

# Workshop

**7/6/21 @ 5:31**

**PRESENT- MAYOR: Candice Hodges; COUNCIL MEMBERS: Rebecca Baxley, Joey Brock, Gwendolyn March, Chad Jackson, Laura Brewer; CITY ATTORNEY: Michelle Jordan; CITY CLERK: Tracy Walker; PUBLIC WORKS: Jason Rhoton; FIRE CHIEF: ShiQuan Green**

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER @ 5:31 PM BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT, REBECCA BAXLEY**

**Invocation** – by Tray Hawkins

**Pledge of allegiance** – recited by all

- 1. Savannah Fredrick (Kerry Brantley bill) – fall at City Hall** Kenneth Brantley was present to represent Ms. Fredrick, she is doing good and is staying at her daughter's. Mr. Brantley expressed that the family would like the city to replace the drop box back at the curb. Council will vote on that at the next meeting.
- 2. Kalan Miller- Not present**
- 3. Linda Wilson – water bill – Not present**
- 4. Annette Weeks & Tamara Taylor fall festival / Haunted Hallway** requesting to have harvest/festival, they are not quite sure what they are going to do it is still in the planning stages. Also requesting to use the Community Center in September at no charge since they are non-profit. Council agreed that there was no problem with the use of the Community Center. Also, to have the TDC advertise for them.
- 5. Foundation – Michelle Cross** called 4 foundation companies to which Ram Jack and Alpha foundations were the only 2 that service this area. Michelle presented bids from Ram Jack and Alpha Foundations on the stabilizing and jacking up of the City Hall foundation. Ram Jack did not turn in a bid due to wanting the city to replace the wood and have a termite inspection first. Alpha Foundations sisters the existing beams with steel beams therefore being able to give us a bid of \$18724.26. Council asked the Clerk to check into ARPA funding. Also, council asked the Deputy Clerk to check with Alpha Foundations to see if with a 20% deposit they were willing to hold that price until October when the new budget is set.

- 6. Sewer adjustment for Mary Porteus** Ms. Porteus has been charged sewer since 2018, yet she has a septic tank and is not connected to the City's sewer system. The Clerk has figured a \$1646.03 adjustment is due her. When her account was set up by the previous Deputy Clerk, it was put in the system as having sewer. Ms. Porteus came by the office the other day and happened to mention the fact she was paying for sewer when she uses a septic tank. After checking the system, her deposit amount had been adjusted but the previous deputy clerk never changed the account to remove the monthly sewer charge. Item will be added to the agenda of the next meeting.
- 7. Rec Dept building** the old science lab floor has been flooded, not sure how it got turned on, but the Rec director found that the water was running in the building therefore flooding the floor, ruining it. Council suggests checking to see if insurance will cover cost to replace the floor. While on the subject of Rec. Ms. Baxley suggest that since the fireworks were so good to put on the next agenda or workshop to see about reserving the same company for next year.
- 8. Vendor ACH payments** the Clerk ran a report on all our vendors, in which 93% would be willing to take ACH payments. Council is still not in favor of this purchase.
- 9. Review quotes to remove trees from ROW on Spoolmill** there are 2 different quotes. First, we have the pine trees, and the second is for a couple of oak trees, added together it is a total of \$1900 to have them removed. Item moved to be bid out to other vendors. And the City could work on getting a procurement policy for cases of emergencies where a solution is needed right away because of a danger of personal or property damage. The mayor suggests for council to ride by and look at the trees in question before deciding. Mr. Brock mentioned while on the subject of dead trees, that there is one at Shady Grove Park that is dead and at risk of falling on the New Historical marker. The mayor requested of the City Attorney to get together a Procurement Policy to be voted on at the next meeting.
- 10. Combining Banks / debit cards** combining the bank accounts will be tabled until the attorney has a chance to check on the CD accounts. The Clerk also is requesting to get a debit card for the Rec. Dept. and for the Fire dept. from the checking accounts that way they will have them to make their purchases instead of using the City's credit card and having to call in

the middle of the night and weekends to get the city's credit card or using their own and the city having to cut checks to reimburse them. Council agreed that it would be a good idea.

- 11. Correct W/S Security Deposit balance** council requested a letter from the auditors stating that we need to move the overage from the deposit fund to the water sewer fund.
- 12. Community Center painting bids** Ancil Bryant's bid for \$8700 is to be put on the agenda for the next meeting.
- 13. Employee pay rates** after a long, heated discussion raises for the office staff was tabled until the budget is set in October. The council president stated that the retro pay will go back to when the raises were first discussed by the office staff which was 6/21/21.
- 14. Council president (added)** advised she contacted Skylighters about why they cancelled the fireworks, she stated she talked to a John Casse who in turn told her that the Ms. Walker had not reached out to them after she mailed the deposit check. The first time he heard from her was about three weeks ago about the same time the Clerk called me. Then Ms. Walker responded that the statement was false, and she is more than willing to supply the email where she reached out to Skylighters to see if they had received the check, to which they returned the call the very next day.

**Laura Brewer:** advised the council that due to her health she may have to resign. She is not sure how long she can continue to serve at full capacity. At this time, she will fill her role, but if unable, she will resign, and council can call for a special election to fill her spot.

**Joey Brock:** Has invoice for materials he bought for the July Celebration that he needs reimbursed for. Second, he needs the Council to adjust his water bill, he had 5 leaks and the leaks are now repaired. Council agreed to reimburse and adjust his water bill. Update on the sign for James Boswell for the Fire Dept. it is still in the works and will advise when complete.

**Rebecca Baxley:** Asked the City attorney what is the procedure for writing up the City Clerk. The Attorney stated that just like she had explained to the mayor that it would have to be done in a public meeting.

**Chad Jackson:** questioned Michelle Jordan on the way she responded to the email that the clerk had sent her and did not respond to the council or

mayor. The attorney said all she did is provide the city with the information that cases like this are hard to defend.

**Tray Hawkins:** would like the issue of Broadband put on the agenda for the next meeting, July 19<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm.

**Timothy Gardner:** requested \$1240 for baseball softball awards ceremony. Council agrees and has no problem with the expenditure. Also, Rec Dept. would like to hold a Miss Vernon pageant in September. Council sees no problem with having a Miss Vernon pageant in September.

**With no further business to discuss, the workshop was adjourned at 7:38PM**