

# CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING WITH GET AHEAD HOUSE

**June 29, 2021**

**MINUTES**

**6:00 P.M.**

**Members Present** – Mayor Pro Tem Gail Harrell, Councilmembers Cynthia Miller, and Larry Thurman

**Get Ahead House Board Present** – Roberta Anderson, Director, Bonnie Walsh, Reverend Jimmy Horton, Randall Davis, Jimmy Smith

**Staff Present** – City Clerk Karen Pennamon

**Media Present** – Kathy Mudd, Editor Monticello News

**Called Session** - Mayor Pro Tem Harrell called the meeting to order. Reverend Jimmy Horton gave the Invocation. City Clerk Karen Pennamon called the roll.

## **Agenda Items**

**Discussion of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).** Mayor Pro Tem Harrell stated the meeting is to discuss the MOU and get a sense of what the Get Ahead House is requesting from the City of Monticello. She noted once the committee gathered this information, they would consult with the Mayor and City Council. Mrs. Roberta Anderson stated the Get Ahead House Board highlighted items in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that they felt were inappropriate. She said they feel that the MOU was a lease instead of a partnership. Councilmember Miller stated she agreed that some of the wording did not belong in the Memorandum of Understanding. Mayor Pro Tem Harrell stated that the City has insurance on the building and any major expenses of the building are the City's responsibility. Ms. Bonnie Walsh asked if it would be cheaper for the City to purchase liability insurance on the Get Ahead House. Mayor Pro Tem Harrell stated they would need to consult with the City Council and the City Attorney to ensure the City can provide insurance for a 501(c)(3). Mrs. Anderson noted someone said they are subleasing the building, but they are not. She stated that the City's money is not enough to run the Get Ahead House because it only pays for the teacher salaries. Councilmember Miller asked how much it would cost to operate the Get Ahead House. Mrs. Anderson replied \$100,000.00. Mayor Pro Tem Harrell stated she would ask the City Manager to reach out to GMA to determine if the building has liability coverage and if a waiver would take the liability from the City. Councilmember Miller stated the Get Ahead House is a must and vital to the community. Mayor Pro Tem Harrell noted the Get Ahead House is essential to

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the community, and if the City Council can find a way to help, they will make an amenable agreement.

**Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.**

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