

REGULAR MEETING
Minutes
January 10, 2023
6:00 P.M.

Mayor Pro Tem Currie called the regular meeting to order at 6pm.

The invocation was given by Rev. Jimmy Horton followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and the City Clerk called the roll.

Gail Harrell, Mayor	Absent
Doug Currie, Mayor Pro Tem	Present
Larry Thurman, Council Member	Present
David Wease, Council Member	Present
Cynthia Miller, Council Member	Present
Jenny Murphy, Council Member	Present

1. Agenda Approval – table Public Hearing Part B to February 2023 and add Litigation to Executive Session

Motion to approve the agenda with the changes made by Council Member Murphy, seconded by Council Member Thurman. All in favor.

2. Consent Agenda to include:

- a. Approval of Minutes – December 13, 2022 - Regular Council Meeting
- b. Approval of Check Register - Check #'s 44731 – 44813

Motion to approve the minutes from December 13, 2022, Regular Council meeting and the consent agenda made by Council Member Wease, seconded by Council Member Murphy. All in favor.

3. 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.

Commissioner Sheila Jones commenting on behalf of Stacey Standifer, resident of MLK Drive, requesting speed bumps on MLK Drive and questioned the road patches on MLK Drive due to water repairs. She also thanked council for the work completed at Sands Drive Park.

Rachel Adams, 1037 Clay Street, petitioned the council to move the property line forward so the adjacent lot in the rear of the property (off Laura Lane) can include the back house due to a medical condition she has.

Rev. Jimmy Horton stated the council members are elected to complete welfare of the city and would like to see the council one accord. The Bible states a house divided against itself will not stand. Council and City Manager can do a job everyone can be proud of and needs to do what's right for the citizens of Monticello.

James Belcher, certified program inspector, presented the council photos, list of items needed to be addressed at the city's parks, and sample contract for the parks in the City of Monticello. Mr. Belcher also questioned the council on their feelings if someone were to injure themselves on the equipment.

David Thompson, 1237 Forsyth Street, presented the council with research and packets of parks in the neighboring area of Jasper County due to the recent comments of the city's parks. Recommended the council to come up with an action plan that establishes and defines the department who oversees the maintenance, upgrades, and funding for the parks.

Pat Finger stated she's looking to be fair, and her issues are still the same – the city's parks and playgrounds. She also stated she doesn't agree with the city paying out \$29,000 for something, the Concerned Citizens of Monticello don't know what they are paying for. She also stated she's interested in the audits. According to the 2019 fiscal year audit, it states the budget is illegibility, and expressed they want to work with the city because their objective is to make Monticello work efficient and effectively as possible. Lastly, she also questioned the status of the utility rates.

Evelyn Driskell, 847 Webb Street, addressed her concerns about the holes on Webb Street and requested for the issues to be repaired.

Springfield Baptist – Rev. Jimmy Horton – questioned the status of repairing Sanders Heights and Livingston Avenue.

4. Presentations/Delegations

Presentations/Delegations allow scheduled speakers to address City Council for not more than six (6) minutes on specific topics or for recognition of citizens, city employees, or other events by Mayor and Council.

1. Robert Jordan, Electric and Gas Building, presented to the council the two bids from Steele Co (\$1.3M) and Sunbelt Builders (\$1.6M). Robert stated he conducted a detail evaluation of both bids and recommended Steele Co to complete the project and recommended to reduce the amount by eliminating the water main extension.
2. Michal Boykin, Electric Superintendent – Absent
3. Robbie Colvin, Gas Superintendent – Absent
4. Waymon Cody, Water, Sewer, and Street Superintendent, made a presentation on base rate increase. His recommendations were to implement a base charge on all commercial meters and fire lines, rate charge for all meters using more than 10,000 gallons per month, and tier residential rates by \$1 per 1000 gallons for the next three years.

5. Public Hearing

- a. **2022CU – 004:** Julie McGinnis as applicant/owner requests a conditional use to the zoning ordinance for 149 Maple Street to use as a bed and breakfast for tourist. The current zoning is CC Community Commercial District. The tract is shown on tax map M05A-026.

Opened at 6:45pm Closed at 6:47pm

For: None

Against: None

- b. **2022CU – 005:** Walter Smith as applicant/ Tammy Knight (Varner) as owner requests a conditional use to the zoning ordinance for 918 Funderburg Drive (The Barn) to use as a multi-purpose building for events, etc. The current zoning is R20 Medium Density Single-Family Residential District. The tract is shown on tax map M05C-172. – **Tabled to February 2023.**

6. Agenda Items

a) Reappointments

Motion to approve all reappointments for the City Manager, the City Clerk, the City Attorney, and the City Engineer made by Mayor Pro Tem Currie, seconded by Council Member Wease. All in favor.

- a) City Manager – LaThaydra Sands
- b) City Clerk – Carnethia Pennamon
- c) City Attorney – Joe Reitman
- d) City Engineer – Robert Jordan

b) Planning and Zoning Application – 2022CU – 004: Julie McGinnis

Motion to approve the Planning and Zoning application – 2022CU – 004 made by Council Member Wease seconded by Council Member Murphy. All in favor.

c) Planning and Zoning Application – 2022CU – 005: Walter Smith – table to February 2023.

d) Base/Tap Fee Increases

Motion to approve the department heads recommendations as presented for the base fees/taps made by Mayor Pro Tem Currie, seconded by Council Member Murphy. Vote 4-1 Council Member Wease opposed to the vote.

e) ITB Approval for Electric and Gas Building

Motion to approve the recommended bid by Robert Jordan with removal of the fire lane and fencing made by Council Member Murphy, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Currie.

Discussion: Council Member Wease stated the amount was so far above what they initially stated. Council Member Murphy stated the reasoning is because the council waited, and the cost of living had increased, and the cost will continue to increase. Mayor Pro Tem Currie stated he represents all citizens and how Monticello looks means a lot to him and safety is important to him. The employees are not fit to be working in a facility as such. Council Member Miller stated she isn't in favor for the building but would like to address repaving the roads with those funds instead.

Vote: 2-3. Motion fails. Opposed by Council Members Wease, Miller and Thurman.

f) Repaving Quotes for Kelly Lane and Sanders Heights

Motion to accept the bid from Alpha Striping for \$19,950 made by Council Member Murphy, seconded by Council Member Thurman. All in favor.

g) Speed Bumps for Hilton Street

Motion to approve the two speed bumps on Hilton Street made by Council Member Wease, seconded by Council Member Thurman All in Favor.

7. City Manager Update

City Manager Sands reviewed the following:

Sands Drive Park has a spot cleared by Frank for a porta potty and is waiting for the delivery. The Van Buren bridge at Funderburg Park is estimated to be finished this Friday if weather permits it. Frank is also requesting to clear the overgrowth near the bridge and would like to use the chipper truck and one person from the Streets department for a half of day. Frank has reached out to several contractors for the repointing City Hall for quotes and waiting to hear back from them. Frank has not begun soliciting bids for the City Hall renovations. Blue Sky will be onsite tomorrow to provide a quote for outside camera systems due to the recent fires near the City Hall. The server switches have been reached but the CSI server issues has not been resolved. Nocwing is working with CSI to see if the server needs to be replaced and will know more by next month. We currently have one quote from Justin Wyatt for the Burney Drive issue for \$26,000, Russell Bennett no longer does bridge work, and is waiting for a quote from a third vendor. As a reminder, the joint comprehensive plan meeting is tomorrow night at 6pm.

Council Member Wease asked if the Burney Drive issue need to be discussed in further details due to the cost. City Manager Sands questioned if she should still receive three bids. Council Member Murphy stated she thinks the proposing bids should last at least 20 years or more.

8. Mayor Update – Absent

Mayor Pro Tem stated Mayor Harrell is still under doctor care.

9. Council Update – No comments.

Go Dogs made by Council Member Murphy

10. Executive Session – Personnel and Litigation

Motion to enter executive session at 7:35pm for litigation and personnel made by Council Member Thurman, seconded by Council Member Wease. All in favor.

No action taken.

Motion to end executive session at 7:54pm made by Council Member Murphy, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Currie. All in favor.

Motion to amend the City’s Ordinance/Charter, Section 17 where it currently states “The Mayor” but it shall be changed to “The Mayor and Council shall be the chief executive officer of said city and shall be charged with the duty of seeing that all laws, ordinances, rules, and regulations of said city are enforced. They shall preside at all meetings of the city council” made by Council Member Miller, seconded by Council Member Wease. Vote 3-2. Opposed by Council Member Murphy and Mayor Pro Tem Currie.

Notes: This action can not be enforced per legal advice.

11. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:56pm made by Council Member Murphy, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Currie. All in favor.