

MONTICELLO CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
February 11, 2020
MINUTES
6:00 P.M.

Members Present – Mayor Bryan Standifer, Mayor Pro Tem Gail Harrell, Councilmembers David Wease, Cynthia Miller, Jennifer Murphy, and Larry Thurman were present.

Staff Present – City Manager Tim Young and City Clerk Karen Pennamon

Media Present – Kathy Mudd - The Monticello News

Citizens Present – Elizabeth Messick, Martha Hammond, Lynda Wise, Brandi McMichael, Gloria Williams, Mandi Tanner, Tracy Norton and Mike Benton.

Called Session - Mayor Bryan Standifer called the meeting to order. Councilmember David Wease offered the invocation. City Clerk Karen Pennamon called the roll.

Agenda Approval – Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Harrell and seconded by Councilmember Miller to approve the agenda with the following changes: Move Item #7 to Item #11 - Executive Session and add Personnel to Item #11, remove Item # 8 from the agenda and place on next month's agenda, add Item 9 (f) - Close Bank Account. All in favor.

Citizen Comments – Lynda Wise at 315 Bonner Street asked how the City determines the order for street paving and if any grants are available for these repairs. Mayor Standifer stated the LMIG Grant assists with street repairs. Waymon Cody, Director of the Street Department conducts an annual assessment of our roads to determine the order of repairs. The next road on the list is Funderburg Drive. Ms. Wise also voiced her concerns about a residence on Bonner Street that people have been using as a dumping area. She added that the tree limbs on Bonner Street need to be trimmed. City Manager Tim Young assured Ms. Wise that her concerns would be addressed.

Mandi Tanner, Director of Chamber of Commerce, stated the Chamber is working with the Electric Cities of Georgia to prepare an event postcard. The postcard will consist of events in 2020 and parking information. The Chamber is applying for grant assistance to help with distribution costs. Mrs. Tanner informed the City Council that she has received complaints from several downtown business owners concerning parking in the square. The business owners are requesting that customer parking only signs be placed outside their businesses. Adam McGinnis, Downtown Development Authority asking E.C.G. to provide metal reflective parking signs for customer and courthouse parking. The Chamber has also been working with the City Manager, Tim Young to address the parking issue. Mayor Standifer recommended that the Department of Transportations be contacted for clarification on their policies concerning parking in the square.

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FAX 706-468-1041

Tracy Norton, Director of the Senior Citizens Center stated that she would like to join forces with the City of Monticello to address the increase in homelessness in Monticello. She stated that Monticello does not have adequate affordable housing especially for the elderly. Many residents are within the U.S. poverty level and receive \$700-\$1200 per month in income which is not enough to cover all of their expenses. She recommended they research for any federal and state grants available. The DCA Chip Grant and HUD grants are a few she has researched. Mayor Standifer thanked Ms. Norton for addressing the Council.

Draft Proposal – Beautify Monticello – Gail Harrell – Mayor Pro Tem Gail Harrell proposed a beautification project for the City of Monticello. She stated residents are concerned about litter being deposited on the City streets. There are limited resources available in the City to assist with this issue and she plans to ask civic groups to participate in this project. The plan is to have an assigned day each month to pick up trash on the streets and each group would be assigned a specific area to cover. Councilmember Miller recommended contacting other cities to compare their procedures and then preparing a plan for the project. Mayor Standifer agreed that a lot of trash is being thrown in the neighborhoods and appreciates the effort to clean it up. Councilmember Thurman commented about a civic group that would be happy to participate. Mayor recommended placing this item on the March agenda.

City Manager Items

- a. Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Grant – The City of Monticello was not selected to receive this grant. The reduction of grant funds by the Department of Revenue limited the number of grants available.
- b. GDOT Procurement Policy – Annual policy renewal. Motion by Councilmember Wease to approve the GDOT Procurement Policy and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Harrell. All in favor.
- c. Travel Policy Update – Revised 2007 Travel Policy. Motion by Councilmember Wease to approve the new travel policy and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Harrell. All in favor.
- d. Update Disorderly Conduct Ordinance – City Manager shared information from Sheriff Pope concerning the City’s disorderly conduct ordinance. This ordinance needs to be compatible with the County code. The current County code only requires a citation to be written for this offense, but the City code requires an arrest, jail time, judge, and medical assistance. Updating the code will make it better and more efficient for the County to enforce. An Intergovernmental Agreement will have to be entered into by the City of Monticello and Jasper County once the ordinance is updated. Mayor Standifer stated that he has also spoken to Sheriff Pope concerning the ordinance update.
- e. Nuisance Party/Nuisance Party Location Ordinance – This ordinance needs to be updated and compatible with Jasper County’s code.
- f. A fraudulent check has been written on the 2018 SPLOST Account. A photoshopped check showed up on this account and due to security concerns, the account was immediately closed, and a new account created. Motion by Councilmember Murphy to close and open a new

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2018 SPLOST account and seconded by Councilmember Wease. All in favor. Mayor Standifer thanked Carnethia Pennamon for her attentiveness to the City's accounts.

- g. City Manager Tim Young and County Manager Mike Benton have met several times to discuss the City's code enforcement issue. They also attended a Department of Transportation meeting with other City and County officials to discuss the traffic flow model for the downtown square.

Consent Agenda – **Minutes of January 9, 2020, January 14, 2020, and January 28, 2020 and payables of \$506,861.70 (includes ACH drafts: ECG \$5,129.00, GEFA \$16,224.81, GMA \$9,387.44, MEAG \$189,676.35, MGAG \$60,144.79, US BANK \$18,828.13)

Motion by Councilmember Wease and seconded by Councilmember Murphy to approve the Consent Agenda. All in favor.

Executive Session- Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Harrell and seconded by Councilmember Miller to enter executive session to discuss Blockstream and Personnel. All in favor. Entered Executive Session at 6:55 p.m.

Motion by Councilmember Wease and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Harrell to return to regular session All in favor. No action was taken in executive session.

Returned to Regular Session at 7:25 p.m.

Council Comments:

Mayor: Thanked City Council for their great work! Encourages them to keep bringing items to the table.

Mayor Pro Tem: Recommends purchasing microphones for the Council Meeting Room.

Wease: None

Miller: None

Murphy: None

Thurman: None

Meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

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