

MONTICELLO CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
August 10, 2021
MINUTES
6:00 P.M.

Members Present – Mayor Bryan Standifer, Mayor Pro Tem Gail Harrell, Councilmembers David Wease, Cynthia Miller, Jennifer Murphy, and Larry Thurman were present.

Staff Present – City Manager Angela Redding and City Clerk Karen Pennamon were present.

Media Present – Kathy Mudd - The Monticello News

Called Session – Mayor Bryan Standifer called the meeting to order. The Invocation was given by Councilmember Wease, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. City Clerk Karen Pennamon called the roll.

Agenda Approval – Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Harrell to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Councilmember Miller. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

Citizen Comments:

Wanda Cummings – stated she would like for the City Council to postpone voting on the new Water Service Delivery Map until each entity could look at particulars and make sure that it is the best map for all citizens. She said some questions are unanswered and she wants to meet to go over the guidelines.

Ken McMichael – requested a copy of the Service Delivery Strategy Map. He provided feedback on his conversation with Bill Pruitt at the Georgia Environmental Protection Division regarding wells at Mine Lake.

Craig Lashley – stated the sidewalks in front of his business at 260 West Washington Street are in disrepair and asked when the issue would be addressed.

David Thompson – stated he would like to see all of the Economic Recovery Stimulus Funds spent on the City's infrastructure. Mr. Thompson noted that citizens would like digital radars in the city limits to help slow traffic. He informed the City Council of several properties that he felt needed to be maintained.

Patricia Finger – a representative from the Concerned Citizens of Monticello discussed utility rates with the City Council.

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Downtown Development Authority – Michele Celani, Executive Director reported on the Downtown Development Authority’s upcoming events. Ms. Celani stated they had a busy month with downtown live events which included the Welcome Mural celebration, Art Alley opening, and the first movie night on the Square. Mayor Pro Tem Gail Harrell donated to the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) to assist with the purchase of equipment for the Movie Night. Northeast Georgia Regional Commission (NEGRC) WorkForce Development interns, Marlene Torres and Sam’yah Harris will attend a presentation at Jasper County High School for the Operation Round Up Grant they wrote to fund the purchase of 2 nine-slot bike racks. The Downtown Development Authority (DDA) is researching and formulating a plan for the removal and placement of trees on the square. Ms. Celani noted State Representative Susan Holmes is partnering with the Downtown Development Authority to select the placement trees. DDA Authority Board elected to award two \$500.00 scholarships to graduating seniors in the Spring. This scholarship is open to Youth Advisory Council members, work program students, or Downtown Development Authority volunteers. City Councilmember Cynthia Miller donated the funds for the first year’s scholarships. The DDA Authority Board voted to establish a new advisory Senior Advisory Group to advise the Downtown Development Authority on issues relating to senior citizens. The Northeast Georgia Regional Commission is working on a map of parking, and traffic recommendations which should be available in a few weeks. The DDA will meet on August 12, 2021, at 6:30 p.m. at 234 Forsyth Street to discuss the Funderburg Mural project. DDA is pursuing a \$10,000 grant to implement a Heart and Soul program for the City of Monticello. Ms. Celani noted the Downtown Development Authority attended the Jasper County Resource Fair and looks forward to participating with them in future events.

Historic Preservation Commission – David Thompson, Chairman, stated the Historic Preservation Commission approved a Certificate of Appropriateness for a sign at the Tin Hut Restaurant at 187 Madison Highway.

Chamber of Commerce – Mandi Tanner, Director reported on Chamber of Commerce’s events. She stated the Chamber of Commerce’s membership is growing weekly and they had three ribbon-cuttings in July, which have all been in the city limits. The Chamber of Commerce submitted a park reservation application to the City Council for JC Travel Sports who is requesting to reserve Sands Drive Park on September 5, 2021. The Market on the Square is still running strong. The Jasper County Charter System partnered with the Chamber of Commerce for a back-to-school resource fair in which sixty-one vendors participated. Mrs. Tanner noted visitors are stopping in daily, and the average visitor count is eighteen.

Presentation by SAM Retail, LLC – Adam McGinnis – Mr. McGinnis gave a presentation to the City Council regarding the Old Hardees’ Building at 552 Forsyth Street. He stated this property has been vacant since 2003 and a prospective buyer has submitted two proposals for the property. One proposal includes the City of Monticello’s Gas Department building, and the other proposal does not. He stated if they can purchase the gas building from the City, they can construct a convenience store and two retail stores on the property. Mr. McGinnis noted the property is zoned CC

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Community Commercial District and requires a conditional use for a gasoline service station. The buyer is applying for a conditional use with the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Approval of Minutes – Mayor Pro Tem Harrell made a motion to approve the following minutes: Regular Meeting of Mayor and Council – July 13, 2021, and Work Session of Mayor and Council – July 27, 2021, seconded by Councilmember Miller. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

Agenda Items

1. Employee Recognition – Michael Boykin (30 Years) and Karl Lane (10 Years). The Mayor and City Council recognized Mike Boykin and Karl Lane for their dedicated service to the City of Monticello.
2. Consider Re-Appointment to the Jasper County Library

Background and Summary:

A request was received from the Azalea Regional Library System to re-appoint John Stork to the Jasper County Library. The term will be for an additional six-year term, starting July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2027. Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Harrell to approve the re-appointment of John Stork for a six-year term to the Jasper County Library Board, seconded by Councilmember Murphy. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

3. Consider Historic Preservation Guidelines

Background and Summary:

A request was received by the Historic Preservation Commission to consider and approve the revised Historic Preservation District guidelines for outbuildings. Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Harrell to accept the changes made to the Historic Preservation Commission Guidelines, seconded by Councilmember Murphy. Voting for the motion passed 4-1, with Councilmember Wease against.

4. Consider Water Territorial Map – Update to the Service Delivery Strategy

Background and Summary:

This agenda item is an update to the Water Territorial Map in the Service Delivery Strategy to account for all water lines and potential service areas for all entities. Motion by Councilmember Thurman to move forward with the update to the Water Territorial Map in the Service Delivery Strategy, seconded by Councilmember Miller. Voting for the motion passed 4-1 with Councilmember Murphy against.

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5. Consider Fringe Benefits – Councilmember Cynthia Miller. Motion by Councilmember Miller to move forward with fringe benefits for medical insurance. Motion failed for lack of a second.
6. Trees on the Square Update – Councilmember David Wease. Councilmember Wease discussed City sidewalk safety hazards. City Council consensus is to fix the safety hazards by issuing a Request for Proposal (RFP) and address the tree issues at their September Regular Meeting.
7. Utility Discussion – Councilmember David Wease. Motion by Councilmember Wease for a \$100.00 reduction in utility bills to come out of the Blockstream account in next month’s billing cycle. Motion failed for lack of a second.
8. Discussion of Placing the Ten Commandments in the Council Chamber – Mayor Pro Tem Gail Harrell. Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Harrell to place the Ten Commandment display in the government building with private donations, seconded by Councilmember Wease. Voting for the motion passed 3-2 with Councilmember Miller and Thurman abstaining.
9. Consider Award of Janitorial Services Contract. Motion by Councilmember Murphy to award the Janitorial Services Contract to Wildfire Industries for two years, seconded by Councilmember Miller. Voting for the motion was unanimous.
10. Consider Reservation for Sands Drive Park

Background and Summary:

JC Travel Sports is requesting approval to reserve Sands Drive Park on September 5, 2021, from 11:00 am to 9:00 pm for a Fundraiser and Family Day for the community. Activities include a small car show for kids, bouncy houses, water slides, horseshoe tournaments, performances for senior citizens, and vendors. Motion by Councilmember Murphy to approve the park reservation, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Harrell. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

11. City Manager’s Report

The Downtown Development Authority has received approval for use of the City Square on the following days: August 19, 2021, September 16, 2021, October 21, 2021, November 18, 2021, and December 16, 2021, for their downtown events on the Square.

New pedestrian signs have been placed at the crosswalks at the hospital due to a major construction project there.

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Election qualifying begins next week for three seats on the Council. Qualifying begins Monday, August 16, 2021, and ends on August 19, 2021, at noon.

City Manager Redding asks for approval for December 31st as a holiday for New Year's. Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Harrell for approval of the request, seconded by Councilmember Wease. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

Update on Code Enforcement – Code Enforcement mailed out 110 letters to City residents. This is a lengthy process, but progress is being made.

11. Executive Session for Personnel, Litigation or Real Estate – Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Harrell to enter executive session at 7:33 p.m. to consult legal counsel about real estate, seconded by Councilmember Murphy. Voting for the motion was unanimous. Motion to exit executive session at 7:38 p.m. and enter regular session made by Councilmember Murphy, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Harrell. Voting for the motion was unanimous. No action was taken in the Executive Session.

12. Comments by the Governing Body

Mayor Standifer thanked the City Council for their work in the community.

Mayor Pro Tem Harrell had no comment.

Councilmember Wease stated stay cool and hydrated.

Councilmember Miller had no comment.

Councilmember Murphy had no comment.

Councilmember Thurman had no comment.

13. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

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