

REGULAR MEETING

Agenda

July 9, 2024

6:00 P.M.

1. Call to Order

Mayor Thurman called the Regular Council Meeting at 6pm.

2. Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance

The invocation was given by Rev. Jimmy Horton followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Roll Call

Mayor Thurman, Mayor Pro Tem Currie, Council Members Harrell, Murphy, Thurman, and Womack were present.

Staff Present: LaThaydra Sands, Carnethia Pennamon, Isaac Nesler

Media Present: Susan Jacobs, the Monticello News

4. Agenda Approval

Motion to approve the agenda

5. Consent Agenda to include:

a. Approval of Minutes:

- 1) June 4, 2024 – Public Hearing
- 2) June 11, 2024 – Regular Council Meeting
- 3) June 27, 2024 – Special Called Meeting

Motion to approve the minutes for June 4, 2024 – Public Hearing, June 11, 2024 – Regular Council Meeting, and June 27, 2024 – Special Called Meeting was made by Council Member Harrell, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Currie. All in favor.

b. Approval of Check Register - Check #'s 47107 – 47235

Motion to approve the check register – Check #'s 47107 – 47235 was made by Council Member Harrell, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Currie. All in favor.

c. Invoices over \$5,000

1) U-Tec Construction, Inc. - \$50,661.71 (Make Ready Work for Comcast)

Motion to approve the invoice over \$5,000 for U-Tec Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$50,661.71 for the Make Ready Work for Comcast was made by Council Member Murphy, seconded by Council Member Womack. All in favor.

6. Presentations

a. Get Ahead House – Walter Smith

Mr. Smith presented on behalf of the Get Ahead House and explained when the Get Ahead House program started and what the Get Ahead House was meant for in the community. Mr. Smith mentioned all the grants awarded by the Morehouse. He also stated how the former mayor and council assisted the Get Ahead House with the grants. He asked the city council to start thinking about how they can help expand because the numbers of kids serving in the community are rising. He also mentioned that for the Get Ahead House to administer a grant they need the city to sign off on the grants and needs the city to be current on the annual audits. He asked the city council to be aware of the programs that are offered at the Get Ahead House to reconsider the funding.

7. Action Items

a. Park Reservation – Monticello Day/Car Show – Damian Tripp – September 1, 2024

Motion to approve the Park Reservation – Monticello Day/Car Show – Damian Tripp on September 1, 2024, at the Sands Drive was made by Council Member Murphy, seconded by Council Member Harrell. All in favor.

b. FY 2020 Draft Audit Approval – CKH Group

Eon Jan Wyk presented on behalf of CKH Group, the Draft Fiscal Year 2020.

Motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2020 Draft Audit was made by Council Member Murphy, seconded by Council Member Harrell. All in favor.

c. MEAG Power 2023 Year End Settlement

Motion to accept the MEAG Power 2023 Year End Settlement in the Flexible Operating Account, Intermediate Extended Maturity Portfolio in the amount of \$37,517 made by Council Member Murphy, seconded by Council Member Harrell. All in favor.

d. GGFOA Conference Approval

Motion to approve GGFOA Conference for City Manager LaThaydra Sands was made by Council Member Harrell, seconded by Council Member Womack. All in favor.

e. UTV Purchase – Street Department

f. Lawn Mower Purchase – Street Department

Motion to purchase one UTV and two lawn mowers made by Council Member Murphy seconded by Council Member Womack. All in favor.

g. Towee Street Repair

Motion to table the Towee Street Repair was made by Mayor Pro Tem Currie, seconded by Council Member Harrell.

h. Spruce Street Generator

Motion to table the Spruce Street Generator was made by Council Member Murphy, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Currie. All in favor.

i. Mine Lake Contract Amendment – Joe Reitman, Attorney

Motion to extend the Mike Lake Contract for 120 days was made by Mayor Pro Tem Currie, seconded Council Member Harrell. 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.

Jackie Smith, Get Ahead House, stated her concerns with the city’s current budget and questioned why the council would choose to cut the funding of the Get Ahead House program. She urged the council to discuss the memorandum with the Get Ahead House board members, no longer reconsider the budget cuts for the Get Ahead House but to also increase the funds to today’s cost of living as they have done for all over expenses. She also asked what the GGFOA conference cost the city.

Juanita Norris, Rural Care Coordinator for the BFIT Grant from Morehouse, answered some misconceptions of the council members, gave a brief overview of the BFIT Grant, and explained her job. Mrs. Norris stated Morehouse started to address the opioid epidemic. Out of the six counties, Morehouse made Jasper County the pilot county because there was already an established relationship. Her office is located at the Get Ahead House, but Oconee is housed at the Health Department and the grant covers her salary.

Katronia Jones spoke on behalf of the parents and grandparents of the Get Ahead House. She stated in November 2023 she gained custody of her grandchildren. Since then, the Get Ahead House has loved her grandchildren. She expounded on how the program helps the kids with homework, gives them snacks, teaches them, and takes them on field trips. She asked the council to reconsider giving the funding back to the Get Ahead House.

Rev. William Gibson encouraged everyone to go to one accord and the only thing that matters is what’s in the heart. Time is too crucial to be in a racial division.

Roberta Anderson addressed the comments spoken earlier in the meeting. Ms. Anderson stated that in the MOU, the Get Ahead House is to match the funding contributed by the city, an expense report, and audit. All the requested items were given to the city and wonder why the city is requiring an audit when the Get Ahead House files a 990 and their budget isn't over \$500,000. She also stated she did not mention that the city is closing the Get Ahead House, but they are participating in closing it.

Cynthia Ham, a teacher of Get Ahead House since May, stated she is from Henry County Board of Education, where she was an after schoolteacher. Ms. Ham stated how she loves and adores the kids at the Get Ahead House. It is a wonderful place for the kids to be because Henry County doesn't have the same program, which is why she no longer lives in Henry County.

8. City Manager Update

Traffic Calming Devices quotes were provided by Isaac and Council Member Murphy, but an upcoming work session will be scheduled to review them in detail. An email was sent to GDOT to provide procedures to replace the signs in the right of way and to decrease the speed limits.

Parks – Check on prices for midst cooling stations to keep the kids at the parks.

Departmental Inventory was previously discussed at the council retreat and the department heads will have it completed by the end of December 2024 so during the budget process we can start a FY 2026 Capital Improvement Plan.

Zoning Ordinance Draft will go legal by November and present to council in December.

A handout was given for a possible listing of LAS additional sites and notes to consider.

City Hall phone upgrade is in process and a kickoff meeting was held previously.

The new billing system update is also in process, and we are looking at six to nine months for completion.

Employee appreciation and safety training/meeting will be held on July 12th at 8:30am and we encourage everyone to attend.

9. Council Update

Council Member Murphy mentioned the Cruise In and City Street Eats will be held on July 20th.

10. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the Regular Council Meeting at 7:11pm made by Council Member Murphy, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Currie. All in favor.