

MONTICELLO CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
July 14, 2020
MINUTES
6:00 P.M.

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

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

Media Present – Kathy Mudd - The Monticello News

Called Session – Mayor Pro Tem Harrell called the meeting to order. Reverend William Gibson, Springfield Baptist Church, offered the invocation. City Clerk, Karen Pennamon, called the roll.

Agenda Approval – Motion by City Manager Angela Redding to remove Item 12c – City Vehicle from City Manager Items. Motion by Councilmember Wease to approve the agenda with changes and seconded by Councilmember Murphy. All approved.

Citizen Comments – Adam McGinnis stated that he has concerns about the FY21 City of Monticello Budget and is also filing an ethics complaint on a councilmember for utilizing the Mine Lake property for personal use. Mr. McGinnis asked City Attorney, Joe Reitman, for clarification on the use of this property. Attorney Reitman informed him that according to the City Code of Ordinances, Section 2-157, a written sworn statement must be filed with the Mayor or Mayor Pro Tem to start the process for a complaint. He added that he could not comment on the issue.

Adam McGinnis stated he wants the City Council to reduce the utility rates for commercial properties because there is enough money in the Mine Lake and Contingency Funds to reduce these rates.

DDA – Judy Hunsucker – Chairman – The Downtown Development Authority has selected a part-time director but is waiting on a response from the candidate. The design committee has initiated an art project and will place murals downtown. Members of the DDA will have virtual training in August.

DeAngelo Norris – Monument on the Square – Attorney DeAngelo Norris discussed the relocation of the confederate monument in the City Square and offered several solutions for the removal. Mr. Norris thanked the Council for the opportunity to speak. Attorney Reitman stated he had spoken with Mr. Norris about the options and informed City Council of several options available concerning the monument:

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Phone 706-468-6062

FAX 706-468-1041

1. Asking the Attorney General for an opinion on the legality of the law prohibiting removal of Memorials / Monuments.
2. Forming a citizens committee, who among other things would also consider the legality of the law prohibiting removal of Memorials / Monuments.
3. Utilizing a declaratory judgment mechanism seeking a judicial determination on the legality of the law prohibiting removal of Memorials / Monuments.
4. Sell or gift the Monument site to a non-governmental entity such as a museum or historical society.
5. A community forum at some future date as Madison has considered.
6. Putting it out for a referendum.

Resolution – Blockstream – Motion by Councilmember Thurman to approve the Blockstream Resolution, seconded by Councilmember Murphy. All in favor.

GEFA Loan Agreement – Motion by Councilmember Wease to approve the GEFA Loan Agreement, seconded by Councilmember Thurman. All in favor.

Oath Code Amendment – 2nd Reading – Motion by Councilmember Murphy to approve the second reading of the Oath Code Amendment, seconded by Councilmember Wease. All in favor.

GIRMA Risk Control Site Visit to Mine Lake – GIRMA Risk Control will visit the Mine Lake property on July 27, 2020, at 9:00 a.m.

City Manager Items

- a. Janitorial Services Contract – City Manager's recommendation is to award the bid to Wildfire Industries, the lowest responsible bidder, with the once a week restroom option. Motion by Councilmember Murphy to award the janitorial services contract to Wildfire Industries, seconded by Councilmember Miller. All in favor.
- b. Electric Department Truck – Lease Agreement with GMA – City Manager stated that at the June 9, 2020, City Council meeting the governing body asked to look into a lease agreement with GMA for a new vehicle for the Electric Department. Funds were not appropriated for the truck and a new lease agreement would have to be processed and approved. Due to interest accruing, as soon as the funds are deposited for the lease, the recommendation was to purchase the vehicle from contingency funds. Motion by Councilmember Wease to approve transferring money from the contingency fund for the purchase of a 2020 Ford F-150 XLT for the Electric Department, seconded by Councilmember Thurman. All in favor.

Notices:

Called Meeting with Jasper County Commissioners on July 20, 2020, at 6:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers.

Reminder for Citizens to complete their Census Report

High School Graduation March – July 23, 2020, at 1:00 p.m. (Monticello Baptist Church to

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City Square)

Consent Agenda –

Motion by Councilmember Miller to approve the Consent Agendas for June 2020, seconded by Councilmember Murphy. All in favor.

Executive Session- Motion by Councilmember Miller, to enter Executive Session for a personnel matter at 7:10 p.m., seconded by Councilmember Wease. All in favor.

Motion by Councilmember Wease to exit Executive Session and return to regular session at 7:30 p.m., seconded by Councilmember Murphy. All in favor. No action taken in Executive Session.

Council Comments:

Mayor Pro Tem: Attended several classes offered by the Georgia Municipal Association and attended the GMA Convention offered online.

Wease: Encourages everyone to stay cool during these hot days.

Miller: None

Murphy: It was nice having a large crowd attend the meeting. Everyone enjoyed the Market on the Square on Saturday.

Thurman: None

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

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