

**WORKSHOP
CITY OF VERNON
DECEMBER 7, 2020
5:30 PM**

PRESENT – MAYOR: Candice Hodges; COUNCIL MEMBERS: Joey Brock, Gwendolyn March, Laura Brewer; Jeanie Shipes, Becky Baxley; CITY ATTORNEY: Michelle Jordan; CITY CLERK: Tracy Walker; DEPUTY CLERK: Michelle Cross; PUBLIC WORKS: Jason Rhoton, Chad Taylor, Taylor Davis; RECREATION DEPARTMENT: Timothy Garner; FIRE CHIEF: ShiQuan Green

Invocation – by Tracy Walker

Pledge of allegiance – recited by all

- 1. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION-Wreaths Across America** Larry Phippen 65-70 Veterans are buried at the Vernon Cemetery; 1st Sergeant Pickens described a little about this program, Vernon has 78 Veterans, Ebro has 48 Veterans buried; wreaths can be sponsored for \$15.00 or up to 5 for \$75.00; all wreaths have been sponsored for this year; we will be at the Vernon Cemetery on 12/19/20 (third Saturday of every December) around 11:00 for a ceremony
- 2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION-Larry Phippen – Cemetery and Grave Location Surveys** the cemetery committee has found a lot of unmarked graves; you all received a packet which for ground penetrating radar shows that it will cost \$4900.00 for the 2 acres out there; once the graves have been identified, the City needs to look at some sort of permanent markers; Joey asked the City Clerk to check on this for the City and add this to the next agenda
- 3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION-Audit review by Lee Steverson** Mr. Steverson presented the FYE 2019 audit to the Council and they plan to start the FYE 2020 audit in the next few weeks
- 4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION-Joyce Woodham – Hwy 79** the City of Vernon has an ordinance which states that there is a “quiet time” at 10:00; the construction is going on all through the night; Bonifay and Alabama have backed out of their contracts for this 4-lane; Anderson-Columbia has promised their employees a bonus if they can get through Vernon by Christmas; I want y’all to put our ordinance into play and enforce the 10:00 “quiet time”, I expect something to be done; Joey asked the City Clerk to pull the ordinance and provide it to the supervisor with Anderson-Columbia; Vernon will have to do something about their drainage because they put the holding pond up on the hill at the other end of Ferris Circle and when that fills up everything backs up onto my property
- 5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION-“Sandy” McQuincy – Christmas light contest** I would like to sponsor a “light show” from Ebro to Vernon for people to sign up for their houses to be judged; 1st prize \$500.00, 2nd prize \$250.00, 3rd prize \$150.00; no fee to enter this year, next year would be by donation; this area needs a Council on Aging; Joey asked Paul Goulding to put it on our website
- 6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION-Shaina Prevatt – USFA Tournament** thank you for allowing us to have the tournament in November, the fields were great; I am disappointed that there was not a lot of advertising for these events, I would like to host again; I would encourage some of

the funds to go directly to your rec director, Gwendolyn March stated that we already pay the rec director and USFA could pay him any extra that they would like; we are looking at 4 dates for 2021: 2/13, 3/13, 6/12, & 9/11; Joey asked that the City Clerk pull the Gulf Power bills to review at the next Workshop

- 7. 3717 Roche Ave – sewer back-ups** Chad Taylor described issues that have been going on at this address, as no issues were found on the City side, Davis Plumbing found that the sewer pipe is no longer connected to the sewer line so the sewage has been spilling into the ground; the owners of the property want us to adjust their sewer for the past year, the Council stated that we could not adjust their bill since it is on their side, so it is their responsibility
- 8. Fire Hydrant @ 3011 Main St** the owner of the property behind this hydrant has been caught washing his boat using the fire hydrant on several occasions; Jason has taken 3 hoses off of that hydrant; Candice said that she would be willing to speak with him and get him to stop, Joey stated that he has another hose hooked to it tonight, the Fire Chief asked that we not put a lock on the hydrant, the Council stated that the law needs to be called as we would do to someone who turns their meter back on, once again Candice asked if she could speak with him first to which the Council agreed
- 9. Code Enforcement review** are we going with the County or will we update and enforce our own code enforcement; Becky pointed out that this ordinance is 48 years old; Michelle stated that the County has a Code of Ordinances which has gone through the process of codification, Vernon needs to do this which will take about a year and \$20,000.00; we would need to adopt an ordinance adopting the County's regulations in order to have the County take over; we need to review this at the next workshop
- 10. Animal Control review** same as above

Jeanie Shipes thanked the Fire Chief; the Fire Department looks amazing

Candice Hodges Community Center (inside) needs to be painted; the lights on the stage because the breaker on the stage is broken; a lot of kids want to play basketball in the gym, we need lights (Timmy will look through the book that he just received to see if he can find lights) and the bathrooms need to be fixed, Timmy will take care of the bathrooms if we take care of the lift for the lights; Jason introduced Taylor Davis to the Council; Candice handed out Christmas (appreciation) bonuses

Tracy Walker ShiQuan Green provided us with a partial inventory, some of these items will have to be replaced next year about \$2K per person with 8 active members, Joey asked that we give the fire department a Christmas Bonus as well; we are looking at changing over to AT&T for our cell phones we cannot afford to lose our communications again

Jason Rhoton the Fire Department donated a truck to the Water/Sewer department, so we do not have to purchase a vehicle

Joey Brock the high school/middle school will be using the Sportsplex as long as their practice does not interfere with the Recreation sports

Timothy Garner the middle school has just announced that they have had to cancel the rest of their basketball season as one of their players has tested positive for COVID and the rest of the team has to be quarantined for 14 days, so we will be able to use their gym sooner than expected; our current numbers are 23 for ages 6-8, 13 for ages 9-11, and 1 for ages 12-14, but the boys and girls coaches have expressed interest in signing up at a discounted rate to cover our costs so they can get extra practice; Joey asked about the status of the mule but Timmy has not had a chance to check into it further; the tournament provided over \$1,000.00 to the City so I would like to encourage the City to approve more tournaments

WITH NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO DISCUSS, THE WORKSHOP WAS CLOSED AT 7:42 PM