

**WORKSHOP
CITY OF VERNON
JANUARY 4, 2021
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; PUBLIC WORKS: Jason Rhoton

Invocation – by Tracy Walker

Pledge of allegiance – recited by all

- 1. 3357 Yohn Ave – adjustment / line not hooked to City sewer** Paula Clanton and Paul Brewer requested a sewer adjustment from the time that they moved in until present \$372.12 is the adjustment that will be requested on the agenda the Roche Ave issue needs to be re-addressed at the meeting as well
- 2. City Property Deed / School Interlocal Agreement** the Clerk invited Joe Taylor and Brian Riviere; Michelle Jordan will reach out to the WCSB’s attorney to see if we can correct the deed
- 3. 2985 Main Street – sewer issue (grease)** Chad spoke about the on-going issues with the grease that is in the sewer line at this address; the clerk asked if we could charge the customer for repairs that must be made; Michelle Jordan suggested that this would tie-in to our later discussion of code enforcement as well
- 4. Cemetery budget** the Clerk stated that she has not had the time to dig further into the budget; the President also stated that he has not had a chance to gather any more information, he did measure the fence and asked Ms. Rhonda Dickinson if we could bring the fence on either side of that the big oak tree on the right side of the entrance to the cemetery; Michelle Jordan requested permission from the Council to proceed with title work based on the survey that has been performed, this will cost approximately \$200.00; Candice inquired about the alleyway that was between the cemetery and Circle H which the City closed all of the alleys and the property was to be divided between the landowners which would have been done by ordinance
- 5. Jimmy Cook’s contract** Candice asked if Jimmy was the only one performing the tasks at the plant or does he sub it out, Chris Hurst has been going in a lot these days, someone is there 6 days a week that holds a dual license, the filter system was down on Christmas Day so yes, we called Jason in; Joey asked Jimmy to revise his contract and bring it back to the Council for approval
- 6. IT Security – Timmy Garner of Holston IT / Garner IT** the attorney suggested anything that the City implements is good from a defensive standpoint and I asked that the clerk reach out to the insurance carrier to get their specifications, since there are none, you need an IT person to tell you what your system needs; the clerk provided the Council with a copy of an IT policy from another city that they implemented was forwarded by our insurance company; we ran a scan of your system and have seen where you are lacking in the basic standards of practice for IT security; the mayor questioned if we had this included in the budget, the clerk confirmed that the original quote was included in the FYE 2021 budget; the attorney and Timothy agreed that we would need a minimum of offsite back-ups, VPNs, firewalls, secure emails, etc. Chipley is

dealing with this right now due to an act of God. Laura inquired about the minimum bid requirements; Michelle stated that for this type of project, there is no cap, and it does not have to be bid out. The City can determine that Holston IT is a sole source for this service and can go ahead and hire them as a professional service. The total cost for the first year of service is under \$10,000.00 for onboarding and the monthly service. Becky asked how long this project would take, Timothy stated it would take about a month. Candice, Becky, and Joey asked that this be added to the agenda.

- 7. Code Enforcement / Animal Control review** Washington County's code enforcement is a book (literally); Michelle suggested that the City align with the County and let them take over both code enforcement and animal control; Jason has been receiving animal control calls from as far away as Ponce De Leon, all day and night; the Mayor also suggested that the County take over everything; this will be on the next agenda
- 8. Council Meeting 1/19/21** since Monday, 1/8 is a holiday, Martin Luther King Day, so our meeting is being moved to Tuesday, 1/19/21

Candice mentioned that there was supposed to be some FEMA funds for the fire department from Hurricane Michael, the clerk was unaware of any projects that were submitted.

Michelle brought up elections this year since no charter amendment has been passed; Candice stated that all seats are up except Laura's; Becky inquired how we would get back to the charter with 3/2 seats up every election for Council; Michelle suggested an ordinance in order to get back to the original intent of the charter for staggered elections

Tracy reached out to the finance department of the WCBC, per the attorney's suggestion, and was told Chipley was the only one that they had heard from regarding CARES Act funding, She said that she would reach out to Jason Gilmore of Wheeler Emergency Consulting and was told that funds were being held for the City of Vernon, when I asked for the total, she said \$50,000.00; we were originally told that \$122,000.00 was earmarked for the City of Vernon; I spoke with Jason and he stated that he had no idea where the \$50,000.00 came from, we still have \$122,000.00 set aside, he has a meeting scheduled with Tray Hawkins next week and is supposed to call me afterwards.

The Fire Department had 2 calls since the last meeting and a business meeting scheduled for tomorrow, the air packs are being tested this week, ShiQuan will turn in his quarterly report this week as well, he submitted a rough copy of an SOG related to emergency and non-emergency driving which he would like for you to review and approve at the meeting, he received a quote from BR Pressure Washing of \$800.00 to pressure wash the fire department, I suggested that he check with Michael Birge for an alternate quote.

Becky stated that a former employee told her that he had been mowing the fire department in order to help the City; I told him that it would probably be best to stay off of the fire department property that his services were not needed.

WITH NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO DISCUSS, THE WORKSHOP WAS CLOSED AT 6:59 PM