

MONTICELLO CITY COUNCIL

Work Session

Tuesday, February 15, 2021

MINUTES

6:00 P.M.

Members Present – Mayor Bryan Standifer, Mayor Pro Tem Gail Harrell, Councilmembers David Wease, Cynthia Miller, Jenny Murphy. Councilmember Larry Thurman was not present. Attorney Reitman was present.

Staff Present – City Manager Angela Redding and City Clerk Karen Pennamon

Media Present – Kathy Mudd - The Monticello News

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

Agenda Approval- Motion by Councilmember Wease to remove item 8 - Executive Session Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Harrell to approve the amended agenda, seconded by Councilmember Murphy. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

Agenda Items

5. Discussion – Streaming Council Meetings Via Facebook Live – City Manager Redding stated there had been a request to stream the meeting via Facebook Live. City Manager Redding stated the City has a tablet and a tripod, and the initial discussion was to have an employee stay to operate the equipment, which would require overtime. The City can purchase a piece of equipment that would automatically rotate 360-degree. Mayor Standifer stated having an employee work 2-3 hours will cost around \$60.00 compared to buying a piece of equipment which will be over that amount. Councilmember Miller suggested that the City Clerk do it because she will be streaming it and could get her notes from there. City Manager Redding said the only problem with that is if the clerk rotates the tablet, how would she take notes. Councilmember Miller stated she would be streaming it and could go back and get her notes from there. Mayor Pro Tem Harrell stated the Jasper County Commissioners has a person other than the County Clerk who handles their Facebook Live on a tablet. City Manager Redding said they would reach out to other city clerks to see how they operate. Attorney Reitman stated that Watkinsville uses Ring Central and has had problems with bandwidth. He said he likes to hear the audio more than video,

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but there will be a better audio-only success. Mayor Standifer stated the City Manager would investigate and bring her finding to City Council at the next meeting.

6. Discussion – Procedures, Rules and Regulations of Conduct – Attorney Reitman stated he had presented a short version of the resolution to the City Council, which is much more streamlined. It focuses on professionalism, keeping meetings cordial, having parameters for the Mayor and Council conduct, public conduct, time limits, etc. He said it all started with the time limits and deciding what is fair. Mayor Pro Tem Harrell stated she likes the layout, and it addresses the time limit. Councilmember Miller stated she disagrees with the language on page 3 of the resolution and feels like her rights are being taken away. Councilmember Murphy asked if they had to read the comment procedures for the public at each meeting. Attorney Reitman replied no. Councilmember Miller stated she could not be held responsible for how someone feels about what she says or how she handles herself accordingly because people will think what they think anyway. She has no problem with change because it is good, but if something has been working, why mess with it. Councilmember Miller noted she understood if you want to take one part and put something in there. If you rush to do something, it may be something that you miss. City Manager Redding stated that the Council needs to consider that some cities have a procedure in place for non-citizens and non-business owners. She said another item to consider is that under the comment procedures for the public, it mentions comments should be only directly related to agenda items. An additional item to consider is the overall time limit for the public comments. City Manager Redding stated the City Council could also include agenda items or other matters that the governing body has jurisdiction over. City Council consensus is to redline the resolution, forward it to the City Manager to compile it, and present it at the next meeting.

7. Discussion – Mine Lake Properties – Mayor Standifer and the City Council discussed Mine Lake. Mayor Pro Tem Harrell presented a proposal in favor of developing the Mine Lake Property. Councilmember Wease stated he would like to fish at Mine Lake and had not received any positive responses on walking and biking trails. He noted that Jasper County had issues in the past with its water supply. The City Council in place at the time had a vision for what would happen to the water in its community when they purchased Mine Lake. Councilmember Wease said he has the same vision. Councilmember Murphy stated she had received citizens' responses to work on the streets and infrastructure and not spend money on Mine Lake. A couple of citizens have said to sell the property. The water is good out there, but it must be treated. Councilmember Miller commented that the water had not been tested. She stated they could use some of the ideas that Mayor Pro Tem has or sell some of it, but

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she could not imagine selling it. Attorney Reitman stated that they would have to pay the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority, but he would confirm the process with them. Councilmember Miller recommended maintaining the water's rights within so many acres, and if they sell it, selling it at a profit, not a lot. Mayor Pro Tem Harrell said she agreed with keeping the water rights. City Manager Redding presented two options for consideration, 1) the State Economic Development Department is always looking for property for projects coming to Georgia. 2) A master developer will pay for the upfront cost and market the property. She said a master developer would have the option to purchase at a set price for their upfront cost. Mayor Standifer stated there is a lot of potential for the property, and they must have a long-term goal. He recommended that City Council take the next 30 days to contact master developers and then schedule a work session. City resident Adam McGinnis commented about the Stanton Springs land purchase and the cost of bringing the water into the City. City Council consensus is to start an exploratory committee with a master developer and take the next 30 days to explore all the options.

11. Comments by the Governing Body

Mayor Pro Tem Harrell had no comments.

Councilmember Wease stated, look out for ice in the morning.

Councilmember Miller had no comments.

Councilmember Murphy had no comments.

12. Adjournment - Meeting Adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

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