



REGULAR MEETING

Minutes

August 8, 2023

6:00 P.M.

1. Call to Order

Mayor Thurman called the Regular Council Meeting to order at 6 pm.

2. Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance

The invocation was given by Mayor Thurman followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Roll Call

Mayor Thurman, Mayor Pro Tem Currie, Council Members Miller, Murphy, Thurman and Wease were present.

Staff Present: Robert Colvin, Gas Superintendent, Isaac Nesler, Facility Maintenance, Carnethia Pennamon, City Clerk, LaThaydra Sands, City Manager, Joe Reitman, City Attorney

Media Present: Evan Newton, the Monticello News

4. Agenda Approval -

5. Consent Agenda to include:

a. Approval of Minutes:

- 1) July 11, 2023 – Regular Council Meeting
- 2) July 20, 2023 – Special Called Meeting

b. Approval of Check Register - Check #'s 45565 - 45704

c. Invoices over \$5,000

- 1) Equipment Controls Company, Inc. – \$5,700.50 – Gas Department
- 2) Consolidated Pipe and Supply Co., Inc. – \$9,063.00 – Gas Department
- 3) Gresco – \$11,481.55 – Electric Department

Motion to approve the consent agenda as stated made by Council Member Wease, seconded by Council Member Thurman. All in favor.

6. Public Hearing

- a. **Application 2023-CU001:** Ian Pulka as applicant/owner requests a conditional use permit for 349 Merry Lane to allow breeding for Geckos as home occupation. The tract is shown on tax map M03 parcel 052.

Mayor Thurman opened the public hearing at 6:03pm and closed the public hearing at 6:04pm.

For: None
Against: None

7. Action Items

a. Planning and Zoning Application 2023-CU001: Ian Paulka

Motion to approve the Planning and Zoning Application 2023-CU001: Ian Paulka made by Mayor Pro Tem Currie, seconded by Council Member Murphy. All in favor.

b. Park Reservation Request – Sands Drive Park – Monticello Day – September 3, 2023

Motion to approve the Park Reservation request for Sands Drive Park, Monticello Day – Damian Tripp made by Council Member Murphy, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Currie. All in favor.

c. IGA for Sands Drive Park Improvements

City Attorney Joe Reitman briefed the council on the IGA for Sands Drive Park Improvements.

Motion to approve the IGA for Sands Drive Park Improvement as presented made by Council Member Murphy, seconded by Council Member Wease. All in favor.

d. Family Dollar Alcohol License Approval

Motion to approve the Family Dollar Alcohol License made by Mayor Pro Tem Currie, seconded by Council Member Thurman. All in favor.

e. Introduction on New Vaping and Hookah Sales Moratorium

City Attorney Joe Reitman briefed the council on the New Vaping and Hookah Sales Moratorium and stated the purpose of the moratorium.

Discussed amending the moratorium for an additional four weeks.

f. DDA Office Space

City Manager Sands stated the DDA board requested to continue use the office space as storage.

The City Council discussed renting the space and making the DDA board members aware of potential changes.

Motion to allow DDA board members to continue to use the office space until City is in need of the space or use as a rental space made by Council Member Murphy, seconded by Council Member Wease. All in favor.

g. Webb Street Paving Quotes

Motion to place Webb Street Paving back out for bid made by Mayor Pro Tem Currie, seconded by Council Member Murphy. All in favor.

h. Steel Co Change Order #3

Robert Colvin, Gas Superintendent, briefed the council on the issues in Change Order #3.

Motion to wait until the job is complete before the City makes a payment to Steel Co for the amount of \$28,300 to make use of there are not any more costs to be done by Council Member Wease, seconded by Council Member Thurman. All in favor.

i. Steel Co Payment Request Approval

Motion to make the Steel Co. payment contingent upon the approval of the Mayor, City Manager, City Clerk, City Attorney, and Robert Colvin and after the original contract payment schedule has been reviewed made by Council Member Murphy, seconded by Council Member Wease. All in favor.

j. Audit Prep Assistance Approval

City Manager Sands discussed four firms to assist with the audit work; two firms denied, pacing & Johnston and Company decided not to place a bid; and CKH Consulting Group is willing to come in and work backwards and meet Rick starting with fiscal year 2023; and Symphona will have two main accountants perform an assessment on the work but not do the perform the work for \$3,500.

City Manager Sands recommended capping the payment amount and ask for approval if exceeds the amount.

City Attorney Joe Reitman made a recommendation to start with a month-to-month budget of \$15,000 or \$16,000 for the next thirty days if it is budget feasible.

Motion to approve a senior associate from CKH Consulting, LLC, and cap it at \$16,000 and revisit in four weeks made by Council Member Wease, seconded by Council Member Miller. All in favor.

k. City Manager Training Approval

City Manager discussed the certified public manager training in Forsyth, GA.

Motion to approve the City Manager training made by Council Member Wease, seconded by Council Member Miller. All in favor.

8. 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.

Tammy Knight Parks – Mrs. Knight-Parks stated she has spoken with individuals in the community about their concerns for the City of Monticello. She suggested to the City Manager to ride the neighborhoods to see what has been completed and hold the departments accountable, for the City Clerk to offer the citizens good customer service and enter accurate information, and for the City Council to



read packets in advance. She then stated the citizens would like knowledgeable people, who are not about color, but unity. She also stated City needs to amend the budget for code enforcement to keep the city from being a dead city. Ms. Knight-Parks discussed her concerns with the importance of DDA for all cities. Finally, Ms. Knight-Parks indicated she was going to work very hard to replace the individuals who will not help the community with what is needed.

Terri Saunder, 437 West Washington Street, was excited to see the Council mention Webb Street due to the bids discussed in the last meeting didn't have any consistency and recommended hiring an engineer to develop some standards.

Ian Paulka, 349 Merry Lane, encouraged the citizens during elections to vote for someone who is a doer, and not to believe everything you see because all candidates will not keep their promises.

Stephanie Puckett, 228 Honeysuckle Road, questioned if the City Manager training budgeted or something to be added. She then stated DDA is a lost cause until the board members know what they are doing and the City should charge them rent for the space. Family Dollar alcohol license was a corporation move and the decision would not have made a difference. Finally, Mrs. Puckett requested if the street department would maintain the hanging limbs in the right-a-ways.

9. City Manager Update

City Manager Sands addressed some of the complaints stated by the citizens to let know we take what they say seriously to work on the issues so there are no excuses. The front office staff has attended training, Michele Kerbow, Municipal Revenue Administration Certification, Kinshaza Norris, ECG Utility Customer Service Program, Carnethia Pennamon, ECG Supervisor training course, and Vanessa Johnson, Human Resource course through UGA. Several citizens have requested fiber but the City doesn't offer fiber, but ECG and Accelcom requested some data to complete a cost study so see if it is feasible to offer fiber in the city. Crown Castle submitted a registration for the right-a-way, an acknowledgement letter has been sent out, but have not been awarded the bid for fiber. The entire city hall building has been rekeyed for security reasons and all keys are assigned to individuals. The Cleaning Service met with Mayor Pro Tem Currie last week and requested a third key to the building and stated the cleaning service isn't comfortable with the contract drafted by the City Attorney. City Manager also mentioned Issac is currently working on the tennis courts at Funderburg Park. Newton Federal increased the interest rate from 1.2% to 3.25%. Get Ahead House requested to use the facility on August 24th for a mental health luncheon.

10. Council Update

Council Member Wease stated he was glad to see everyone okay after the storm yesterday.

Mayor Thurman stated she received great feedback for the Electric department.

Council Member Miller thanked Isaac Nesler for working on the tennis courts.

11. Executive Session

Motion to enter Executive Session to discuss Personnel at 7:14 pm was made by Council Member Murphy, seconded by Council Member Miller. All in favor.

Motion to exit Executive Session at 7:37 was made by Council Member Murphy, seconded by Council Member Miller. All in favor.

12. Action Item

Motion to appoint Isaac Nesler over the Street Department effective immediately was made by Council Member Murphy, seconded by Council Member Thurman. All in favor.

13. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the Regular Council Meeting at 7:39 pm was made by Council Member Murphy seconded by Council Member Miller. All in favor.

DRAFT