

MINUTES OF THE CITY OF HULL MAYOR AND COUNCIL

November 19, 2020

HELD VIA ZOOM DUE TO COVID 19

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 Ms. Donna Sherre-Gantt joined the meeting as a guest.

A moment of silent prayer followed the pledge of allegiance.

The minutes from the October meeting were approved after a motion by Brian Koepnick and a second by John Barber.

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

Mayor Walton gave a report on the progress on the new City Hall. The surveying has been completed, including boundaries, utility markings and topography. We are waiting on the feasibility report from the auditors which hopefully will be completed shortly. There was some concern expressed with issues we have had with the auditors getting things done in a timely manner. Mayor Walton advised that he had learned in his training that changing auditors periodically was advised and that this might have to be considered going forward since we have been with the same firm for a long period of time.

Council member Barber reported on what he had found out with respect to the traffic concerns at the intersection of Highway 72 and Glenn Carrie Road followed by a report from Mayor Walton. Mayor Walton reported that he had spoken with Mr. Parker Niebauer and although it might take some time to accomplish there was going to be some improvements coming to that intersection including, updating the traffic light, adding yield signs, re-striping, and cross-walk striping at no costs to the City.

Mayor Walton advised for further information that he had spoken with Mr. McNair and hopefully everything will be completed by the end of this week or first of next week.

Mayor Walton advised that the Beer and Wine License had been approved by the State at the new Chevron. Mayor Walton advised that for the first time that he can remember the city will no longer be 'dry'. The Chevron Food Mart is hoping to hold a grand opening and ribbon cutting soon and would be making an announcement soon. Mayor Walton advised that this process had involved a lot of hard work to complete but it would be a good source of revenue going forward.

Council Member Kopenick and Mayor Walton together provided an update on the Highway 72 beautification project which had been met with some obstacles. It had been determined that the area for beautification was actually in CSX ROW and it would be necessary to obtain a permit from CSX before proceeding further. Mayor Walton had spoken with a representative from CSX real estate division who was going to look into the permitting and was hopeful that something could be worked out so that GDOT would be able to issue a permit so that we could proceed. Once the issue with the Railroad is resolved then we have to present a specific plan to GDOT setting out the specific types of plants, a watering plan, etc. for consideration and approval. Mr.

Dan Butler is standing by waiting for us to be in a position to proceed. We are still hopeful that planting can be done before the end of the GDOT planting period in March. Brian advised that Mr. Sorrells had indicated he would not be able to provide the irrigating necessary and we would have to look elsewhere. Brian advised that he had spoken with Vision Landscape and they would charge \$980.00 to water one-half the plant material and \$1,710.00 for all plants. This would be on a per watering basis. Brian is going to continue exploring other possibilities. He also pointed out that the Landscaping Firm would provide the initial watering in.

Mayor Walton then presented the new City Charter for discussion and vote. Motion was made by Marilyn Walton and seconded by John Barber to approve the new Charter. Motion passed.

Mayor Walton then presented the Resolution for Franchise Fees for a vote. Motion was made by Brian Koepnick and seconded by John Barber to approve the resolution. Motion passed.

Mayor Walton advised that the Zoning Ordinance was more challenging than anticipated particularly with Covid 19 and being unable to have in person meetings to allow for more public input. There was also some discussion about allowing mobile homes under the ordinance. He advised that he was personally against allowing mobile homes but wanted to hear opinions from everyone. He would like to see some affordable housing other than mobile homes. He had communicated to the NEGRC to take out the provision to allow mobile homes. They recommended the matter of Zoning be tabled until there was an opportunity to have a work session with Mayor and Council with a public meeting to follow.

Under new business Council Member Marilyn Walton reported that it was time for the quarterly newsletter for December. There was discussion about the tree lighting and it was decided to set December 1st at 6:00 p.m. for this. Marilyn also reported that most the decorations were up however the company had sent the wrong wreaths and the replacements are on the way. She further reported that she had been able to get the new decorations within budget with the exception of paying Mr. Sorrells to assist with the installation.

Mayor Walton advised Mayor and Council that before it was learned that there would be no more CARES Funding he had ordered some more Masks to be distributed in the community particularly to Wiz Academy. The cost for the Masks is \$1,200.00. Mayor Walton would like to go ahead with the purchase. After some discussion a motion was made by Brian Koepnick and seconded by John Barber to proceed with the purchase. Motion passed.

Mayor Walton then advised council that he had been considering the matter of the city offering garbage service to citizens. This could cut down on the number of different large trucks on the city streets which could cut down on the expense of road maintenance. This is especially important going forward with possible annexation and offering services. Mayor Walton asked council to think about this as a possibility to pursue.

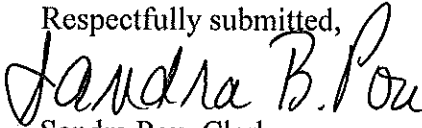
Going back to the Masks Mayor Walton advised that he had spoken with some of the businesses in the City particularly Angie's place about there requirement of masks, etc. Mayor Walton feels like he has a good relationship with these businesses. He requested that Angie's Place put a sign on the door requesting patrons wear a mask. He also indicated that he had spoken with Ms. Strickland at the Chamber of Commerce and although there is no mask mandate in our county there is a fine line between encouragement and mandate which would be met with rebellion.

Mayor Walton then brought up the Service Delivery Strategy between the City and the Sheriff's

Department and the City and the Volunteer Fire Department. Mayor Walton advised that he had met with the Fire Department earlier this year and advised them that with the construction of the new City Hall and payments associated with same the funds available for the City to give to the Fire Department may have to be cut. Mayor Walton inquired of Council Member Barber who is a member of the fire department if the fire department had a proposed budget for new year. Council Member Barber advised that he was not aware of whether or not this had been completed that they may be working on it now. Mayor Walton advised that he had spoken with other Mayors about different kinds of funding and ways to assist the fire department. It is his feeling that the fire department should be receiving more money from the county since it covers such a large area of the county not just the City. This has been an ongoing issue. He hopes that the City will still be able to provide some funding even though we may have to take a different approach going forward. Lastly Mayor Walton advised that he along with the City Clerk will begin working on the budget in the next few weeks which will assist in seeing how much we can afford for next year. Mayor Walton encouraged all council members to present their ideas and thoughts on the budget.

The City Clerk/Election Superintendent advised that the special election to fill former council member, Yvonne Davenport's, unexpired terms will be held on the 3rd Tuesday in March with qualifying to be held January 11th, 12th and 13th from 6:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. at City Hall. The Clerk asked for a vote on the qualifying dates. Brian Koepnick made a motion and Marilyn Walton seconded and the motion passed to set these dates and times for qualifying. The Clerk answered some questions from Ms. Sherrer-Gantt concerning qualifying. She also provided an update for Mayor and Council as to the terms of office for Mayor and Council.

There being nothing further at this time a motion was made by Brian Koepnick and seconded by John Barber to adjourn the meeting

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Pou, Clerk