

**MONTICELLO CITY COUNCIL**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**December 8, 2020**  
**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

**Media Present** – Kathy Mudd - The Monticello News

**Called Session** – Mayor Bryan 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.

**Agenda Approval** – Motion by Councilmember Wease to remove Item #10 – Executive Session from the agenda. City Manager Redding informed the Council that the Downtown Development Authority requests to table Item #6 under Agenda Items. Mayor Standifer stated that City Attorney Joe Reitman requests to table Item #3 under the Agenda items to verify language in the Main Street Agreement with the Downtown Development Authority that may offset the Chamber of Commerce Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Mayor Pro Tem Harrell stated she would prefer to wait until the City Attorney has an opportunity to weigh in on the agreement. City Council decided to keep the item on the agenda. Motion by Councilmember Murphy to table the Mine Lake item until GIRMA has returned their report. The City Council consented to table the agenda item. Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Harrell to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Councilmember Wease. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

**Citizen Comments**

**Adam McGinnis** – Mr. McGinnis voiced his concerns about City utility rates. He stated that a meeting was supposed to be scheduled concerning the electrical rates. Mayor Standifer responded that a work session was held on the issue, but nothing had been finalized. Mr. McGinnis asked why the Council reversed the \$150,000.00 budget for Mine Lake and put it back into Mine Lake. Mayor Standifer stated that it was at the request of the City Council. Mr. McGinnis said he is under the impression that the Council is not fully aware of how the budget is padded and how it reflects an abuse of power and the income of money from Monticello's citizens. The citizens are not aware of how much money is made in the electrical department and how bad the salaries and overtime are not calculated correctly. Why are we still not going and fixing the problem and giving everyone a one-hundred-dollar credit?

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**Downtown Development Authority** – Michele Celani, Executive Director, gave an update on the Downtown Development Authority events. She informed the City Council that The Shoppes of Monticello has one hundred percent occupancy and generated \$1,121.61 for sales tax and over \$1,000.00 for business licenses for the City of Monticello. The Mural Steering Committee met on November 13, 2020, for the Funderburg Mural and compiled a list of people to be featured. Art Alley submissions from Jasper County High School students were submitted for City Council approval. She noted that the Downtown Development Authority had raised \$350.00 by raffles in support of the project. Mrs. Celani stated that the total contributions for a couple of art projects are \$6,514.66, with an additional \$3,773.00 in pledges. The Welcome Mural is scheduled for completion in March or April 2021. The Downtown Development Authority has two youth programs, the Youth Advisory Council and Young Entrepreneurs Program. There will be a new website and new branding for Downtown Development in 2021. Mrs. Celani stated she would like to comment on the Memorandum of Understanding for the Chamber of Commerce.

**Chamber of Commerce** – Brandi McMichael, Visitor’s Center Manager, stated she was excited to share that Mandi Tanner delivered baby Harrison on November 19, 2020, and they are doing well. The Chamber launched the Business and Citizen of the Year, and applications are available at the Chamber of Commerce and their website. Applications are due on December 30, 2020. Shop Small Saturday, Christmas Market on the Square, and Christmas on Venture was a huge success. Thank you to everyone who came out and supported our small businesses. The Chamber of Commerce has had 6,762 visitors so far this year.

**Approval of Minutes** - Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Harrell to approve the following minutes: Regular Meeting of Mayor and Council – November 10, 2020, seconded by Councilmember Murphy. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

Second reading to consider an Ordinance to amend and restate the Retirement Plan for the Employees of the City of Monticello in accordance with and subject to the terms and conditions set forth in the Adoption Agreement, and any Addendum to the Adoption Agreement, the Georgia Municipal Employee Benefit System (GMEBS) Master Plan Document, and the GMEBS Trust Agreement. Motion by Councilmember Miller to approve the second reading of the Ordinance to amend and restate the Retirement Plan for the Employees of the City of Monticello, seconded by Councilmember Murphy. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

### **Agenda Items**

1. Approval of 2021 Alcohol License Renewals
  - a. Hide a way Packaging - Package sales of alcohol, beer, wine, and malt beverages at 10 Towhee Street. No exceptions noted.
  - b. McMichael Packaging - Package sales of alcohol, beer, wine, and malt beverages at 158 Frobels Street. No exceptions noted.
  - c. Circle K Stores Inc. – Package sales of alcohol, beer, wine, and malt beverages at 1468 A. W. Washington Street. No exceptions noted.

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Motion by Councilmember Murphy to approve the 2021 Alcohol License Renewals, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Harrell. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

2. Consider the Reappointment of David Thompson and Tom Shekita to the Historic Preservation Commission

**Background and Summary:**

According to Sec. 34-28 of the Code of Ordinances, members of the Historic Preservation Commission are appointed by the Mayor and ratified by the City Council. Members shall serve three-year terms and may not serve more than two consecutive terms. David Thompson and Tom Shekita are in the last year of their first three-year term.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Harrell to ratify the reappointments of David Thompson and Tom Shekita to the Historic Preservation Commission, seconded by Councilmember Wease. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

3. Consider the Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Monticello and the Monticello-Jasper County Chamber of Commerce. Pam Mayer, former Director of the Chamber of Commerce, presented an amended Memorandum of Understanding requested by the City Council. Mrs. Mayer stated they added item #5, which refers to managing the Downtown Square and the City parks. Item #6 refers to managing the reservations for Westview Park, Funderburg Park, and Sands Drive Park. Michele Celani, Executive Director of the Downtown Development Authority, stated that the Downtown Development Authority of Monticello would like to go on the record in support of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Chamber of Commerce and the City of Monticello. Mrs. Celani provided the City Council with a D.D.A. Memorandum on the Use of the Monticello Square, which summarized the Downtown Development Authority's responsibilities. She stated that the Downtown Development Authority is requesting that the language currently utilized in the Chambers Community Event Form, Use of the Square Rules, and the Reservation Form be amended to remove the requirement that the Chamber of Commerce co-hosts all events. Mrs. Celani stated that this request for the Chamber to co-host all events on the City Square places is an unfair burden on the Chamber's budget, calendar, and personnel. She stated the Downtown Development Authority request the use of the City Square for one weekend per quarter in March, April, October, and December. The D.D.A. will submit its annual reservation request to the Chamber of Commerce on or before January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. Motion by Councilmember Wease to adopt the Memorandum of Understanding of the Chamber of Commerce with the new language, seconded by Councilmember Murphy. Councilmember Wease withdrew his motion. City Manager Redding stated that Attorney Reitman had mentioned that an events ordinance be approved with the MOU. Councilmember Wease amended his motion to accept the MOU as written with the addition of the DDA having priority use of the City Square

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one weekend during the months of March, April, and October, seconded by Councilmember Murphy. After a discussion as to why the month of December was not included in the motion, Councilmember Wease withdrew his motion. Councilmember Miller made a motion to accept the MOU that is on the table, seconded by Councilmember Wease. The motion passed 4-1, with Mayor Pro Tem Harrell voting against it.

4. Consider the Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Monticello and the Get Ahead House. Motion by Councilmember Thurman to approve the Memorandum of Understanding, seconded by Councilmember Murphy. Voting for the motion was unanimous. Councilmember Thurman had an emergency and had to leave the meeting.
  5. Approval of the proposed recreation use improvements for Mine Lake - TABLED
  6. DDA Presentation – Wendall Yoder - TABLED
  7. Discussion of Alcohol Law Changes 2020 -TABLED
  8. Consider a Resolution by Mayor and City Council of Monticello, Georgia for Rules of Meeting Procedures – TABLED until next regular meeting.
  9. Discussion of Ordinance to Amend Monticello Code for Taxes for Blighted Property – TABLED until next regular meeting.
  10. Consider artwork submitted by DDA for Art Alley – City Council will review the artwork submitted and return selections to the City Manager.
  11. City Manager’s Report – City Manager Redding's report included Conference Calls/Meetings, Funderburg Drive Project, Delinquent Property Tax Sale, MEAG Loan, Newton Federal CD, Sidewalk Project, 2021 Meeting and Holiday Schedules, Month End Account Balances.
10. Executive Session for Personnel, Litigation, Real Estate, and Legal Matters – N/A
  11. Comments by the Governing Body

Mayor Standifer stated Merry Christmas!

Mayor Pro Tem Harrell stated Merry Christmas!

Councilmember Wease congratulated Mayor Pro Tem Harrell for her first year serving on the City Council.

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Councilmember Miller had no comments.

Councilmember Murphy stated everyone stay warm and Merry Christmas!

12. Meeting adjourned at 7:40 P.M.

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