

REGULAR MEETING

Minutes

July 11, 2023

6:00 P.M.

Call to Order

Mayor Thurman called the meeting to order at 6pm.

Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance

The invocation was given by Council Member Wease followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

The City Clerk called the roll. Mayor Thurman, Mayor Pro Tem Currie, Council Members Miller, Thurman, and Wease were present. Council Member Murphy was absent.

Staff Present

LaThaydra Sands, City Manager

Carnethia Pennamon, City Clerk

Media Present

Evans Newton, the Monticello News

Agenda Approval – Council Member Miller add Action Item A – Get Ahead House

Motion to approve the amended agenda by Council Member Miller, seconded by Council Member Wease. All in favor.

Consent Agenda to include:

- a. Approval of Minutes:
 - 1) June 1, 2023, Budget Work Session
 - 2) June 6, 2023, Budget Public Hearing
 - 3) June 13, 2023, Regular Council Meeting
 - 4) June 20, 2023, Budget Public Hearing/Special Called Meeting
 - 5) June 28, 2023, Special Called Meeting
- b. Approval of Check Register - Check #'s 45427 – 45531
- c. Invoices over \$5,000
 - 1) C & H Pipeline, Inc. - \$103,980

Motion to approve the minutes, check register, and invoices over \$5,000 as presented made by Mayor Pro Tem Currie, seconded Council Member Wease. All in favor.

Citizen Comments

The Citizens Comment section of the agenda allows citizens who sign up to address the City Council for not more than three (3) minutes on specific topics. The City Clerk will keep time. Please be courteous of the 3-minute time limit.

Walter Smith, owner of Smith and Sons Funeral Home, requested a meeting for the Council and Get Ahead House board members to discuss the MOU for the Get Ahead House later. Mr. Smith also stated the council should find a solution for a new Post office and asked for an update on the bypass.

Wanda Cummings, 349 West Greene Street, addressed her concerns with the signs on the side of the State Farm building on the Square. She questioned if there was an ordinance in place to enforce or if the council could create one.

Rev. Jimmy Horton, Pastor of Springfield Baptist Church, asked for an update on the paving and limbs and leaves pick up for Livingston Avenue.

Sheila Jones, 737 Sands Drive, addressed her concerns with the Old Washington Park building on Martin Luther King Drive and questioned the future of the building if the owner would not proceed with renovations.

David Thompson, 1237 Forsyth Street, asked for an update for lowering the speed limits coming into town, questioned the progression of the Webb Street repair, and Funderburg Park improvements. Mr. Thompson also addressed the roles and duties of Mayor and Council to enforce the ordinances which have been adopted. He stated that the signs on the side of the State Farm building are in violation of the city's ordinance and the Historic Preservation guidelines, and the city needs to take action.

Jim Belcher, Representative of the Concerned Citizens of Monticello, thanked the council for responding back to his open records request and addressed his findings on the evaluation of Funderburg Drive Park. Mr. Belcher stated the park isn't in compliance for the safety of the children.

Camilla Ross Goodrum, 38 Rooks Lane, questioned why she was denied utility services as a landlord. Mrs. Goodrum stated she presented legal documents to the city hall and felt that should be sufficient.

Action Items

a. Get Ahead House

Motion to allocate \$12,000 from the Downtown Development Authority/Economic Development funds to the Get Ahead House made by Council Member Miller seconded Council Member Wease. Vote 3-1. Mayor Pro Tem Currie opposed the vote.

b. Second Reading and Approval of Right of Way Ordinance

Motion to approve the second reading and approval of the right of way ordinance made by Council Member Wease, seconded by Council Member Miller. All in favor.

c. IGA for the General Elections

Motion to approve the IGA for the General Elections in November was made by Council Member Miller, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Currie. All in favor.

d. ARPA Project – Highway 83 South and Persons Street

Motion to approve Roberts Hauling and Pipeline Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$162,000 for the APRA Project on Highway 83 South and Persons Street made by Council Member Wease, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Currie. All in Favor.

e. Webb Street Paving

City Manager Sands briefed the council on the bidders for the Webb Street Paving Project, recommended not using Houston Asphalt for the project, and stated the funds would come from SPLOST 18.

Discussion: Council Member Wease recommended paving Hunters Ridge instead of Webb Street due to the traffic volume. Council Member Miller questioned the timeline for the project to be completed and it's best to

Motion to approve Asphalt Specialist, LLC for Webb Street paving in the amount of \$18,000 made by Council Member Miller, seconded by Council Member Thurman. All in favor.

f. Section B Holiday (More Concise Language) Amendment

City Manager Sands briefed the Council on the reason for the amendment to the Personnel Policy.

Previous Language: “Full-time Regular employees shall be paid for holidays based on number of hours they normally work/day. Temporary employees will not be paid for holidays not worked.”

Adopted Language: “Full-time Regular employees shall be paid 8 hours of holiday pay on City-designated holidays, in addition to any hours worked on the holiday. Temporary and Part-time employees are not eligible for holiday pay; however, they will receive their regular pay for any hours worked on the holiday.”

Motion to approve the amended Holiday Pay language in Section B of the Personnel Policy made by Mayor Pro Tem Currie, seconded by Council Member Thurman. All in favor.

City Manager Update

City Manager Sands discussed the following items in her City Manager update:

Two small bleachers were installed on a concrete pad by Isaac Nesler, Facility Maintenance, and each one seat at least 15 individuals.

Seeking firms to assist the city with accounting work the audit prep.

Honeysuckle Road is being used as a cut through for Highway 11 and Highway 16, and citizens are looking for some assistance in slowing down the traffic, possibility speed bumps.

Mark Beatty with Northeast Georgia Regional Commission contacted the City of Monticello regards to amending the language in the Future Land Use and proceeded to ask council their members for future discussion.

Council Update

Council Member Miller – Thanked the council for their support in assisting with the Get Ahead House funding.

Mayor Pro Tem Currie – Questioned the Planning and Zoning Committee that would meet to review the City’s Ordinance.

Mayor Thurman – Encouraged the Concerned Citizens of Monticello that their concerns are not being addressed and stated the city is working to complete the outstanding audits to assist with the issues they are being forward, and asked if everyone could be respectful towards each other.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the Regular Council Meeting at 6:47pm made by Mayor Pro Tem Currie, seconded by Council Member Wease. All in favor.