

WORKSHOP

CITY OF VERNON

May 6, 2019

6:30 PM

PRESENT-MAYOR: LAURA BREWER; COUNCIL MEMBERS: GARY OWENS, GWEN MARCH, JOEY BROCK, JEANIE SHIPES, BECKY BAXLEY; CITY CLERK: TRACY WALKER; PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR: RONALD WOOD; PLANT OPERATOR: JIMMY COOK; FIRE CHIEF: MIKE OWENS

Rec report given by April Cook – currently there are 10 coaches without background checks; Joey stated that we will have to do something different in the future as we do not need another lawsuit, there have also been several issues at the concession stand and money issues; Rhonda Dickinson asked if we could have the sheriff come here and do these background checks, Joey will check and see, City Clerk is checking on another company and Recreation President is also working on an on-line background check; the council agreed to follow the guides set forth and not allow the coaches on the field until a background check has been completed; Gary asked that Brent attend the next meeting; Laura Brewer asked about trophies for the banquet as she received a deal when she ordered her trophies for the pageant and she get the labels and use some of the left over trophies that are in the closet in her office; a work order was requested to fix the bleachers as some of the end caps have come off and are now missing, Bulldog confirmed that work order has been completed, the City Clerk left a message for Todd Brown; the smoke detectors do not work and the fire extinguishers are out of date; fundraiser from Opening Day is missing some money that was specifically to be set aside to provide uniforms for next year; the carwash held Saturday was a success we made over \$500.00; Sheena Harris would like to do a softball camp for the girls as community service; we were supposed to have a tournament this weekend, but it has been cancelled

Kevan Parker from Wheeler Emergency Management Consulting (WCBC Consultant) – updated the Council on the debris pick-up progress they are aware of several piles that need to be retrieved everything that is out by the road will be picked up, but nothing additional. They are also aware of the waterways and ditches that need attention. They are processing approximately \$100,000.00 per day in debris removal. \$2.2 billion dollars has been allocated by the Senate / Congress for Hurricane Michael relief. Gwen March mentioned her debris is still in front of her house, Jeanie Shipes also mentioned that Armstrong Street has several large stumps that need to be picked up, Laura Brewer then mentioned that Pinecrest Street has quite a bit of debris on the right of way. Mr. Robert Dotson on Pompey Street is an elderly man that has been working to get his trees to the right of way, he was told they would come and clean it up if it is on the right of way by the deadline; can you check on this and see if we can help him? Mr. Parker said that they would pick up anything that he put by the road, even past the deadline.

Public Works report given by Ronald Wood – Lonnie Andrews has purchased property on Green Street and has inquired about City sewer and water which will require about 800 feet of pipe to tap in total is approximately \$5800.00 including labor; how does the Council want to proceed? Inform Mr. Andrews of the total and we will go from there. We had to purchase a new meter, Florida Rural Water tested meters, Well 1 was running slow \$995 for the new meter; the wells are only pumping around 100 gallons per minute which is extremely low; per Jimmy Cook, it will be approximately \$15,000.00 per well to fix. Well 2 sounds like a bearing is going out. Kim Boyett would like to borrow about 6 trash cans on 6/9/19 for their camp this year; Mike Owens stated they have 2 cans but only need 1.

Fire Department report given by Mike Owens – We have no complaints. Joey stated that he went by the F/D today; the guy that was there did not even know that he was there, he may have been asleep. Can the floors in the meeting room be fixed – what is on them? The finish was removed when DOC sent a crew out that waxed the floor quite some time ago. Paid Firefighters are a part of this Volunteer Fire Department; they have a list of things that they are supposed to be doing. The Fire Department is dirty and full of spider webs, Rick Kerr is in charge of the paid firefighters. Gary Owens suggested that he have Rick Kerr attend their next meeting. The Council is holding you, the Fire Chief, responsible for the condition of the fire department.

1. **Cemetery property issues** – Mr. Hutchins surveyed the cemetery 25-30 years ago and there was an issue with the southwest corner of the property does not belong to the cemetery. A current resident's sister passed away (several months ago) in Port St. Joe but due to the high water table since the storm, they cannot bury her. The family is now asking that she be buried at the Vernon Cemetery. I referred the call to Tina Sloan, she stated that the City owns the cemetery, not the citizens. Rhonda Dickinson is on the Cemetery Board, and agreed to give the plot to the family. Michelle Jordan has recommended that we do another survey. Gary Owens wants to know what we would have to do if the survey turned out the same.
2. **Website/E-mails** – the City Clerk provided several quotes for an ADA compliant website and secure emails; this item will be added to the next agenda.
3. **Shut offs (non-payment) lock meters** – City Clerk is requesting that all meters be locked that are being turned off for non-payment as one customer came in today and stated that his water should not have been turned off in error and he turned it back on.
4. **Home Economics Building** – The Band Room and Home Ec Buildings have to be torn down; the insurance company stated that the only thing that they would cover is the missing shingles.
5. **Camera quotes** – Professional Satellites provided a quote for 21 cameras around the town.
6. **Wayside Park boundary issues** – Candace Blackmon is claiming that the fence at the front side of the park is on her property, the fence has been removed.
7. **Rodents in old council chambers** – 3 callouts due to rodents in old council – call pest control and do what needs to be done
8. **Mileage for rec (Joel)** – the City is not responsible for his mileage

9. **New internal money policy** – I have implemented a new policy that no money goes into the safe until I count it, because I am still bringing back incorrect deposits from the bank.
10. **RFQ for USDA Search Grant** – Bobby Lee provided a sample of an RFQ for the Dawkins Street issues that we have.
11. **Eric Ryan Corporation offer** – they would like to do an audit of our utility services including electric and telephone service; ask him to come to the meeting.
12. **Mosquito spray is to being this week**
13. **Literacy room A/C repair** – P&P came out and found that it was the fan motor; which is under warranty and will cost approximately \$250.00 to fix.
14. **Quote for painting stage of Community Center** – Ancil Bryant gave a quote of \$1500.00; this is the only bid that I have received, the Council requested more bids and add to the next agenda.

Laura Brewer – Jeanie, has your sewer issue been resolved? Somewhat, but they are still experiencing problems. Gary Owens asked Ronald Wood to take a look at it again tomorrow. Why is all the dirt piled up at the track? Gary Owens explained that it was from the sewer project. I received my first call in reference to 7/4/19; the gentlemen that provides the pony rides wants to offer they City a deal, he has a train as well as the horses for \$400.00 and the kids can ride for free. Paul Goulding suggested that the political figures could donate to this; Laura will check on that. 7/4/19 vendors being charged \$25.00, should we charge an additional fee for those that need electricity? Gary Owens suggested that she set the rates as she sees fit.

Gary Owens – I'm currently trying to draw my state retirement, but cannot work for the City as they contribute to FRS. The City Clerk is checking with the attorney and the Florida League of Cities to see what the legal option are.

Jimmy Cook – Is my contract still ongoing? Gary Owens asked when it was up for renewal; Jimmy replied in April. As we are now in May, we will look at it next year.

Joey Brock – The school board needs to be held accountable for the girls' softball field that has no bathrooms on the field. They have to go through the school past the boys' weight room.

With no further business to discuss, the Workshop was adjourned at 8:28 PM