

MONTICELLO CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
January 11, 2022
Minutes
6:00 P.M.

Members Present – Mayor Gail E. Harrell, Councilmembers David Wease, Cynthia Miller, Jennifer Murphy, and Larry Thurman were present.

Staff Present – Interim City Manager Peggy Billerman and City Clerk Karen Pennamon were present.

Media Present – Kathy Mudd - The Monticello News

Called Session – Mayor Gail Harrell 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 – Councilmember Wease requested to remove Invited Guest Speaker – Georgia Department of Natural Resources – Jeremy Reese, Game Warden from the agenda. Motion by Councilmember Murphy to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Councilmember Miller. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

Consent Agenda to Include:

Approval of Minutes – Councilmember Murphy made a motion to approve the following minutes: Regular Meeting of Mayor and Council – December 14, 2021, and Special Called Meeting of Mayor and Council – December 28, 2021, seconded by Councilmember Miller. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

Approval of Check Register – Councilmember Miller made a motion to approve the December 2021 Check Register as stated, seconded by Councilmember Murphy. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

Speaker:

Historic Preservation Commission – David Thompson, Chairman discussed updating the City Ordinances regarding the Historic Preservation enforcement procedures for citizens who do not maintain their properties. He also requested obtaining cost estimates to purchase Historic Preservation Guidelines pamphlets.

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Agenda Items

1. Employee Recognition – Johnny Ward – City Council presented a plaque to Johnny Ward for his dedicated service to the City of Monticello.
2. Resolution – Election Superintendent – Councilmember Murphy made a motion for approval of the Resolution, seconded by Councilmember Wease. Voting for the motion was unanimous.
3. Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) – Elections – Councilmember Murphy made a motion to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement, seconded by Councilmember Miller. Voting for the motion was unanimous.
4. Bank Signatories - Councilmember Miller made a motion to sign/approve the bank signatures cards for Ameris and Bank of Monticello, seconded by Councilmember Murphy. Voting for the motion was unanimous.
5. Discussion of Board Appointments

Northeast Georgia Regional Commission (NEGRC) – Councilmember Murphy made a motion to nominate Mayor Gail Harrell to the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission, seconded by Councilmember Miller. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

E911 Authority - Councilmember Murphy made a motion to nominate Mayor Gail Harrell to the E911 Authority, seconded by Councilmember Miller. Voting for the motion was unanimous

Georgia Public Web – TABLED

6. Discussion of Sand Drive Park - Councilmember Murphy made a motion that the new merry-go-round equipment purchased for Funderburg Park be installed as intended, seconded by Councilmember Thurman. Voting for the motion was unanimous
7. Discussion of Homestead Freeze - Councilmember Murphy made a motion to leave the taxes as is and do a rollback instead of the homestead freeze, seconded by Councilmember Wease. Voting for the motion was unanimous.
8. Discussion of American Legion Post 110 – Memorial Wall - Councilmember Murphy made a motion to approve the American Legion’s request to build a memorial wall at 438 E. Greene Street, seconded by Councilmember Miller. Voting for the motion was unanimous

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9. Consider Defined Benefit Retirement Plan: Amendment to Increase Elected Official Benefit – Councilmember Miller made a motion to approve the Amendment to the Defined Benefit Retirement Plan for Elected Officials, seconded by Councilmember Wease. Voting for the motion was unanimous
10. 2020 Holiday Schedule were presented to the City Council.
11. 2022 Mayor and Council Pay Schedule were presented to the City Council.

City Manager’s Report – Interim City Manager Peggy Billerman read the City Manager’s Report.
(This report is attached and part of the minutes.)

Citizens Comments

Billy Johnson – American Legion Commander addressed the Mayor and City Council regarding the American Legion assisting the City of Monticello with Sands Park projects.

David Thompson – discussed speed warning and cost for radar signage. He said he obtained an estimate of \$3,600.00 for the signs and they could be installed by City employees. Mr. Thompson discussed the City of Monticello's presentations at the City Council meetings.

Kathy Thomas – thanked the City of Monticello for supporting Johnny Ward during his tenure with the City of Monticello.

Council Comments

Mayor Harrell – stated the Chamber of Commerce Dinner is March 3, 2022 and will be held at the Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center.

Councilmember Murphy – stated congratulations to Johnny Ward. Thank you for all your hard work.

Councilmember Miller – had no comment.

Councilmember Wease – wished everyone a safe and happy 2022.

Councilmember Thurman – had no comment.

Schedule for Work Session or Called Meeting – Consensus of the City Council is to schedule a Special Called Meeting on February 3, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. to discuss the following: ECG Cost of Services Survey and Sands Drive Park.

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Executive Session for Personnel, Litigation, Real Estate, and Legal. Motion to enter Executive Session at 7:37 p.m. to discuss personnel made by Councilmember Miller, seconded by Councilmember Murphy. Voting for the motion was unanimous. No action was taken in Executive Session.

Motion to exit Executive Session at 7:45 p.m. to enter regular session made by Councilmember Miller, seconded by Councilmember Murphy. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

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