

**MONTICELLO CITY COUNCIL**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**August 11, 2020**  
**MINUTES**  
**6:00 P.M.**

**Members Present** – Mayor Bryan Standifer, 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

**Media Present** – Susan Jacobs - The Monticello News

**Called Session** – Mayor Brian Standifer called the meeting to order. The Invocation was given by Reverend William Gibson, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. City Clerk Karen Pennamon called the roll. Also present were Attorney Joe Reitman, Jasper County Manager Mike Benton, Director Jasper County Development Authority David Dyer, and Chairman Downtown Development Authority Michele Celani.

**Agenda Approval** – Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Gail Harrell to remove Item 14 – Executive Session from the agenda. Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Harrell to approve the amended agenda, seconded by Councilmember Murphy. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

**Citizen Comments**

**Adam McGinnis** – request that the City Council consider reducing the commercial utility rates to coincide with the residential rates. He stated the City of Monticello has approximately 1,100 meters and generates \$1.1 million in revenue from these meters. Mr. McGinnis questioned how several businesses have bills ranging from \$1400 – \$2,220 per month when a house built in 1969 only pays \$700 per month. Mayor Standifer stated the City Council is discussing utility rates in an upcoming work session.

Reverend William Gibson – stated he had concerns regarding the safety of citizens utilizing Funderburg Park. Several areas in the park need concrete repairs. Reverend Gibson said that a colleague from Clayton State University commended the artwork displayed on its windows of City Hall.

**DDA – Michele Celani** – Executive Director – stated she appreciates the City Council for the opportunity to serve on the Downtown Development Authority. Mrs. Celani said her background is in education, but she is passionate about history. She recently assisted the Smithsonian Institution with an exhibit in Monticello. Mrs. Celani stated the DDA’s purpose is the following: initiate economic revitalization through creative space making, create a “sense of place”, display a tangible representation of our cultural heritage, encourage visitors to stop and explore our community and,

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increase foot traffic and visitor interaction in the central business district. The Art Alley and Four Corners Art Project are two projects that they are in the process of implementing. The Downtown Development Authority is applying for a \$5000 Vibrant Communities Grant from the Georgia Council of the Arts, which requires a 50% match. She requested City Council to donate the funds needed for the grant match due by August 28, 2020. Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Harrell to approve the Vibrant Communities Grant match of 50% (\$2,500), seconded by Councilmember Thurman. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

**Approval of Minutes** - Motion by Councilmember Wease to approve the following minutes: Called Meeting July 2, 2020, Regular Meeting July 14, 2020, Called Meeting July 20, 2020, Joint Work Session July 27, 2020, seconded by Councilmember Mayor Pro Tem Harrell. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

**Public Hearing** – Public Hearing to receive comments on a zoning map amendment at 825 Eatonton Street from Residential R-20 (Residential District) to IO (Institutional Office District). The parcel is shown on the tax map M05D Parcel 114. City Manager Angela Redding informed the Council that the Planning and Zoning Commission felt that for the best interest of the community, their recommendation for the zoning map amendment at 825 Eatonton Street is for IO - Institutional Office District. City Attorney Joe Reitman stated that he had reviewed the application for a zoning map amendment and agreed that the site is appropriate for the institutional use requested. David Dyer, Director of the Jasper County Development Authority, explained that the hospice center on the property is a permitted use in a residential district and the IO zoning classification would be a better fit for this property. The Board of Health currently occupies this building. He stated the Development Authority agrees with the Planning & Zoning Commission’s recommendation. No one spoke in opposition to this request.

### **Agenda Items**

1. Request to consider rezoning property located at 825 Eatonton Street to Institutional-Office (IO). Motion by Councilmember Wease to approve the request, seconded by Councilmember Thurman. Voting for the motion was unanimous.
2. Request to consider new On-Premises Consumption of Alcohol License for liquor from Judy Hunsucker, Reese Hall, 421 East Greene Street, no exceptions noted. Motion by Councilmember Murphy to approve the request, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Harrell. Voting for the motion was unanimous.
3. Request to consider a Resolution by the City Council of Monticello expressing support for an Intergovernmental Agreement with Jasper County, Georgia for the provision of Code Enforcement services in the City of Monticello, Georgia. Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Harrell to approve the Resolution, seconded by Councilmember Wease. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

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4. Request to ratify the Second Amendment to the Intergovernmental Agreement with Blockstream. Motion by Councilmember Wease to approve the Second Amendment to the IGA with Blockstream, seconded by Councilmember Thurman. Voting for the motion was unanimous.
5. Request to consider an Ordinance by the City Council of Monticello approving an Amendment to the Gas Supply Contract and Supplemental Contract between the Municipal Gas Authority and City of Monticello, Georgia, and for other purposes. Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Harrell to approve the Ordinance, seconded by Councilmember Murphy. Voting for the motion was unanimous.
6. Request to consider a Resolution by Mayor and City Council of Monticello, Georgia, to accept 30% Phase I funding from the Office of the Governor of the State of Georgia via the United States Department of Treasury. Motion by Councilmember Murphy to approve the Resolution, seconded by Councilmember Wease. Voting for the motion was unanimous.
7. Request to consider a Resolution by the City Council of the City of Monticello declaring certain city property, listed on "Exhibit A," to be surplus property and to provide for its proper disposal either by auction or other methods pursuant to the City's ordinances; and for other purposes. Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Harrell to approve the Resolution, seconded by Councilmember Wease. Voting for the motion was unanimous.
8. Request to consider a Resolution to amend the 2020-2021 Operating Budget to appropriate funds to cover costs in the Electric Department; providing for severability; repealing inconsistent resolutions; providing for an effective date; and for other purposes. City Manager Angela Redding informed Council that when the budget line items were entered into the accounting system by City Hall Staff, the spreadsheet formula excluded salaries and overtime for the Electric Department. Adjustments were made to cover the \$265,750.00 deficit, but in order to close the accounting system, a budget amendment must be approved by the City Council. Mayor Standifer praised Mrs. Redding for finding the discrepancy and bringing it to their attention. He stated that a budget meeting and retreat are scheduled for City Council in September. Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Harrell to approve the Resolution, seconded by Councilmember Miller. Voting for the motion was unanimous.
9. Request to consider approval to share cost associated with paving College Street within the city limits with the County. Mayor Standifer stated that the project area is from Susan Holmes's property to Middle School. City Manager Angela Redding stated that the cost of the project is \$112,927.35 plus/minus for contingency. This item will be on the amended budget. Councilmember Cynthia Miller asked how long the road project was. Jasper County Manager Mike Benton replied 0.56 miles, which

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includes the incorporated area and the bridge. Mr. Benton stated that the contract is contingent on the City Council's approval of the 50-50 split. Motion by Councilmember Thurman to approve the request, seconded by Councilmember Wease. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

10. Request to ratify purchase of air conditioner on the third floor of City Hall (\$6,500). Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Harrell to approve to ratify the purchase of air conditioner, seconded by Councilmember Thurman. Voting for the motion was unanimous.
11. Discussion of LMIG for Funderburg Drive. City Manager Angela Redding informed Council that Funderburg Drive must be milled before it is paved. She stated that after she reviews the LMIG project funding, she will know what funds are available for the Funderburg project. Mrs. Redding noted that she would ensure that all street projects are handled the same way.
12. Selection of Names for the Ethics Board. The City Council provided the following candidates for consideration to the Ethics Board: Judy Hunsucker, Carole Norris, Wanda Cummings, Joyce Wallace, Charles Forsythe, Joseph Moore, Lillie Gotel, Camilla Goodrum, Doris Moore, and Warrdean Davis. A drawing was held to select the following individuals for the Ethics Board: Doris Moore, Charles Forsythe, Lillie Gotel, Joseph Moore, and Camilla Goodrum. City Attorney Reitman stated that training would be scheduled for the Ethics Board.
13. City Manager's Report – City Manager Angela Redding stated the Census Bureau has moved the date to complete the Census to September 30, 2020, from October 2020. She stated that as of Monday, the total Census completed in Georgia is 59.1%, and Monticello is 56.4%. She encouraged everyone to complete the Census Reports because it is 10/10/10/ - 10 questions, takes 10 minutes, and provides 10 years of funding.
14. Executive Session for Personnel, Litigation, Real Estate, and Legal Matters – N/A
15. Comments by the Governing Body  
**Mayor Standifer** thanked the Jasper County Manager Mike Benton for assisting with the City and County joint projects. He stated that a budget meeting and Council retreat are scheduled in September. He stated he is looking forward to the year 2021.  
**Mayor Pro Tem Harrell** stated she had attended several classes offered by the Georgia Municipal Association and the GMA online Convention. A Beautifying Monticello Letter is going to be included in the utility bill.  
**Councilmember Wease** encourages everyone to stay cool during these hot days.  
**Councilmember Miller** had no comments.

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**Councilmember Murphy** stated it was nice having a large crowd attend the City Council meeting. Everyone enjoyed the Market on the Square held on Saturday. **Councilmember Thurman** had no comments.

16. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

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