

**MONTICELLO CITY COUNCIL**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**February 8, 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, City Attorney Joe Reitman, and Clerk Michelle Middleton 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. Clerk Michelle Middleton called the roll.

**Agenda Approval** – Councilmember Miller requested to add a vote on a fringe benefits option for council members who opt out of the healthcare offered by the City and Councilmember Wease requested to add an update on the trees around the square. Mayor Harrell stated that the DDA was missed and added speaker Daniel Jefferies to the agenda. Motion by Councilmember Wease to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Councilmember Murphy. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

**Consent Agenda to Include:**

**Approval of Minutes** – Councilmember Murphy made a motion to approve the following minutes: Special Called Meeting of Mayor and Council – January 4, 2021, Special Called Meeting of Mayor and Council – January 6, 2021, and Regular Meeting of Mayor and Council – January 11, 2021, seconded by Councilmember Wease. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

**Approval of Check Register** – Councilmember Wease made a motion to approve the January 2022 Check Register as stated, seconded by Councilmember Murphy. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

**Speakers:**

**Historic Preservation Commission** – David Thompson, Chairman, discussed the COAs that had been approved in January including the Veteran’s Memorial on E Greene St., a porch renovation, two major home renovations, and an outbuilding and addition at another property. He also stated that the Historic Preservation Commission had printed 10 Historic Preservation Guidelines

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pamphlets that will be available for pickup at City Hall. The HPC will cover the printing cost of \$25 for each pamphlet and there will be no cost to residents to obtain a pamphlet.

**Downtown Developmental Authority:** Daniel Jefferies, Treasurer, discussed the accomplishments of the DDA over the last year, including the Summer Kickoff program, the mural unveiling and Block Party, regular Downtown Live events and Movie Nights, as well as Christmas Lights on the Square. He stated that the accounting system for the DDA had been moved from a handwritten system to QuickBooks, which saved them the cost of hiring a CPA to do their employee 1099s. He also stated that the Shoppes of Monticello had a great first year financially.

## Agenda Items

### 1. Appointments

City Attorney – Councilmember Murphy made a motion for the reappointment of Joe Reitman as the City Attorney, seconded by Councilmember Wease. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

City Engineer – Councilmember Miller made a motion for the reappointment of Robert Jordan as the City Engineer, seconded by Councilmember Murphy. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

2. Fringe Benefits – Councilmember Miller made a motion to approve the previously discussed fringe benefits options for councilmembers who opt out of City health insurance. The benefit would be \$200 per month. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Murphy. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

### 2. Park Reservations

Piedmont Academy – Councilmember Murphy made a motion to approve Piedmont Academy reserving Funderburg Park 2/2/22 – 4/12/22, Monday through Thursday, from 2:20 - 5:00 PM for the Piedmont Academy Tennis Team. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Miller and voting for the motion was unanimous

Monticello DDA - Councilmember Miller made a motion to approve the DDA to reserve the downtown square for a Summer Kickoff event on 5/28/22, Family Movie Nights once a month from June through December, and Downtown Live! once a month from June through September. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Wease and the voting for the motion was unanimous.

### 3. Discussion of Board Appointments

Georgia Public Web – TABLED

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4. Memorandum of Understanding – City Attorney Joe Reitman noted the changes made in current agreement between the city and the Get Ahead House. He said that the biggest difference between the current agreement and previous ones is a stipulation for the Get Ahead House to provide an annual report. Insurance was also discussed and Councilmember Wease made a motion to approve the agreement on the contingency that the City of Monticello would be listed on the insurance for the Get Ahead House. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Murphy, and the voting was unanimous.
5. Consider Resolution for Adoption and Execution of Fitzgerald Intergovernmental Agreement – Councilmember Murphy made a motion to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement, seconded by Councilmember Miller. Voting for the motion was unanimous.
6. Consider Developer Agreement for Installation of Natural Gas Mains and Consider Developer Agreement for Road Repairs and Dedication – Oak Ridge Subdivision – Councilmember Wease stated that he would like more time to study the provided information. No motion was made.
7. Property Taxes- 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. 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.
9. Discussion of Progress of Trees Around the Square – Councilmember Wease spoke about the progression of the tree project around the square, stating that \$125 was needed to finish.

**City Manager’s Report** – Interim City Manager Peggy Billerman read the City Manager’s Report. She stated that there are 80 open code enforcement cases, some of which are going to court. She also requested that 648,639.31 be moved from the Blockstream account to General Funds. Councilmember Murphy made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilmember Wease. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

### **Citizens Comments**

David Thompson – spoke regarding the potential option of having high school students livestream City meetings.

Alonzo Colbert – voiced concerns regarding the fire hydrants on Pine Valley Rd.

Dorothy Hirneisen – stated she was glad for the work the City’s Code Enforcement Officer has done so far but wants the work to extend to some city properties she believes need attention. She

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also spoke about the pot holes on Pine Valley St, as well as her concerns on her upcoming summer water bills.

Patricia Finger – spoke as a member of the Concerned Citizens of Monticello. She said she wanted a report of the cost analysis of utility usage ahead of the scheduled meeting with ECG on April 7<sup>th</sup>. She also wanted to check if the Council had looked into her previously mentioned idea of an income-based senior citizen discount.

Roberta Anderson – discussed her desire to participate in budget discussions concerning the Get Ahead House. She also wanted to check in on the progress of getting a bid for the leak in the roof at the Get Ahead House.

### **Council Comments**

Mayor Harrell – had no comment.

Councilmember Murphy – had no comment.

Councilmember Wease – had no comment.

Councilmember Thurman – had no comment.

Councilmember Miller – spoke to Roberta Anderson and offered to send her a direct invitation to the open budget discussions.

**Schedule for Work Session or Called Meeting** – no discussion was made regarding upcoming meetings.

**Executive Session for Personnel, Litigation, Real Estate, and Legal.** Motion to enter Executive Session at 7:41 p.m. to discuss personnel made by Councilmember Miller, seconded by Councilmember Murphy. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

Motion to exit Executive Session at 8:17 p.m. to enter regular session made by Councilmember Miller, seconded by Councilmember Murphy. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

Councilmember Murphy made a motion to not re-appoint Karen Pennamon as City Clerk, seconded by Councilmember Miller. Councilmember Wease voted for the motion and Councilmember Thurman voted against the motion.

**Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.**

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