

**REGULAR MEETING**  
**Minutes**  
**February 14, 2023**  
**6:00 P.M.**

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

The invocation was given by Council Member Wease followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and the City Clerk called the roll. Mayor Pro Tem Currie, Council Members Miller, Murphy, Thurman, and Wease were all present. Office of Mayor is vacant.

**1. Agenda Approval**

Motion to approve the agenda for the February Regular Meeting as presented made by Council Member Miller, seconded by Council Member Murphy. All in favor.

**2. Consent Agenda to include:**

**a. Approval of Minutes:**

Motion to approve the minutes for January 10, 2023, Regular Council Meeting and January 19, 2023, Special Called Meeting made by Council Member Murphy, seconded by Council Member Wease. All in favor.

**b. Approval of Check Register - Check #'s 44814-44937**

Motion to approve the check register for check numbers 44814 through 44937 made by Council Member Murphy, seconded by Council Member Wease. 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.*

**Matt Folmar, Small Business Administration**, informed the council and audience that Small Business Administration was offering disaster assistance to any business in Monticello or Jasper County who is in need. Federal Emergency Management Agency and SBA has coordinated a disaster recovery center located at New Rocky Creek Baptist Church.

**James Adams, 1037 Clay Street**, stood before the council in the absence of his wife who was hospitalized and questioned the council to vote on the petition for their property and procedure to move forward with annexing into the city limits. City Manager Sands advised Mr. Adams the council would decide on the annexation application and approve the fee schedule.

**Terri Saunders, 407 W. Washington Street**, was speaking on behalf of the concerned citizens of Monticello. Ms. Saunders addressed her two concerns were the mowing contract and the conditions of the playgrounds. She requested a new contract with exact specifications be put out for bid to ensure transparency. She also reminded the council of the pictures presented at the last meeting demonstrating the lack of surfacing under parts of the playgrounds and documents explaining the standards for the playground surfacing. She finally presented to the council a playground inspector to inspect the playgrounds and pricing of certified safe materials to use for surfacing.

**Walter E. Smith, owner of Smith and Sons on Funderburg Drive**, requested handicapped accessibilities to the council chambers in the front of the chamber.

**Rev. William Gibson, Martin Luther King Drive**, presented tokens for appreciation to all the council members, former mayor, and news editor for all the work they completed for the City of Monticello.

**David Thompson, 1237 Forsyth Street**, stated he's running for the mayor's seat which was vacated by Gail Harrell and stated he was sorry to see her resign. He's looking forward to working with everyone and make Monticello better.

#### 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. **GDOT- Corbett S. Reynolds and Kedrick**, presented to the council a plan to address the traffic issues the City of Monticello's Square is currently facing. Reynolds explained the plan would present change which is sometimes hard to accept but is necessary to have. The plan would not address all the issues, such as the tractor trailers, but it would address moving vehicular and pedestrian traffic off the square effectively and safely. Kedrick explained what the plan would do and wouldn't do and what it tries to address.

#### 5. Public Hearing

**Mayor Pro Tem Currie opened the floor at 6:31pm for the public hearing for the following zoning applications:**

- a. **2022 – Z004:** Stephanie Puckett as applicant/owner requests a rezoning proposal for Honeysuckle Road/Hwy 16 from CC Community Commercial District to Residential. The tract is shown on tax map M04-185.

**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.

**For:** None

**Against:** None

**Mayor Pro Tem Currie closed the public hearing for both applications at 6:33pm.**

#### 6. Agenda Items

**a) Planning and Zoning Application –2022 –Z004: Stephanie Puckett – Honeysuckle/Hwy 16**  
Motion to approve the planning and zoning application 2022-Z004 made by Council Member Murphy, seconded by Council Member Wease. All in favor.

**b) Planning and Zoning Application –2022CU – 005: Walter Smith 918 Funderburg Drive**  
Motion to deny the planning and zoning application 2022CU-005 made by Council Member Murphy, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Currie.  
Abstained by Council Members Wease, Thurman, and Miller. Motion fails.

After the council cast their votes, Mr. Walter Smith stated he was not invited to the public hearings on his property for either meeting Planning and Zoning meeting nor the Council meeting. He presented to the council he met all the criteria and went down the trail to ensure it was done properly and to get it approved. Historic Preservation Commission approved the building over a year ago and it seems like there were roadblocks that are unnecessary.

**c) Acceptance of Mayor Harrell’s Resignation**

Motion to accept Mayor Harrell’s resignation to support her wishes made by Council Member Wease, seconded by Council Member Thurman. All in favor.

**d) Park Reservations:**

**1) Democratic Committee of Jasper County/Get Ahead House (Jasper County Day of Kindness) – March 4, 2023**

Motion to approve day of kindness made by Council Member Murphy, seconded by Council Member Miller. All in favor.

**2) Kimberly Dearro – Community Event & Car/Bike Show – April 2, 2023**

Motion to deny park reservation made by Council Member Murphy, seconded by Council Member Thurman. All in favor.

Council Member Murphy restated her motion.

Motion to deny Sands Drive Park but recommends Funderburg Drive Park for the community event and car/bike show made by Council Member Murphy, seconded by Council Member Wease. All in favor.

**e) CSI (Harris Local Government) Server Replacement \$18,967.62**

Motion to approve the CSI (Harris Local Government) server replacement for \$18,967.62 made by Council Member Murphy, seconded by Council Member Miller. All in favor.

**f) Annexation approval for City Property parcel 034 067 Hwy 83 N**

Motion to approve the annexation for City Property Parcel #034 067 – Hwy 83 N made by Council Member Murphy, seconded by Council Member Wease. All in favor.

**g) Annexation Petition Application and Fee Schedule approval**

Motion to change the annexation fees to \$300 from \$200 and approve the annexation application made by Council Member Miller, seconded by Council Member Wease. All in favor.

**h) GMA City of Civility Resolution approval**

Motion to accept the GMA City of Civility resolution pledging to practice and promote civility in Monticello made by Council Member Murphy, seconded by Council Member Wease. All in favor.

**i) Steele Co Contract Approval**

Motion to scale back the warranty from three year to one year and accept the contract made by Council Member Wease, seconded by Council Member Murphy. All in favor.

**7. City Manager Update**

City Manager Sands stated she received an email from Alpha Striping requesting another week due to staffing shortage before starting the Sanders Height and Kelly Lane repaving. She questioned if council would consider giving Alpha Striping an extra week. She updated the council with estimated completion date for the electric and gas utility building as November 30, 2023, if weather permits. Mrs. Sands mentioned she was notified of some broken playground equipment at Westview Park, and she requested Frank to price some replacement options. Mrs. Sands also gave the council an update on the audit and budget preparation. She informed the council about GMA Cities Week (April 23<sup>rd</sup> through 29<sup>th</sup>) and asked for volunteers to brainstorm activities for the week. She presented costs for anti-harassment training for the employees from the GMA attorneys. The electric and gas departments were working on list of equipment to surplus to purchase a trailer to share. Finally, she requested if she could attend GCCMA conference held on March 8<sup>th</sup> through 10<sup>th</sup> in Athens with the cost of \$475.

Motion to approve the manager conference in Athens for the City Manager made by Council Member Murphy, seconded by Council Member Wease. All in favor.

**8. Council Update**

Council Member Thurman – No comment.

Council Member Wease – No comment.

Council Member Miller – No comment.

Council Member Murphy – Happy Valentine’s Day.

Mayor Pro Tem Currie – Thanks for your input and please keep coming.

**9. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn the regular council meeting at 7:03pm made by Council Member Murphy, seconded by Council Member Wease. All in favor.