnick and a second by Mike McElroy.

A request by the Clerk to change the February meeting date from February 24th until February 22 due to a conflict in her schedule was approved unanimously after a motion by Brian Koepnick and a second by John Barber.

Council member John Barber advised that he had spoken with the Sheriff's Department about lowering the speed limit on both Davis and Easy Streets and their opinion was that since these were city streets and they did not run radar on these streets that the city could do this based on a recommendation and a vote by council. There was some discussion about lowering the speed limit from 25 as it is now to 15 mph. After further discussion it was the consensus of Mayor and Council that lowering the speed limit to 20 might be more appropriate. No action was taken however council member Barber and city attorney Clark are going to research to make certain that it would only take an action by Mayor and Council to make a change to the speed limit.

Council member Barber provided everyone with some estimates he had obtained from All About Asphalt to complete the work in Hidden Falls and to do some repair work on Glenn Carrie Road. Mayor Walton also advised that he had asked Garrett Paving for an estimate but did not have this yet. Mayor Walton advised that there would be funding in the future through TSPLOST funds and possible Infrastructure Funding and that hopefully the City would be in a position to move forward with these projects later in the year.. No action was taken at this time.

Council member Barber also advised that he was still receiving complaints about the unkept house on Glenn Carrie Road. Mayor Walton will follow up with Code Enforcement.

The following appointments were made by Mayor and Council:

Voter Registrar - Tracy Dean approved unanimously after a motion by Brian Koepnick and a second by Donna Gantt;

Clerk - Sandra Pou - approved unanimously after a motion by Brian Koepnick and a second by Mike McElroy;

Auditor - Keith Terrell of the Wesley-Peachtree Group approved unanimously after a motion by Donna Gantt and a second by John Barber;

Attorney - Clark and Clark (Nefertara Clark) approved unanimously after a motion by Brian Koepnick and a second by John Barber;

Mayor Pro Tem - Donna Sherrer-Gantt approved unanimously after a motion by Brian Koepnick seconded by Mike McElroy.

Mayor Walton advised that he would be giving his State of the City address at the March meeting.

Council Member Mike McElroy stated that he was impressed with the work that Mayor and Council had been doing for the City and looked forward to serving.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned after a motion by John Barber and a second by Donna Gantt and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Pou, Clerk