

MINUTES OF THE CITY OF HULL MAYOR AND COUNCIL

June 25, 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 Yvonne Davenport, and, Marilyn Walton. Council member, John Barber, was not present. Due to the current State of Emergency due to Covid 19 the meeting was held via Zoom. In addition Michael Eubanks from the USPS was a guest at the meeting.

A moment of silent prayer followed the pledge of allegiance.

At this time Mr. Eubanks introduced himself sharing that he had been with the USPS for a total of 32 years with the last year in sales. He is putting together some information for Mayor and Council of different ways that the USPS can help us with mailouts, etc. and some cost saving measures. He will provide this information to Mayor and Council for review and will be available to meet again if and when the City is ready to move forward.

The minutes from the May meeting were approved after a motion by Brian Koepnick and a second by Yvonne Davenport

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

The Clerk advised Mayor and Council that she had placed the ad in the Madison County Journal concerning bids for the paving of the streets in Hidden Falls Subdivision. The last day to submit bids will be July 17th and the bids will be presented for consideration at the July meeting.

The Clerk also advised that the Intergovernmental Agreement and Resolution that had been presented for approval at last months meeting which was contingent on review by the City Attorneys and approval as to form had received approval from the attorneys and had been signed off on by the Mayor and Clerk and submitted to Mr. Jim Woodard the attorney who is working with the County Commission with respect to the Bond program. Also, in this regard the monies have been deposited into an account with The Commercial Bank and the Mayor and Clerk have signed the documents setting up the account and everything is in place. Mr. Woodard has also sent the Clerk a sample form that must be prepared and approved by Mayor and Council when requesting monies from this account. Mayor Walton further advised that in his research and in speaking with Mr. Woodard and Commission Chairman, John Scarborough that it was the right thing for the City of Hull to participate in this program.

Under new business, Council member, Marilyn Walton, advised that she as been participating in virtual meeting with the Chamber of Commerce with respect to the upcoming Census and in this regard she shared some information she had received concerning the County and cities participation in promoting the Census in the upcoming months. Council Member Walton also learned that Hull had a 53% participation rate currently which was better than some other cities in the County.

Council member, Yvonne Davenport, added to the information provided by Mr Eubanks on different ways the USPS could assist us in reaching citizens inside and outside the city limits concerning public meeting; zoning; annexation, etc. and the potential savings in the cost of same.

The Clerk the advised Mayor and Council that she had been contacted by Garland Construction about plans to ad an addition at Hull Baptist Church and the need for a building permit. She had received some preliminary plans which she had shared with Mayor and Council. After some discussion a motion was made by Yvonne Davenport and seconded by Brian Koepnick to authorize the Clerk to issue the permit. Motion passed.

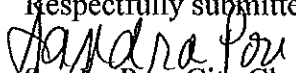
Mayor Walton advised council that he with the assistance of council member, Yvonne Davenport, was in the process of gathering information about the annexation process and would be presenting more information in the upcoming months. Council Member Davenport advised that she had received some useful information from GMA that she had shared with the Mayor and would be forwarding to the other council members.

Mayor Walton advised council that he was in need of an upgraded computer. The one he purchased through Verizon although it had served him well initially it was no longer big enough to meet his needs and that it does not have the proper software to allow him to download documents sent to him by various agencies. In this regard he had been speaking with the Verizon Sales Representative and they recommended a Mac Book Pro 13 inch at an approximate cost of \$1,299.00. He pointed out that this would be city property just like the Clerk's Laptop and the City cell phones and would stay with the City if he ever left office. A motion was made by Brian Koepnick and seconded by Yvonne Davenport to allow the Mayor to purchase a new Laptop at the approximate cost of \$1,299.00. Motion passed.

Mayor Walton then asked the Clerk the timetable for the auditors to complete their Audit. The Clerk advised that everything had to be submitted to the State by June 30th each year under normal circumstances but that deadline had been extended due to Covid 19. Mayor Walton advised that he and the Clerk had been in communication with Hawkins & McNair about getting a balance sheet which is needed for the pre-loan application through USDA and had not had much success. The Clerk advised that she had spoken with Summer Hardy of their office earlier this week and she had requested some additional information so that she could complete the balance sheet. Mayor Walton advised that he had driven to their office in Winder and it did not appear that anyone was there or had been there recently due to the unkept lawn. He had glad to hear that the Clerk had had some contact with them. Mayor Walton also advised that he had spoken with Kathleen Henderson who is with the USDA and she advised to go ahead and submit the application with an explanation as to the balance sheet being submitted later. He then spoke with Stephen Jacques who indicated he would submit the pre-application documents along with a letter addressing the balance sheet. Mayor Walton further advised council that in some of his training it had been pointed out that especially with larger cities it is advisable to consider changing auditors every 3-5 years and this was something to keep in mind moving forward.

Mayor Walton advised that we would have our July and August meetings in person at the Jackson EMC meeting room. This will allow plenty of space to socially distance. The executive director of the Madison County Chamber of Commerce, Anna Strickland, has requested to meet with Mayor and Council at the July meeting.

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