

**MONTICELLO CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING**

May 11, 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 Councilmember Thurman, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. City Clerk Karen Pennamon called the roll.

Agenda Approval – Mayor Pro Tem Harrell requested to add Appointment of a New DDA Member under Item 6 - Downtown Development Authority. Councilmember Wease requested to remove Item 11 – Executive Session. City Manager Redding requested to add employee recognition Agenda Item #8a and add Sands Drive Park Reservation as Agenda Item 1b. Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Harrell to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Councilmember Miller. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

Citizen Comments

David Thompson – addressed the City Council regarding trash and open doors at the Washington Park School. He noted that the building needs to be secured.

Adam McGinnis – addressed the City Council regarding budget transparency. He stated he was unable to attend the first meeting with the electrical companies on the electric rates. Mr. McGinnis requested a draft copy of the proposed budget.

Downtown Development Authority – Michele Celani, Executive Director, Michele Celani, Executive Director, reported on Downtown Development Authority’s upcoming events.

DDA Board Appointment – Michele Celani, Executive Director, stated the DDA would like to appoint Jennifer Stanley to the Downtown Development Authority. Motion by Councilmember Wease to appoint Jennifer Stanley to the Downtown Development Authority, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Harrell. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

Chamber of Commerce – Brandi McMichael, Tourism Director – stated Market on the Square begins on May 22, 2021, and twenty-two vendors signed up for the event. There will be various

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items available, such as produce, can goods, jams, and arts and crafts. The Chamber of Commerce is looking forward to another great market season.

Historic Preservation Commission – David Thompson, Chairman – stated the property owner at 732 Eatonton Street contacted him about replacing a demolished house with a new structure. The Historic Preservation Commission received a Certificate of Appropriateness for 113 S. Warren Street for signage on the sides of the building. The applicant is requesting to paint over brick that has already been painted. Mr. Thompson stated a Certificate of Appropriateness for a proposed garage was denied for 243 Frobel Street because metal structures is not allowed in the Historic Preservation District. He noted they are working with the applicant on available options for the garage. Mayor Pro Tem Harrell inquired about metal storage containers at 336 Forsyth Street. City Manager Redding stated that the first certified letter sent to the property owner was returned but a second certified letter was sent to the owner yesterday, giving them fifteen days to remove the containers.

Employee Recognition – City Manager Redding stated that Municipal Clerk’s Week was May 2 – May 8, 2021 and she would like to recognized the City Clerk Karen Pennamon. Kendra Hicks was presented with a certificate from the Georgia Municipal Association for completion of the Human Resources Administration Certificate Program. The Mayor and City Council praised each employee for the great accomplishments.

Approval of Minutes - Mayor Pro Tem Harrell made a motion to approve the following minutes: Regular Meeting of Mayor and Council – April 13, 2021, Work Session of Mayor and Council – April 20, 2021, Budget Work Session/Called Meeting – April 27, 2021, seconded by Councilmember Murphy. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

Agenda Items

1. Consider Request for use of the Downtown Square for Monticello High School Alumni and Parents on May 28, 2021, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Motion by Councilmember Murphy to approve the Downtown Square Reservation for the Monticello Alumni, seconded by Councilmember Thurman. Voting for the motion was unanimous.
- b. Consider Request for use of the Sands Drive Park for Commissioner Sheila Jones and citizens of Jasper County on June 12, 2021, from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Harrell to approve the Sands Park Reservation for Commissioner Sheila Jones, seconded by Councilmember Thurman. Voting for the motion was unanimous.
2. Consider Vendor for Website Hosting. City Manager Redding stated the City Council requested the termination term requirements of each website hosting

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vendor and they had been provided to Council. She recommended the vendor Granicus for hosting the City of Monticello's website. Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Harrell to accept Granicus for the City Website Hosting, seconded by Councilmember Miller. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

3. Consider Proposed Salary Increase for Mayor and Council.

Background and Summary:

Mayor Standifer proposed the following salary increase for Mayor and Council:

Mayor from \$900 to \$1,200 per month

Mayor Pro Tem from \$650 to \$900 per month

City Council from \$450 to \$750 per month

The proposed increase in salary would take effect in January 2022.

Additionally, a notice of the intention to increase compensation must be published in the newspaper at least once a week for three weeks immediately preceding the week during which the governing body adopts the ordinance to increase salaries. The City of Monticello met the notice of intent requirement.

Motion by Councilmember Thurman to approve the salary increase for Mayor and Council, seconded by Councilmember Miller. Motion failed 2-3 with Mayor Pro Tem Harrell, Councilmember Wease, and Councilmember Murphy voting against the motion.

4. Consider Award to Garrett Paving Company for the LMIG Funderburg Drive Repaving Project. Motion by Councilmember Wease to approve Garrett Paving Company for the Repaving of Funderburg Drive, seconded by Councilmember Thurman. Voting for the motion was unanimous.
5. Discussion of Trees on the Square. City Manager Redding stated she received complaints that the trees are too large and are breaking up the sidewalks. She asked the Council how they wanted to move forward with removing the trees and what to replace them with. Councilmember Wease said that it has caused incidents and he would like to take on the project with the Council's approval. City Council's consensus is to appoint Councilmember Wease to oversee the tree project and report his findings at the next Council meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Harrell stated she attended a conference in the Square with other business owners and all, but one felt the trees should come down due to the number of debris it collects, and the difficulty seeing the businesses when the trees bloom.
6. City Manager's Report.

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The City of Monticello will advertise the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Master Developer in the Monticello News on May 13, 2021, and May 20, 2021. The RFQ's are due on June 1, 2021, at 2:00 p.m.

7. Discussion of the FY 2022 Budget. City Manager Redding presented an updated Budget Summary to the City Council. The City Council discussed the Electric Cities of Georgia's (ECG) preliminary recommendation on the electric rates.

11. Executive Session for Personnel, Litigation, Real Estate, and Legal Matters -

12. Comments by the Governing Body
Mayor Standifer stated great work and thanked the City Council.
Mayor Pro Tem Harrell had no comment
Councilmember Wease stated, have a blessed day and week.
Councilmember Miller stated, please understand that you may get calls from citizens but always keep in mind that you are representing the City as a whole, no matter what we do. Do not let certain individuals or groups dictate your decisions.
Councilmember Murphy had no comment.
Councilmember Thurman had no comment

13. Meeting adjournment at 7:02 P.M.

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