

AGENDA

May 27, 2021

Meeting called to order by Mayor Paul Walton

Pledge of Allegiance to Flag/Invocation by Pastor David Cloud Hull Baptist Church

Introduction of Guests, if any (Mayor)

Minutes and financial reports are presented:

Old Business

City Charter (Mayor)

Zoning (Mayor)

City Well/Plans (Mayor)

Landscaping at Well (Brian Koepnick)

New Business

In Person Meetings (Mayor)

Attendance Policy (Mayor)

City Gas (Mayor)

Training Budget Amendment -Savannah (Mayor)

Future Landscaping of Hidden Falls S/D (Mayor)

American Rescue Plan Act (ARP (Mayor)

Audit Compliance (Mayor)

June Newsletter (Marilyn)

Web-site update (Marilyn)

Cleaning current City Hall (Clerk)

Other business/comments

MINUTES OF THE CITY OF HULL MAYOR AND COUNCIL

April 22, 2021

Meeting Held Via Zoom due to Covid-19 Pandemic

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Paul Walton. Those in attendance in addition to the Mayor were council members Brian Koepnick, Marilyn Walton and Donna Sherrer-Gantt. Council member Barber nor the Clerk were in attendance. The meeting is being recorded and the Clerk will transcribe the minutes from the recording. Honorary Council member Kiren Thurman was also in attendance.

Mayor Walton called the meeting to order after the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

The minutes of the March meeting which had been provided prior to the meeting to Mayor and Council were approved unanimously after a motion by council member Gantt and a second by council member Walton.

The financial reports which were also provided prior to the meeting were approved unanimously after a motion by council member Keopnick and a second by council member Gantt.

Mayor Walton welcomed the newest council member, Donna Sherrer-Gantt, and Honorary Council member Thurman, and his wife to the meeting.

Under old business Mayor Walton advised that after having failed to reach an agreement with the former auditors Hawkins and McNair with respect to the refund of the \$2,000.00 deposit paid for the 2019 audit he had filed a formal complaint with the State Board governing CPA firms. Mayor Walton also advised the new auditing firm the Wesley Peachtree Group had completed the 2019 audit and the feasibility report needed to move forward with the loan application for the new City Hall and also completed all reports due to the State to bring the City into compliance with all reporting deadlines.

Under new business Mayor Walton called everyone's attention to the fact that work has begun on the GDOT beautification project through the \$46, 803.00 grant. Everyone in attendance had positive comments to make on the work being done.

Mayor Walton also spoke to the three forms of City Government pointing out that the City of Hull has a "Strong Mayor" run Government with the Mayor acting as CEO and Head of all departments within the City. He is also allowed to vote in the event of a tie and also has Veto power. Under this form of Government the council members look out for the citizens of the City by bringing concerns and ideas to the table. Council members also make policy decisions and approve local legislation and policy and zoning issues; rules and resolutions. Mayor Walton advised council that moving forward he would like to see council members bringing more things to the table. Honorary council member Thurman asked how council could reach out to citizens and there were several suggestions offered such as the newsletter, social media, word of mouth; and talking to your neighbor. Council member Gantt suggested that going forward and with all the technology available it might be possible to have focus group meetings to obtain citizen input. There was some input as to the possibility of the City providing a playground area going forward once there is more land available through possible annexation.

Mayor Walton then brought up for discussion the restoration of the City Well. The roof is in need of repair especially and since the City is in the process of the beautification project it might be a good time to do some upgrades to the Well. Council member Walton pointed out that the Well was a historic landmark for the City and needs to be taken care of. The consensus of opinion from Mayor and Council was that this was something that needed to be explored. There was some discussion that perhaps College Pro Landscape could provide some ideas and pricing for the area around the Well since they were completing the work of 72. Council member Koepnick was requested to follow up on this with College Pro. Also, Mayor Walton is going to request council member Barber to get some estimates with respect to replacing/repairing the roof. Both matters will be discussed further at the May meeting.

Mayor Walton updated council on the funding process for City Hall. He also pointed out that the plans were available on the web site. This process has been long and has required a lot of work but with the help of our new auditors getting the feasibility report completed everything has been submitted to the State for review and approval. If approved the next step would be to find an underwriter to provide the \$982,000.00. Once the project is complete then the USDA would pay that loan off and re-finance for a 40 year period.. There was some discussion about who signs with the underwriters. Mayor Walton advised that he would sign and that the document may need attestation by the Clerk. There were some questions about could a new Mayor stop the process which Mayor Walton pointed out that this would be a contractual agreement and obligates the City going forward regardless of who holds office. Mayor Walton also advised that before any contract is signed it would be reviewed by the City Attorney and voted on by Council authorizing the signing.

Mayor Walton also advised that he still has a vision that the Firefly Trail which currently runs from Athens through Winterville to Union Point could some day come back through Hull heading back into Athens. In this regard he has a meeting with the Mayors of Winterville and Athens along with Mr. Devine from NEGRC coming up. There were some questions about the process such as having to have landowners donate or sell their property, etc. Mayor Walton reported that these were all good questions and he would have more answers going forward.

Mayor Walton also reminded everyone that we had been required to obtain a permit from CSX Railroad in connection with the beautification project and in speaking and working with Mr. Craig Camuso they were so impressed by all the hard work by the City and Mayor Walton in obtaining the grant for the beautification project that the City has been awarded a \$2,000.00 community service grant by CSX. These funds can be used toward any type of community service such as our food drives, etc.

There was some discussion about the maintenance of the new plants, watering etc. Council member Koepnick responded to some of the concerns and how they will need to be addressed. Possibly College Pro can assist with the maintenance and watering going forward.

Honorary Council Member Thurman expressed to Mayor and Council what a great opportunity it was for him to participate in the council meeting as an honorary member and offered thanks for the encouragement and how important it is to get more people involved.

Mayor Walton advised council that the first week of May is City Clerk's week and that last year our Clerk had been presented with a Proclamation and a poster signed by everyone. He asked for input from council as to ideas on how to recognize our Clerk this year. Everyone was encouraged to forward their ideas to him via e-mail.

Council Member Walton had hoped to discuss the cost for last year's Christmas Decorations and the savings she was able to get but this was tabled until the May meeting so that the Clerk could be present to share the expenses.

Under other business Mayor Walton advised council that he had spoken with Eva Kennedy with NEGRC concerning the zoning. We are approaching the final stages and there were just a couple more issues with signage that needed to be addressed before the document is finalized. Mayor Walton will notify council about having a Work Session prior to the May meeting so that hopefully the document will be ready for final approval by Mayor and Council.

Mayor Walton also advised council that there was a need for additional security lights in Hidden Falls Subdivision on Carrie Lane for safety concerns. There would be no charge from Jackson EMC to install the lights. The City would just need to pay the monthly expense for said lights, consistent with what the cost is for the other security lights paid for by the City. Motion was made by council member Gantt, seconded by Brian Koepnick and approved unanimously to have the lights installed and the monthly costs paid by the City.

Council member Walton had some questions about the remaining paving that needs to be done in Hidden Falls Subdivision in the two cul-de-sacs. Mayor Walton asked that this be tabled until the May meeting as the City may be receiving funds through the American Rescue Act in the approximate amount of \$63,000.00 that can possibly be used for this purpose.

Council member Gantt advised that she would be attending a webinar about a summer reading program aimed at helping students who are reading below grade level and that this might be something the City could help with through Hull-Sanford Elementary School and be able to engage the community. She will report back at the May meeting. Members of council requested she send the information about the webinar in case anyone else is able to participate.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned after a motion from Briak Koepnick and a second by Donna Gantt.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Pou
City Clerk

INCOME/EXPENSE STATEMENT
CITY OF HULL
April, 2021

Beginning Balance (4/1/20)		\$61,496.60
Revenue received during April		\$ 4,242.28
LOST	3909.25	
TAVT	202.93	
Insurance License Fees/	30.00	
Excise Tax (Misc. Inc.)	100.10	
Checks written during April		\$ 4,264.51
AT&T (Clerk Internet)	40.00	
MC Water Dept.	26.00	
Hull VFD	705.41	
Walton Gas	59.85	
Verizon	118.99	
Clarence Sorrells (lawn maintenance)	1000.00	
Card Service Center (credit card payment)	187.16	
Mainstreet News	237.60	
Madison County BOC (election)	1589.50	
Blake Smith (photographs)	300.00	
Jackson Electric Drafts		973.00
City of Hull	811.00	
City of Hull	42.00	
City of Hull	51.00	
City of Hull	69.00	
 April Ending Balance		 \$60,501.37

SPLOST ACCOUNT STATEMENT
Commercial Bank - Bond Account
April, 2021

Beginning Balance (4/1/20) \$98,708.13

Interest for April \$ 24.34

\$ 98,732.47

Less:

BALANCE END OF APRIL

\$ 98,732.47

City of Hull

5/21/2021 10:37 AM

Register: City of Hull - General Account

From 04/01/2021 through 04/30/2021

Sorted by: Date, Type, Number/Ref

Date	Number	Payee	Account	Memo	Payment	C	Deposit	Balance
04/04/2021	EFT	Jackson EMC-City H...	Accounts Payable	846789	69.00			61,427.60
04/04/2021	EFT	Jackson EMC-HWY ...	Accounts Payable	1744661	811.00			60,616.60
04/04/2021	EFT	Jackson EMC-SM Ki...	Accounts Payable	846791	51.00			60,565.60
04/04/2021	EFT	Jackson EMC Perm ...	Accounts Payable	995029	42.00			60,523.60
04/04/2021	2867	Hull VFD	Accounts Payable		705.41			59,818.19
04/04/2021	2868	Madison County Boa...	Accounts Payable	Special Election	1,589.50			58,228.69
04/04/2021	2869	Blake Smith	Accounts Payable		300.00			57,928.69
04/04/2021	2870	Clarence Sorrells	Accounts Payable		1,000.00			56,928.69
04/05/2021	2871	Mainstreet News	Accounts Payable		237.60			56,691.09
04/18/2021	2872	Madison County Wat...	Accounts Payable		26.00			56,665.09
04/18/2021	2873	AT&T	Accounts Payable		40.00			56,625.09
04/19/2021			-split-	VOID: Deposit		X	0.00	56,625.09
04/19/2021			-split-	Deposit			333.03	56,958.12
04/24/2021	2874	Walton Gas	Utilities:Natural Gas		59.85			56,898.27
04/24/2021	2875	Verizon Wireless	Utilities:Cell Phone		118.99			56,779.28
04/26/2021	2876	Card Service Center	FABAT Credit Card	Miscellaneous ...	187.16			56,592.12
04/30/2021			Local Option Sales Tax	Deposit			3,909.25	60,501.37