

REGULAR MEETING

Minutes
June 13, 2023
6:00 P.M.

1. Call to Order

Mayor Thurman called the regular meeting to order at 6pm

2. Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation was given by Rev. William Gibson followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call

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

4. Agenda Approval

Motion to approve the agenda as presented made by Council Member Wease seconded by Council Member Murphy. All in favor.

5. Consent Agenda to include:

a. Approval of Minutes:

- 1) May 4, 2023, Budget Work Session
- 2) May 9, 2023, Regular Council Meeting
- 3) May 11, 2023, Special Called Meeting
- 4) May 18, 2023, Budget Work Session

b. Approval of Check Register - Check #'s 45296 - 45426

Motion to approve the minutes and check register made by Council Member Murphy seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Currie. All in favor.

6. 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.

James Belcher, Representative of the Concerned Citizens of Monticello, thanked City Manager Sands and voiced his concerns on the city's parks safety and playground inspection.

Amanda Crews, owner of 210 Forsyth Street, stated her concerns with the vape shop next door, a constant panhandling and loitering problem attracted by the convenience and liquor stores next door.

Jamie McVey, 243 Frobel Street, address the trashy and unsafe issues the square currently has.

Pat Finger, Representative of the Concerned Citizens of Monticello, stated her concerns about the safety of the sand (playground protection surface) at the city's parks.



Juanita Norris introduced herself to the Mayor and Council as the new Community Care Coordinator for Jasper County under a grant provided by Morehouse College for the Get Ahead House.

Rev. William Gibson, encourage the Mayor, Council, citizens to all be one accord for City of Monticello.

7. Public Hearing

Mayor Thurman opened the floor for the public hearing at 6:19pm

- a. **Application 2023-TA001:** City of Monticello text amendment to allow breeding and selling of Geckos in the R20 zoning district upon conditional use approval.

In Favor:

Ian Pulka, 349 Merry Lane, stated his business is mainly to show the animals to people at events and to educate the children about them. He stated the geckos are less than 2 inches and are housed in 10-gallon tanks at room temperature.

Wanda Cummings, 349 West Greene Street, thinks having the gecko business would be good to educate the children.

Rev. William Gibson stated he doesn't see anything wrong or harmful about having reptiles but would love to see the children educated on the animals.

Against:

None

- b. **Application 2023-TA002:** Hassan Munir text amendment to allow a tobacco & vaporizer retail shop to be placed in the CBD zoning district upon conditional use approval.

In Favor:

None

Against:

Wanda Cummings, 349 West Washington Street, stated she doesn't think it's a good thing to have for our square or the children in the community.

Elaine Williams, 770 Liberty Church Road,

James Belcher stated he attended the last school board meeting and the biggest problem the school district is having is vaping and tobacco use and putting a shop on the square wouldn't help at all.

Amanda Crews, owner of 210 Forsyth Street, stated her biggest concerns would be the loitering and putting the vape shop on the square would not help.

8. Action Items

a. Planning and Zoning Application 2023-TA001

Motion to approve the text amendment for 349 Merry Lane made by Council Member Murphy, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Currie. Vote 4-1. Council Member Thurman opposed.

b. Planning and Zoning Application 2023-TA002

Motion to deny the text amendment made by Council Member Wease, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Currie. All in favor.

c. Adoption of Millage Rate

Motion to approve the rollback rate at 3.9410 for the millage rate made by Council Member Wease, seconded by Council Member Murphy. All in favor.

d. Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Adoption

Attorney Joe Reitman read the Fiscal Year Budget Resolution

Motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2024 Budget in the amount of \$8,668,080 made by Council Member Murphy, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Currie. Vote: 2-3. Council Members Miller, Thurman, and Wease opposed the motion.

Discussion: Council Member Wease stated that until he's comfortable with all the figures, he would like to table the budget.

e. Chamber of Commerce MOU Approval

Motion to approve the MOU between the Monticello-Jasper County Chamber of Commerce and the City of Monticello made by Council Member Murphy, seconded by Council Member Wease. All in favor.

f. Get Ahead House MOU Approval

Motion to table the Get Ahead House MOU until the Fiscal Year 2024 Budget is approved by Council Member Murphy, seconded by Council Member Wease. All in favor.

g. Improvement of IGA for Facility Usage of Sands Drive Park

Motion to approve the IGA for Facility Usage of Sands Drive Park made by Mayor Pro Tem Currie, seconded by Council Member Murphy. All in favor.

h. Code Enforcement IGA 2023

Motion to approve the IGA with Jasper County Board of Commissioners for Code Enforcement and Building Inspections made by Council Member Murphy, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Currie. All in favor.

i. Mine Lake Recreational Act Agreement Discussion

Mayor Thurman and Attorney Reitman briefed the Council of the Mine Lake Recreational Act Agreement.

Motion to table the Mine Lake Recreational Act Agreement made by Council Member Murphy, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Currie. All in favor.

j. Repointing Bid

Motion to table the repointing bid until the special called meeting made by Council Member Murphy seconded by Council Member Wease. All in favor.

k. Accelecom Pole Attachment Approval

Motion to approve the Accelecom Pole Attachment made by Council Member Wease, seconded by Council Member Thurman. All in favor.

l. First Reading for the Right of Way Ordinance

Attorney Reitman read and briefed the Council the First Reading for the Right of Way Ordinance. Motion to approve the first reading of the Right of Way Ordinance made by Council Member Murphy, seconded by the Mayor Pro Tem Currie. All in favor.

m. Safe Built Contract

Motion to table the Safebuilt Contract until the fiscal year 2024 budget is approved made by Council Member Murphy, seconded by Council Member Wease. All in favor.

n. DDA Appointments

a. Jennifer Stanley

Motion to reappoint Jennifer Stanley to the DDA Board made by Mayor Pro Tem Currie. No second. Motion failed.

b. Daniel Jefferies

Motion to reappoint Daniel Jefferies on the DDA Board made by Mayor Pro Tem Currie, seconded by Council Member Murphy. All in favor.

c. Nannette Manning

Motion to reappoint Nannette Manning on the DDA Board made by Council Member Murphy, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Currie. All in favor.

Kenia Lynwood

Motion to retain Kenia Lynwood on the DDA Board made by Mayor Pro Tem Currie, seconded by Council Member Murphy. All in favor.

o. City Hall Office Hours

Motion to change the City Hall office hours from 8am until 4:30pm made by Council Member Murphy, seconded by Council Member Wease. All in favor.

p. Zoning/Permit Application Fee

Motion to approve the zoning permit application fee in the amount of \$25 made by Council Member Murphy, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Currie. All in favor.

q. Underground Utilities Suspension

Motion to suspend underground utilities until the city can start it back made by Council Member Murphy, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Currie. All in favor.

9. City Manager Update

City Manager Sands briefed the council on the following items:

Park: The bleachers have been ordered for Sands Drive Park and surveillance mechanism has been installed for all parks. The City of Monticello received a letter from Georgia Department of Natural Resources on inspections completed at Sands Drive and Funderburg Drive Parks, which both parks passed the inspections.

Paving Quotes: The City has only received two paving quotes from Shepherd Paving and Houston Asphalt and is still waiting for one more quote.

The city is having issues with heavy duty trucks in residential areas parking overnight and breaking up the road, so she has asked code enforcement to investigate this matter.

Zoning Committee Update: An ad has been placed in the newspaper for members and a survey will be created by the end of the week to the public.

Electric and Gas Building Update: Some change orders will be coming. GDOT has required a relocation of the water main and the septic main drain field from the original design.

Staff Training: City's staff will be receiving harassment training by LGMRS held tomorrow with two different time slots and Lunch and Learn session on team building.

RLF Committee: Pan Myer will help assist with finding a committee, reached out to Brad Hawkins with Newton Federal Bank to serve on the committee, but needs to research the term limits with DDA.

DDA Movie Night: DDA has submitted a reservation for movie nights on the square for the following dates, June 23rd, July 28th, August 25th, and Haunticello.

10. Council Update

No comments.

11. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the Regular Council Meeting at 7:16m made by Council Member Murphy, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Currie. All in Favor.