

MONTICELLO CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
March 9, 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, 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 Mayor Pro Tem Harrell to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Councilmember Wease. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

Citizen Comments

Attorney Kristine Tarrer – addressed the City Council regarding Oak Ridge Subdivision and dedication of the roads.

Adam McGinnis – discussed the electrical rates with the City Council.

David Thompson - encourages the City Council to consider code enforcement and discussed speed enforcement. He noted the City calendar on the website is not updated, reflecting the City Council meetings. Mr. Thompson encourages the City Council to focus on branding for the City of Monticello.

Downtown Development Authority – Michele Celani, Executive Director, presented a handout to the City Council and an update on Downtown Development Authority events. The Downtown Development Authority had a Valentine’s Day promotion and plan to expand their holiday participation. They discussed a tour of homes and gardens, but they canceled the event until the Spring due to the lack of participants. Mrs. Celani stated the DDA hosted a Community Stakeholders Meeting on March 8, 2021, at the Jasper County High School Auditorium. Jasper County Nutrition Department provided the dinner. The event speakers were John Devine, NEGRC, Michelle Amara, SCB, and Dr. Tyson Hardy, JCHS Video Production. The Youth Advisory Council held its first work session on February 15, 2021. The Historic

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Preservation Commission approved the Four Corners Mural Project and Art Alley's public art projects. DDA is collaborating with the Historic Preservation Commission and Jasper County on the Watson Brown Historic Preservation Grant. The Downtown Development Authority's retreat is March 15, 2021.

Chamber of Commerce – Mandi Tanner, Executive Director - gave an update on the Chamber of Commerce events. The Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner is Wednesday, April 21, 2021, at Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center, Mansfield, Georgia. The tickets are \$30.00 per person. There are 150 reservations but only 75 spaces left. The Market on the Square begins on May 26, 2021.

Historic Preservation Commission – David Thompson, Chairman – signage was approved for the Downtown Development Authority's Four Corners Mural Project and Art Alley's Art Project. The Historic Preservation approved Certificates of Appropriateness for 1271 Forsyth Street and 898 College Street (Jasper Memorial Hospital). The Certificate of Appropriateness for 336 Forsyth Street was denied. There are four COA's under review.

Approval of Minutes - Mayor Pro Tem Harrell made a motion to approve the following minutes: Regular Meeting of Mayor and Council – March 9, 2021, seconded by Councilmember Thurman. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

Agenda Items

1. Consider Vendor for Website Hosting. City Manager Redding stated that Pam Mayer submitted a letter that she would no longer perform the duties of hosting the City of Monticello's website. She noted the City Council meetings are on the website. City Manager Redding stated she and the City Clerk conducted Zoom meetings with Granicus, Municode, and Civic Plus. They recommend Granicus to host the site based on performance, support, security, and ADA compliance. She noted they are all in the same price range, but one was cheaper but did not offer all the features needed for the website. Granicus has a five-year contract, and the fourth year the City would receive an \$8,000.00 credit to redesign the website. The price for Granicus over five years is \$24,740.50. City Manager Redding stated there would be five annual payments, and the first year the cost would be \$7,500.00. She noted if she remember correctly, Granicus could complete the project faster than the other companies. City Manager Redding stated they could budget each year for the website and the proposals will be provided to the City Council. It was the consensus of Mayor and Council to add this item to the April 13, 2021 agenda.
2. Consider Appointments to the Downtown Development Authority Board (DDA).

Background and Summary:

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This agenda item is to consider the appointment of Daniel Jeffries and Nanette Manning to the Downtown Development Authority. If appointed, Mr. Jeffries will assume the position immediately, and Mrs. Manning will assume the position on April 1, 2021. Mr. Jeffries's appointment is for the unexpired term of Amanda Edge, which expires June 9, 2024. Mrs. Manning's appointment is for the unexpired term of Virginia Spalter, which expires March 10, 2024.

Motion by Councilmember Murphy to appoint Daniel Jefferies and Nanette Manning to the Downtown Development Authority, seconded by Councilmember Wease. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

3. Discussion to Consider Increase to Retirement Benefits for Elected Officials. Mayor Standifer recommended increasing the Retirement Benefits from \$7.00 times per year of service to \$25.00 times per year of service for the Elected Officials effective immediately. He also recommended the following salary increases: Mayor - from \$900 to \$1,200 per month, Mayor Pro Tem – from \$650 to \$900 per month, and City Council from \$450 to \$750 per month. Mayor Standifer stated this information is based on a city the size of Monticello and the increases would begin the next election cycle. It was the consensus of Mayor and Council to add this item to the April 13, 2021 agenda.
4. Discussion to Outsource Code Enforcement Services. City Manager Redding stated the benefits of outsourcing code enforcement are you would have trained personnel who could hit the ground running, and the company would provide the software, equipment, and a vehicle, and if the code enforcement officer is out, they provide a replacement, versus hiring a person who may not have the training and providing benefits. Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Harrell for City Manager to move forward with placing code enforcement services out for bids, seconded by Councilmember Thurman. Voting for the motion was unanimous. Mayor Standifer stated the City Manager will vet the top three candidates.
5. Discussion to Add Sign on Blue Ruin Street in Memory of Officer Robert Lee Gotel. Mayor Standifer stated that Officer Gotel was killed on the job several years ago. Motion by Councilmember Murphy to approve adding a sign on Blue Ruin Street in Memory of Robert Lee Gotel, seconded by Councilmember Thurman. Voting for the motion was unanimous.
6. Discussion – Elections Superintendent. Mayor Standifer stated he would not be seeking reelection in 2021. City Manager Redding stated the City Council approved a Resolution in 2019 to change the Charter to allow for the Elections Superintendent to reside in Jasper County. She noted Councilmember Murphy obtained the newspaper notes regarding the Charter amendment. The City Clerk reached out to Representative Susan Holmes's staff person at the Capitol, and

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they provided information regarding a State law that would enable the City of Monticello to have an Elections Superintendent who resided in the incorporated Jasper County. The State Legislature also approved the Charter Amendment to allow the probate judge to serve as the Elections Superintendent. City Manager Redding stated the Probate Judge could serve as the Elections Superintendent in the November 2, 2021 General Election. The seats that are up in the November election are Mayor, District 1, Post 1, and District 2, Post 1.

7. Discussion – Request from Monticello Baptist Church - Abandonment of Road. City Manager Redding stated a motion was approved to abandon a portion of the road on Church Street that adjoins the Monticello Baptist Church property at the City Council meeting on March 10, 2020. She noted there was no follow-through in advertising it in the newspaper two weeks before a public hearing. We need to advertise the public hearing notice for two consecutive weeks and have a public hearing. It was the consensus of Mayor and City Council to advertise the road abandonment in the newspaper and schedule a public hearing on April 13, 2021.
8. Discussion – New Electric Building Programmed in 2018 SPLOST. City Manager Redding stated there are funds in the 2018 SPLOST for the new Electric Building. The location for the new building is next to the Jasper County Middle School on Post Road. She will forward the quotes she received to the Mayor and Council.

9. City Manager’s Report

Request for Proposal (RFP) – Audit Services Request for Proposal – The City of Monticello has a contract for auditing services with Bates Carter for fiscal years 2019, 2020, 2021. It is time to issue an RFP for auditing services beginning July 1, 2021, thru June 30, 2022. It was the Mayor and Council consensus to move forward with the City Manager placing audit services out for bids.

Park to Park Project – There are issues with locating Georgia Department of Transportation documents and getting the contractor to complete the project. A final inspection with the Georgia Department of Transportation is scheduled for Thursday.

Joe K. Davis, Sr. Sign – The signs for the Joe K. Davis Sr. dedication have been delivered and the unveiling date and time will be announced when available.

911 Authority Board Vacancies – There are two vacant seats on the 911 Authority Board. The four-year terms expired on March 1, 2021. Mayor

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Standifer asked the Council to reach out to their constituents and provide feedback at the next meeting.

Funderburg Drive – The Invitation to Bid for Funderburg Drive will be issued within two weeks.

IGA Code Enforcement – The Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) for Code Enforcement will be completed and sent out for review.

Budget Schedule – The City Council will need to approve a schedule for the upcoming budget.

Live Streaming the Council Meetings – The City Clerk reached out to Jasper County on live streaming on Facebook. The City Manager and City Clerk will conduct a test run with the current equipment. Dr. Harty from the high school has students available to operate the equipment but wants to know how much the City is willing to pay them.

Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner - April 21, 2021 – The Chamber of Commerce has reserved a table at their annual dinner for the Mayor and Council. Mayor Standifer encourages everyone to attend.

City Manager Redding recognized the following elected women officials in Jasper County for Women’s History Month: Mayor Pro Tem Gail Harrell, Councilwoman Cynthia Miller, Councilwoman Jenny Murphy, Jasper County Tax Commission Angela Walsh, Board of Education Vice Chairman Erin Lynch, Board of Education Member Dr. Shannon Barton, Board of Education Member Towonder Dennis and Jasper County Probate Judge Andrea Brown.

11. Executive Session for Personnel, Litigation, Real Estate, and Legal Matters - Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Harrell to enter executive session at 7:30 p.m. to consult legal counsel about threatened litigation, seconded by Councilmember Wease. Voting for the motion was unanimous. Motion to exit executive session at 8:13 p.m. and enter regular session made by Councilmember Wease, seconded by Councilmember Murphy. No action was taken in the Executive Session.

12. Comments by the Governing Body

Mayor Standifer had no comment

Mayor Pro Tem Harrell had no comment

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Councilmember Wease had no comment

Councilmember Miller had no comment

Councilmember Murphy had no comment.

Councilmember Thurman had no comment

13. Meeting adjournment at 8:15 P.M.

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