

City of Vernon Special Meeting & Workshop

11/15/21 @ 5:30 PM

PRESENT – MAYOR: Candice Hodges; **COUNCIL MEMBERS:** Rebecca Baxley, Gwendolyn March, Joey Brock; **CITY ATTORNEY:** Michelle Jordan; **CITY CLERK:** Tracy Walker; **PUBLIC WORKS:** Jason Rhoton; **LATE Chad Jackson;** **NOT PRESENT - COUNCIL:** Laura Brewer; **FIRE CHIEF:** ShiQuan Green **RECREATION:** Timothy Garner

Council President Baxley called the meeting to order at 5:31 PM

Invocation – by Candice Hodges

Pledge of allegiance – recited by all

Special Meeting:

1. **Public Hearing (1st Reading) Ordinance 22-230 Utility Service Tax**, Council President Baxley read the summary of the ordinance; questions from the public were answered; a motion to approve Ordinance 22-230 was made by Joey Brock which received a seconded from Gwendolyn March; motion passes with all in favor.
2. **Public Hearing (1st Reading) Ordinance 22-231 FLUM change; HSC Vernon, LLC 3306 Sapp Ave – Dollar General** Council President Baxley read the summary of the ordinance; questions from the public were answered. A motion to approve Ordinance 22-231 was made by Gwendolyn March which received a second from Joey Brock; motion passes with all in favor.

The Public Hearing was closed and Workshop was opened at 5:37 PM

Workshop:

1. **Check Presentation to VHS Project Graduation**, the Mayor presented a check to seniors Zarah Dernbach and Kenny Vaughn.

- 2. Review Family Dollar Tree Store plans and variance requests** Ms. McDonald from the Washington County Planning Board went over some variances and special conditions in reference to the Family Dollar Tree, which is looking to come to Vernon, also present was a planning engineer from Family Dollar Tree, the Washington County Planner and Engineer answered questions from the public; item on meeting agenda following the workshop.
- 3. Grace Assembly's request for room at City Hall for food bank** Mr. Chris Smith advised the council that the room #1 that had been offered to him would work just fine; item on meeting agenda following the workshop.
- 4. Foster Folly News 9/3/21 article – The Goulding Agency Removed per Council President**
- 5. Customers/Council calling public works and street dept Removed per Council President**
- 6. Plant auger – Jason Removed per Public Works Director**
- 7. Grant for Gym – roof (Timothy Garner/Tracy Walker)** following a brief discussion, the City Attorney advised to have Mr. Fox come to the next meeting to ensure there is no conflict as far as using another grant writer.
- 8. Christmas Bazaar / parade (12/11/21)** – Candice thought it would be nice to have the Parade at night and Santa and the Bazaar before so that lights could be used on the floats. Agreeing to the timeline 3-5PM for the Bazaar and Santa then start the parade at 5:30PM; item on meeting agenda following workshop.
- 9. Community Center Entry Door – Candice** the door and locking mechanism needs to be replace. The lock about falls out when it is opened. Following a brief discussion, the deputy clerk will seek estimates to replace door and locks.
- 10. Garbage only accounts** some accounts are not being paid monthly. Following a brief discussion, all accounts that are not paid by 5PM on the 20th, Waste Management is to be contacted and not pick up trash until account is paid in full.
- 11. City Square update** Environmental Remediation Services will be working at the Town Square Nov. 22nd-23rd.
- 12. 2022 Election Cycle** there will be Primary elections August 19th-24th, 2022 and General November 4th-9th, 2022. Following a brief discussion, instead of paying overtime, a key and temporary passcode would be given to the election's office.
- 13. Special Meeting (Public Hearings – 2nd readings) Ordinances 22-230 and 22-231 set for 11/29/21 – Mayor to call for Special Meeting.** The mayor calls for a special meeting for 5:30PM 11/29/21 for 2nd reading of Ordinance numbers 22-230 and 22-231, first read during tonight's special meeting.
- 14. Review Tech Eagles (formerly Holston and Garner IT) quote** this is to add firewall protection for Jason's and Chief Greens' laptops and Wi-Fi for the fire department. After reviewing the quote, the council decided to table the item

until they can discuss with the fire chief the types of information kept on his laptop.

15. 3496 Spoolmill Rd – Westry camper (Jason) we have someone living in a camper that has been hooked up to a water hose and they have been driving the camper over to the house and dumping the camper’s sewer tank into the clean out at the house; the City Clerk will contact the County’s code enforcement and send a letter and a copy of our ordinance to the resident.

16. Engineering packets for CDBG (please complete ranking sheet for each firm) item tabled until the 11/29 special meeting.

17. Allegations against City Clerk removed per Council President.

Council President Baxley asked for a motion to adjourn, council member Joey Brock spoke up and addressed that he has always remembered the workshop being open for each member of council, the clerk, attorney and anyone from the public being able to address issues. A citizen spoke up and addressed the allegations that were made against the clerk and spoke highly on how helpful the clerk was when she had first moved to the area in helping her find contacts for contractors, etc. and did not understand why they would accuse the clerk of something without checking it out first. After the citizens statement, Ms. Walker was allowed to address the allegations made towards her; the clerk read a prepared statement.

Council President Baxley asked for a motion to adjourn, Council Member Gwendolyn March addressed the Council regarding Lonnie Andrews using the Community Center again this year for the Annual Community Thanksgiving Day Dinner; all council members agreed that it would be fine.

ADJOURNMENT with no further business to discuss, Council President Baxley asked for a motion to adjourn, motion made by Gwendolyn March and received a second from Joey Brock; the meeting adjourned at 7:10 PM with all in favor.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – ANYONE WHO DESIRES TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL MUST SIGN IN WITH THE CITY CLERK PRIOR TO THE MEETING STARTING AND PROVIDE THE TOPIC FOR DISCUSSION. THERE IS A TIME LIMIT OF FIVE (5) MINUTES. NO VERBATIM RECORD BY A CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER IS MADE OF THESE PROCEEDINGS. ACCORDINGLY, ANY PERSON WHO MAY SEEK TO APPEAL ANY DECISION INVOLVING THE MATTERS NOTICED HEREIN WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING A VERBATIM RECORD OF THE TESTIMONY AND EVIDENCE AT THESE PROCEEDINGS UPON WHICH ANY APPEAL IS TO BE BASED (SEE SECTION 286.0105, FLORIDA STATUTES SUBMIT ALL REQUESTS VIA EMAIL TO CLERK@VERNONFL.COM. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT AND SECTION 286.26, FLORIDA STATUTES, PERSONS NEEDING A SPECIAL ACCOMMODATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROCEEDING SHOULD CONTACT THE CITY CLERK OFFICE AT 850-535-2444 FORTY-EIGHT (48) HOURS IN ADVANCE OF THIS PROCEEDING.