

**WORKSHOP
CITY OF VERNON
MARCH 2, 2020
5:30 PM**

PRESENT – MAYOR: LAURA BREWER; COUNCIL MEMBERS: JOEY BROCK, GWENDOLYN MARCH, JEANIE SHIPES, BECKY BAXLEY; CITY ATTORNEY: MICHELLE JORDAN; CITY CLERK: TRACY WALKER; FIRE CHIEF: MIKE OWENS; RECREATION DEPARTMENT: TIMOTHY GARNER, MCKENZIE FAISON, SHAINA PREVATT

ABSENT – PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR: JASON RHOTON

Invocation – by Tracy Walker

Pledge of allegiance – by all

1. **Check presentation to VHS** Brian Riviere was presented with, and graciously accepted the \$1,000.00 donation for Basketball and Cheer on behalf of Vernon High School, Laura Brewer stated the City would be placing flags along the highway for the Troy group walking for the Wounded Warriors and the staff could easily put them up a little sooner for our returning basketball team

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Christina Barnett asking for donations for a 5K hosted by Relay for Life on 3/28 at 7:30 am, the Council agreed to a \$200.00 donation to have the City logo placed on the sleeves of shirts, registration fees for the 5K are \$25.00 before and \$30.00 the day of the event, the City agreed to a donation in the amount of \$200.00

2. **Municipal Engineering contract Dale Long** – Michelle Jordan and Dale Long reviewed the 3 remaining issues including: the term of the contract being 2 years with the option to auto-renew, sub-contracting language clarification, and the pay scale

RECREATION REPORT: Timothy Garner baseball registration is now closed, we have (3) T-ball teams, (1) 7/8 baseball team, (2) 9/10 baseball, (1) 11/12 baseball, (1) 7/8 softball, (1) 9/10 softball, and (1) 11/12 softball; the route for the “Shamrock” color run has already been approved, we have some background checks that have come back “flagged” opening day will be 4/4, football and cheer registration is now open Brian and Timothy will work out an agreement for Shady Grove and the Football Field; **Shaina Prevatt** we have changed the next travel ball tournament from 5/16 to 4/18 the flyer was provided to Council, the Easter Egg Hunt will be the Saturday before Easter, we are also trying to get Summer Soccer up and running; **Joey Brock** I still have not heard from anyone about the lights, on opening day we will be dedicating the softball field behind City Hall to Mack Alford

3. **Quotes for Recreation pole barn enclosure** – we have only received two quotes for the pole barn, Joey called and spoke with John of J & S Services Unlimited LLC who stated that he would not be making any money off this project, he has one laborer that he will be paying,

Joey asked how much to completely enclose the barn including the exposed soffits an additional \$300.00 to the originally quoted price bringing the total to \$3500.00 which will be added to the next agenda

4. **Qualification results** – per the City Clerk, we only had one packet turned in for Council, Ms. Laura Brewer will be our next Council member, we had two packets turned in for Mayor, upon further review only one candidate qualified, so our new Mayor will be Candice Hodges, so we will not need an election, we still need to clean up the charter, the newest members will be seated at our next regular meeting on 3/16
5. **Sportsplex driveway** – Mr. Harris sent another letter which has been provided to the Council
6. **Letter to former clerk (attorney)** – Michelle asked for authorization to speak with former council members regarding their recollection of the issue of the “stipend” of insurance premium payments being made to herself as a paid benefit as no records have been found that authorized these payments at a council meeting as the two council members that have been seated for some time did not know about a vote for such payments
7. **Direct Deposits** – the City Clerk has provided all Council members and employees with a direct deposit form to complete and return, three employees have already submitted theirs
8. **CDGB Application Cycle – Fred Fox** – Fred Fox is not here; the City Clerk has provided paperwork from Fred Fox to review so that we can start working on our next CDBG grant; we need a CATF for the radio or satellite meters

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: **Martha Compton** with the Washington Panhandle Technical College has been working hard with the Garden Club to get their Gazebo built, she will be meeting with the building inspector, Dana Whipple, on Friday to review their plans, they have heavy equipment available if the Rec Dept needs help with the fields. **Rhonda Dickinson** the site plans have been drawn up thanks to Mr. Boyett

Tracy – Skylighters of Florida is feeling the effects of the Coronavirus since over 90% of all fireworks worldwide are provided by China so we can expect a 10-15% increase over last year’s prices, Vernon First Baptist Church has an issue with their meter, we are not sure what is going on with it as they do not currently have a leak but are showing over 24,000 gallons of water Joey asked that I review the bills for the past year and bring an adjustment (sewer only) to the meeting, the Health Dept and the Governor have declared a state of medical emergency due to the Coronavirus, Ms. Dickinson came in today and asked for an adjustment to her sister’s bill because she was moving then became sick and received \$6.25 in late fees

Gwendolyn – requested that the minutes and agendas be updated on the website as a citizen who cannot get out has reached out to her regarding this issue

With no further business to discuss, the Workshop was adjourned at 6:55 PM