

MINUTES OF THE CITY OF HULL MAYOR AND COUNCIL

July 23, 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 Brian Koepnick, John Barber, and Marilyn Walton. Due to the current State of Emergency due to Covid 19 the meeting was held via Zoom. In addition Anna Strickland, Executive Director of the Madison County of Chamber of Commerce, City Resident, Donna Gantt and Attorneys Donarell and Fredarell Green were present.

A moment of silent prayer followed the pledge of allegiance.

The minutes from the June meeting were approved after a motion by Brian Koepnick and a second by Marilyn Walton,

The Financial Reports were approved after a motion by Brian Koepnick and a second by John Barber.

Mayor Walton announced that attorney, Donarell Green had accepted an appointment as an Associate Magistrate Court Judge for Athens-Clarke County. Mayor Walton presented a Plaque to Mr. Green thanking him for his service to the City. The law firm will continue to serve the City as legal counsel.

Anna Strickland then gave an overview of the work being done by and through the Chamber of Commerce. She assumed the position as Executive Director in January, 2020 and the Chamber has already seen growth in its membership and activities since that time. The Chamber has added 60 new members and currently has a total of 132 members. The City of Hull along the City of Danielsville are the only two cities in the county who have joined so far. There were two main focuses that Ms. Strickland wanted to address at the meeting. The first being the Census and how important it is to have as many citizens send in the census information because each person counted represents money for the county and cities. The deadline has been extended until October 31st. The City of Hull has a 55% response as a whole and the county has a 59% response rate which is above the State average. The other important information shared by Ms. Strickland is an upcoming meeting hosted by the Chamber's Government Affairs Committee and the Madison County Economic Development Council which will be held on September 1st with registration at 8:00 a.m. and the meeting beginning at 8:30 a.m. to conclude by 10:30 a.m. This meeting will be held at the Jackson EMC and everyone is encouraged to attend. Ms. Strickland concluded by offering her and the Chambers assistance to Mayor and County and city businesses in any way that she can. She then opened up for questions. Mayor Walton inquired as to some information he had previously requested and was advised that she was still trying to get the information and would provide it as soon as she had it available. Council member Marilyn Walton requested information that could be included in the newsletter promoting the Census which Ms. Strickland agreed to provide.

City resident, Donna Gantt, then introduced herself to Council. She is a resident of Hidden Falls Subdivision has some interest in assisting with improving the community and perhaps serving on the Council. She has been an educator for 24 years currently teaching in Athens-Clarke County having previously taught in Jackson and Barrow Counties. She has also been a social worker. The Clerk then explained the election process to become a member of the Council.

The meeting then moved to the Agenda items beginning with old business.

The first item on the Agenda as bids for street work in Hidden Falls Subdivision. The Clerk advised that she had only received one bid and she then proceeded to open the bid envelope which had been submitted by Garrett Paving. The Clerk read the breakdown of the bid to Mayor and Council. The total bid was \$90,380.00 which was more than the available funds. After some discussion of the breakdown, needs and current funds available which are \$63,156.98 a motion was made by Brian Koepnick and seconded by John Barber that the work quoted at \$40,330.00 for Hidden Falls Drive and the Concrete Curb Replacement quoted at \$1,700.00 be contracted to be completed by Garrett Pavings with the balance of the work being delayed at this time. Motion passed.

The Clerk advised Mayor and Council that the work was complete between the City, County and Commercial Bank in setting up and funding the new SPLOST account through the Bonding program offered by the County and everything was in place to move forward under the conditions set out in the Interdepartmental Agreement between the County and the City.

Under new business, the Clerk read into the record the resignation of council member/Mayor Pro Tem, Yvonne Davenport effective July 6th. The resignation was accepted after a motion by Brian Koepnick and a second by Marilyn Walton. Everyone joined in wishing Yvonne prayers and well wishes going forward and thanks for her work on the council.

The Clerk advised that a call for a special election would be issued with qualifying most likely to be held in January 2021 and in the event of an election this would be held the 3rd Tuesday in March. In the event there is no one to qualifying another call would have to be issued later in 2021. If only one person qualified then that person would take office at the next council meeting after being sworn in.

The Mayor and Clerk then advised Council that it was necessary to amend our 2020 operating budget for Office Supplies and Legal due to some unexpected and additional expenses. The Clerk advised that the initial budget had included a new laptop for the Clerk however in addition to the Clerk's Laptop council had voted to allow Mayor Walton to purchase a new laptop as well. These two major purchases had caused the current budget to be exceeded. The Clerk recommended the budget be amended to add \$1,000.00 to the existing \$3,000.00 line item. Mayor Walton then advised that between dealing with Covid-19 issues, Zoning and some other unexpected issues as well as anticipated matters going forward that the budget for legal expenses be increased by \$3,000.00. These additional monies would be move from the miscellaneous line item. Motion was made by Brian Koepnick and seconded by John Barber to accept these recommendations. Motion passed.

Mayor Walton then advised council that he had finally received the required Balance Sheet that had to be submitted with the pre-loan application with respect to the new City Hall and submitted it to NEGRC and USDA.

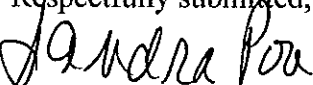
Mayor Walton then advised that since former council member Yvonne Davenport had been doing the quarterly Newsletter we needed someone to take her place. Council member Marilyn Walton volunteered to take over the newsletter unless someone else wanted to be responsible for doing it. The consensus was that Marilyn would do a great job and she was thanked for being willing to do this. Council member Walton did ask the Clerk if she would assist her as needed and the Clerk agreed to do so.

The next item of business addressed the former Golden Pantry and the fact that the new owners had inquired about being able to sell alcohol at this location. Attorney Green gave a very informative summary of his research, the rough draft he had prepared and the need for further research before being able to do a rough draft of an ordinance and to advise Mayor and Council of their next steps to be sure that the City is in compliance with all the Statutes governing the sell of alcohol by a municipality particularly the City of Hull. Attorney Green advised that he needed to have at least one more meeting with the Mayor and time to do additional research before moving forward. He hopes to have more concrete information together within the next 10-15 days.

Under other business council thanked Mayor Walton for all of his hard work in moving the city forward with the various projects in play. Brian Koepnick advised that the county had finally come and cut the bamboo back near his house and he was working towards getting estimates to have some work done to keep the bamboo from coming back and possibly some culvert work done. He has spoken with several people and is waiting to hear back from them. There is also a possibility tat the MC Road Department might be able to do the work. He hopes to have more information by the August meeting.

Mayor Walton reminded and encouraged everyone that our jobs are to serve others as we serve in our various positions within the City.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned after a motion by Brian Koepnick and a second by Marilyn Walton.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Pou, City Clerk