

MONTICELLO CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
October 12, 2021
MINUTES
6:00 P.M.

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

Staff Present – City Manager Angela Redding, City Clerk Karen Pennamon, and City Attorney Joe Reitman were present.

Media Present – Kathy Mudd - The Monticello News

Called Session – Mayor Bryan Standifer called the meeting to order. The Invocation was given by Reverend William Gibson, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. City Clerk Karen Pennamon called the roll.

Agenda Approval – Mayor Standifer requested to remove agenda item #7 – Consider Franchise Agreement with Central Georgia EMC and agenda item #9 – Discussion – Amendment to the Developers Agreement for Oak Ridge Subdivision. Motion by Councilmember Murphy to approve the amended agenda, seconded by Councilmember Wease. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

Citizen Comments:

Gail Harrell - stated an anonymous donor purchased the founding documents that were approved by the City Council on August 10, 2021. U.S. Congressman Jody Hice will present these documents to the City Council in the City Council Chambers on November 9, 2021, at 4:00 p.m. Mrs. Harrell requested that Mayor Standifer provide the opening remarks and noted she would like to be involved with the installation of the documents.

David Thompson – discussed his concerns with the American Rescue Plan Funds and Premium Pay for City employees.

Chamber of Commerce – Mandi Tanner, Executive Director – The Chamber of Commerce distributed welcome packets which contained a list of restaurants and a Jasper County brochure to new residents in Monticello. She noted the Chamber of Commerce memberships and visitor counts have increased. The Hunter Pope Golf Tournament is on October 13, 2021. The Fall Market and Haunticello are on October 30, 2021. There will be thirty-two vendors giving out candy at this event. The Deer Festival is November 6, 2021, there will be 132 vendors. The Netflix film “BOO” will be filming for seven days in November 2021 and on four of these days the filming will be from

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6:00 a.m. to 4:00 a.m. Several of the vendors will set up in a lot on East Washington Street. Netflix location manager Gonzo Rey and assistant Kevin Demunn briefed the City Council on the filming project.

Downtown Development Authority – Wendall Yoder, Chairman – stated the Downtown Development Authority has appointed Wanda Cummings as the Executive Director replacing Michele Celani who recently resigned. Mr. Yoder stated they are upgrading the parking lots on Washington Street and Forsyth Street. The Downtown Development Authority is working with City Councilmember Wease on phase one of the tree project. The second phase of the tree project will be posted on the Downtown Development Authority’s Facebook page.

Historic Preservation Commission – David Thompson, Chairman – stated the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) appointed Zachary Middleton as the Vice Chairman on September 30, 2021. The HPC approved the following COA’s: 140 W. Greene Street, 371 Martin Luther King Drive, 1064 Funderburg Drive, 1070 Funderburg Drive. A Certificate of Appropriateness for 1074 Funderburg Drive was denied. He noted the Historic Preservation Commission has issued 32 Certificates of Appropriateness so far this year.

Approval of Minutes - Councilmember Wease made a motion to approve the following minutes: Regular Meeting of Mayor and Council – September 14, 2021, and Special Called Meeting of Mayor and Council – September 21, 2021, seconded by Councilmember Murphy. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

Agenda Items

1. Employee Recognition – Monte Roper – moved to next month’s agenda.
2. Consider Appointment to the Downtown Development Authority – TABLED to next month’s agenda.

Background and Summary:

The Council Representative on the DDA Board resigned. This agenda item is to appoint a replacement from the City Council to the DDA Board.

3. Consider Premium Pay for Essential City Employees

Background and Summary

The City received funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Under the United States Department of Treasury guidelines, Employee Premium Pay is an acceptable use of the funds. The item is to discuss premium pay for essential employees. (This item was tabled from the last meeting). City Manager Redding provided the City Council with information on Georgia cities that have approved Premium/Hazard Pay for their employees. She noted this is an acceptable use under

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the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). One of the ARPA guidelines is that a one-time payment can be made to all employees, especially for small cities where employees are considered essential and worked last year providing critical services to the citizens and businesses. City Manager Redding stated that water and sewer infrastructure is also in the American Rescue Plan Act. She noted there is money in the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) for this improvement and they can also apply for funding through the State of Georgia. Councilmember Wease stated he would like to see the numbers on the water and sewer infrastructure before deciding. City Manager Redding stated she will provide the updated cost estimates to the City Council. Mayor Standifer gave an estimate of the cost for thirty-six employees at \$1,800 each is \$64,800.00 out of \$864,000.00 which the City of Monticello will receive from the American Rescue Plan Act. Motion by Councilmember Murphy to table this item to the next month's agenda to get a proposal to upgrade water and sewer infrastructure, seconded by Councilmember Thurman. The motion passed 3-1, Councilmember Miller abstained.

4. Consider Value for Church Street Road Abandonment (This item was tabled from the last meeting). City Manager Redding stated the appraiser overlooked the legal description for the portion of Church Street that was abandoned by the City of Monticello. She said the last appraisal included the road behind Monticello Baptist Church which is owned by the church. The updated value for the portion of Church Street abandoned by the City of Monticello is \$6,175.00 and 85% of the fair market value of that amount is \$5,248.75. This is the amount the church would need to pay. She noted Pastor David Artessa will let her know if the church accepts the offer. Motion by Councilmember Murphy to make a contingent offer to Monticello Baptist Church to sell the abandoned portion of Church Street property for \$5,248.75, seconded by Councilmember Thurman. Voting for the motion was unanimous.
5. Discussion – Request to make Tanyard a One-Way Street. City Manager Redding stated she met with Georgia Department of Transportation representatives regarding the grate on Tanyard Street. They informed her that the grate has been lowered as far as it can be lowered and lowering it more would cause more damage to citizens' vehicles when they drive off the road. She has also reached out to public safety officials about the issue and received a comment that Tanyard Street is utilized by public safety officials to go to the hospital. It was also said that Tanyard Street is used by residents to avoid traffic on the Square. Motion by Councilmember Murphy to ask the City Manager to explore possible speed deterrents on Tanyard Street with the Georgia Department of Transportation and the local Sheriff Department, seconded by Councilmember Wease. Voting for the motion was unanimous.
6. Approval of Upcoming Filming in November

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Background and Summary:

Netflix has expressed an interest in filming in Monticello and Jasper County. Per the language in the film permit, the Camera-Ready Liaison, which is the Chamber of Commerce will issue the permit upon approval of the governmental entity where filming will occur. Filming will occur for two weeks beginning November 10th.

This agenda item is requesting approval by Mayor and Council for the film permit. Motion by Councilmember Miller to approve the film permit, seconded by Councilmember Murphy. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

7. Consider Franchise Agreement with Central Georgia EMC – TABLED to next month’s agenda.

8. Discussion – Wage and Compensation Study

Background and Summary

The last documented Wage and Compensation Scale was in 2007. Per the Human Resources Policies and Procedures not less than every two years the compensation plan should be updated and approved by Mayor and Council. The Wage and Compensation Study will compare the salaries of City of Monticello employees with similar cities and competing cities. The Wage and Compensation Study will establish a minimum, medium, and maximum salary range for each position. Additionally, the study will ensure each employee classification is correct as being exempt or nonexempt This agenda item is to request approval to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a Wage and Compensation Study. Motion by Councilmember Thurman to approve a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a Wage and Compensation Study, seconded by Councilmember Murphy. Voting for the motion was unanimous.

9. Discussion – Amendment to the Developers Agreement for Oak Ridge Subdivision- TABLED to next month’s agenda.

10. City Manager’s Report

Trees on the Square Update – The trees on the Downtown Square were removed and the next step is to replace the trees. The Tree Plan is for two (2) Hornbeam trees and one (1) Ginkgo tree on each side of the square except the courthouse side that will have one of each to reflect even distribution around the square. The City is waiting on a utility locate before the contractor can grind the stumps and new trees are ordered.

Code Enforcement Update – The City of Monticello is making progress with code enforcement. There are currently 108 code enforcement cases, 91 cases are active,

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and 89 cases have been closed. The next cases for non-compliance are scheduled to go to court on November 4, 2021. The two cases that did not show up for the October 2021 court hearings will be on the November 2021 court schedule.

10. Executive Session for Personnel, Litigation, or Real Estate – Motion by Councilmember Wease to enter executive session at 7:17 p.m. to discuss real estate, seconded by Councilmember Thurman. Voting for the motion was unanimous. Motion to exit executive session at 7:29 p.m. and enter regular session made by Councilmember Murphy, seconded by Councilmember Thurman. Voting for the motion was unanimous. No action was taken in the Executive Session.

11. Comments by the Governing Body

Mayor Standifer stated there will be a work session scheduled to discuss planning and zoning.

Councilmember Wease had no comment.

Councilmember Miller had no comment.

Councilmember Murphy had no comment.

Councilmember Thurman had no comment.

12. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

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