

WORKSHOP CITY OF VERNON OCTOBER 7, 2019 6:30 PM

PRESENT-MAYOR: LAURA BREWER; COUNCIL MEMBERS: JOEY BROCK, GWENDOLYN MARCH, JEANIE SHIPES, BECKY BAXLEY; CITY CLERK: TRACY WALKER; PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR: RONALD WOOD; STREET MAINTENANCE: JASON RHOTON; PLANT OPERATOR: JIMMY COOK

Invocation – by Tracy Walker

Pledge of allegiance – by all

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Ms. Annette Weeks stated that they plan to run the haunted hallway 10/19, 10/26, 10/31, and 11/2/19 from 6 pm until, we have set a goal of \$5,000.00 for this year, she will be at the office of her insurance agent to finalize the paperwork, their plans to use the Community Center fell through this year. **Pamela Roberts (came in late after discussing item # 3)** explained that she had come in earlier to pay her bill and was told by Christina that the City had 2 warrants out for her son's arrest for cutting two locks off of his meter and stealing 9,000 gallons of water which is not even true, no cops are out looking for my son or his girlfriend; per Joey: "we'll take care of our employee, understand that" again, Joey assured Ms. Roberts that the situation would be taken care of. As she walked out, Ms. Roberts stated that if charges were brought against her son, she would seek an attorney regarding the matter of breach of privacy by the deputy clerk; we will hold a special meeting to vote on the use of the back hallway for the annual "Haunted Hallway" event

1. **Vickie Howard – Community Center** – on 5/2/20 they would like to use the Community Center (free of charge) to hold a fundraising concert for King's Dowry Boutique – the Council asked that this be placed on the agenda for a vote
2. **Amelia Bell – after school care** – provided a business plan, she has not applied for insurance yet, per the City Clerk, Ms. Mary Lee Snyder is here to represent the Literacy program, Ms. Snyder and Ms. Bell stepped out to look at the Literacy room to see if it would suit the needs of her after school care program; Ms. Bell left after speaking with Ms. Snyder, stating that she would call her; Ms. Snyder thanked the Council for their continued support of the Literacy Program
3. **Jimmy Cook & Cliff White – spray field contract** – Jimmy will not renew the contract in April, Mr. White is interested in taking over for this year and keep cattle on the property, he has insurance and is ready to go now
4. **Christina Barnett – drop box cut off time** – the Deputy Clerk requested that the deadline on the drop box be changed from 5:00 to 4:00; then she requested that all

payments be due by 4:00 due to the system being so slow and the process takes longer; this needs to be added to the agenda

5. **Meter read issues** – FRWA is coming out to check several meters for accuracy including Joey's; one of our regular customers had a slightly high read and placed on the re-read; this time the usage went up exponentially, I believe that the wrong meter was read during the re-reads so we will need to adjust that bill; we need radio read meters to fix the problem of mis-read meters; Jerry Brock had a leak; all meters in question need to be on a list ready when FRWA gets here; Amanda Driggers had a vehicle parked over the meter during meter reads, Bulldog sent me pictures; Joey spoke with the tenants and told them they were not to park on the meter, after the landlord told them they could not park there when it was first rented to them
6. **Hillcrest St meter** – this issue was addressed with Ms. Roberts
7. **Storage Tank Inspection** – City Clerk provided the Council with paperwork from DEP regarding the storage tank inspection; all issues have been addressed and corrected
8. **Church Street sewer line** – Mr./Mrs. Pippen wrote a letter and submitted invoices regarding his sewer back-up; per Bulldog, Mrs. Pippen came before council the last time and requested reimbursement of the plumbing service but was asked to call the City before moving forward; per Bulldog, this issue is going on private property; Joey stated that Public Works document everything from now on but NOT to go on private property, Joey reiterated that our employees are not to go on private property and I will tell him (Pippen) that; the Council then asked the City Clerk to provide them with documentation from the last event and add this to the next agenda
9. **Florida League of Cities resolutions** – the City Clerk provided Council with all resolution the Florida League of Cities including one urging the US Dept of Justice to clarify ADA regulations for municipalities; Mr. Paul Goulding gave an update on the status of our ADA Compliant website, two of the minutes that were provided had viruses attached, the City's website is as close to compliance as can be at this point; the City will eventually have access to be able to upload data with a sign-in
10. **Code Enforcement** – the attorney submitted one ordinance for the process of code enforcement but nothing for the actual code enforcement codes; WCBCC stated that we would need to mirror their codes
11. **Ban on travel trailers** – will the lift on the ban be lifted for an additional year; the Council asked that the City Clerk check with Chipley to see if they will be extending their lift and to add this to the next agenda for vote; Bay County went another year for theirs
12. **Recreation** – Brent has tried to get volunteers and recreation board members, but has had little response; per Joey, there has been bad blood between the rec director and board, we are going to lose someone, only 2 people showed up for the rec board meeting, we all want to see the recreation department move forward, we need to fix the department; we hired out the mowing portion of the job for the remainder of this month; my issue is getting the kids signed up, background checks, and keeping up with City equipment; I would like to see someone take over the concession stand for one year to see how that goes; Becky stated that her mind has not changed, we need a new rec director because despite of all of the volunteers and help everything falls back on the recreation director; Joey spoke about the dragger again, which has been loaned to

the High School without the Council's knowledge, and wanted to know who would be responsible if it were to break while they were using it, the gates are continuing to be left open, Brent should have called and asked someone about loaning any equipment; Brent stated that he allowed them to borrow the dragger because they let us use their John Deere tractor, but agreed that he should have talked to the Council first; Gwendolyn stated that the Recreation Board by-laws need to be addressed to allow city employees on the board; Becky asked if the job description has been changed then asked about hiring if that is the way this goes the attorney stated that the City does not have specifics on how they handle the hiring process, Becky reminded the other members of Council that this is a right to work state; Joey requested a copy of personnel policies for each council member and we would possibly call a special meeting be held to handle this particular situation

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – Mrs. Rhonda Dickinson announced that Mr. Goulding will be flying a drone over the cemetery, taking photos for an aerial map, and can be placed in the City Hall office; the Council asked that Rhonda come up with a cemetery board by the next meeting for approval; Mr. Goulding suggested charging a maintenance fee

F/D Report – the engine needs some attention; the fire chief is taking the truck to Alabama tomorrow for a quote

Jimmy Cook – WWTP permit expires next year, an engineer must submit paperwork 180 days before that expires which will be due at the end of January

Mayor – the kids enjoyed the dance and would like to do it more often; one of the kids tried to get into City Hall and set off the alarm

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