

MINUTES

FORSYTH CITY COUNCIL MEETING

NOVEMBER 5, 2018

CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, INVOCATION, AND ROLL CALL

Mayor Wilson called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Councilman Dodd gave the invocation. Present for the meeting was Mayor Eric Wilson, Councilmembers Mike Dodd, Greg Goolsby, John Howard, Chris Hewett, and Melvin Lawrence. Also present was City Attorney, Bobby Melton, and City Manager, Janice Hall.

Councilman Stroud was late for the meeting; therefore, all unanimous votes will be five (5) votes for (Dodd, Goolsby, Howard, Hewett, and Lawrence) until he arrived.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilman Hewett offered a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Councilman Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 15, 2018 COUNCIL MEETING

Councilman Lawrence offered a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Seconded by Councilman Hewett, the motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING – SIGN VARIANCE IN NEIGHBORHOOD SHOPPING DISTRICT, OWNER WEST MONROE INVESTMENTS, MAP F17 010, BIRTHING CENTER AT INTERSECTION OF BROOKWOOD DRIVE AND MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR DRIVE

Mr. Melton reviewed the application before council tonight stating that the variance is for a sign to be located on property F17 010 at the corner of Brookwood Drive and Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, the public hearing has been advertised in the October 17, 24, and 31 issues of the Reporter, and comes before council with a recommendation of approval from the Planning & Zoning Board.

Mayor Wilson reviewed the process for the public hearing as spelled out in the Zoning Ordinance and opened the public hearing for comments from the applicant, those in favor, those in opposition, and the Zoning Officer.

Mayor Wilson asked for a show of hands of those in favor of approving the variance and there were two. Mayor Wilson called on Zoning Officer, Tammie Pierson, to review the application request. Mrs. Pierson stated the request is to install a LED sign on the corner of the property.

Mayor Wilson called on those in favor:

Kesia Stafford, of Stafford Builders, came forward to further review the request. Ms. Stafford stated the sign will be on the corner of Martin Luther King Jr. Drive and Brookwood Drive and will be a 10’ tall automated sign which will have the capability of listing classes, messages, and playing short videos along with dimming at night. Councilman Howard stated that he has received a complaint regarding the sign but after hearing the explanation regarding the sign size and placement does not see a problem. Councilman Goolsby stated that he is concerned about the sign blocking the line of sight for those pulling out of Brookwood Drive and Ms. Stafford stated the sign will be back from MLK towards the parking lot and will not block the line of sight.

Mr. James Green, 209 Martin Luther King Jr., Drive business owner, came forward in support of the business and the approval of the sign. Mr. Green stated that the building is an asset to the community. Mr. Green stated that he would like to see the zoning in this area changed so that businesses do not have to come before council to have things such as a sign approved.

Mayor Wilson called on those in opposition:

None came forward in opposition and no rebuttal from the applicant was required.

Mayor Wilson closed the public hearing.

Councilman Goolsby offered a motion to approve the variance request as presented. Seconded by Councilman Hewett, the motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING – APPROVE ORDINANCE AND ZONING MAP AMENDMENT - REZONING REQUEST FROM LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL TO HIGHWAY BUSINESS FOR 5.33 ACRES MAP 053B 001A, OWNER THOMAS LEE VAUGHN AND MARY EDITH VAUGHN

Mr. Melton reviewed the application before council tonight stating that the rezoning is for property 053 001A which fronts Juliette Road and consists of 5.33 acres; owners are Tommy and Mary Edith Vaughn; request is to rezone from Low Density Residential to Highway Business; the public hearing has been advertised in the October 17, 24, and 31 issues of the Reporter, and comes before council with a recommendation of approval from the Planning & Zoning Board.

Mayor Wilson reviewed the process for the public hearing as spelled out in the Zoning Ordinance and opened the public hearing for comments from the applicant, those in favor, those in opposition, and the Zoning Officer.

Mayor Wilson asked for a show of hands of those in favor of approving the variance.

Mayor Wilson called on Zoning Officer, Tammie Pierson, to review the application. Mrs. Pierson presented pictures of the property along with the tax accessor's map showing the location of the property.

Mayor Wilson called on those in favor:

Mr. Tommy Vaughn came before council stating that he is representing himself and his sister, owners of the property. Mr. Vaughn stated that they originally developed Evergreen subdivision and this property is the remaining acreage for the subdivision. Mr. Vaughn stated that he has been unsuccessful in selling the property as residential and would like to rezone the property to commercial to help him sell the property. Mr. Vaughn stated that he would not put anything there that would be detrimental to the subdivision and that there is not a contract on the property he just wants to put the property on the market as commercial. Councilman Dodd asked if this was originally three properties as it appears on the drawing presented and Mr. Vaughn stated that the subdivision was originally one large parcel and as lots sold they would plat them out and this is the remaining properties.

Mayor Wilson called on those in opposition:

Cherri Nix, 120 Magnolia Court, came forward to address council stating that if this is rezoned she would have a commercial property in her backyard as there are no limitations as to how far the commercial property could come to her home.

Scott Smith, 111 Conifer Drive, came forward to address council stating that he is concerned about the additional traffic, noise, and increase in potential crime, increase in property tax, and concerned with the overall problems a commercial rezoning might cause. Mr. Smith stated that he would like to see a set of plans for the property before a rezoning is considered.

Reye McLuen, 116 Conifer Drive, came forward to address council stating that her front porch overlooks this property. Ms. McLuen stated that not everyone in attendance tonight that are opposed will get up to speak and asked all those opposed to the rezoning to stand and a large number of people stood. Ms. McLuen stated that she respects Mr. Vaughn but she has never seen a for sale sign on the property and challenged him to market the property as residential. Ms. McLuen stated that this property was originally set to be a clubhouse and pool but that never materialized and the property is now between multifamily and low density residential and is not the location for commercial growth. Ms. McLuen stated that if the property is sold, Mr. Vaughn will no longer have control over what goes on the property so he cannot say that he would not put something detrimental there.

Elizabeth James, 203 Conifer Drive, came forward and read a letter spelling out her reasons for opposing the rezoning of the property.

Cristina Simpson, 145 Conifer Drive, came forward to address council stating that the view from her home is the pond and if the property is rezoned to commercial, the view will no longer be the tranquil view that it is now.

Jennie Floyd, 160 Conifer Drive, came forward to address council stating that this property was originally part of the subdivision and that is why there is a cul-de-sac at the end of Magnolia Court. Ms. Floyd stated the property could adjoin the entrance into Evergreen Subdivision and the owners of Village Oaks Apartments may not be aware of the rezone request but the property line is very close to the apartment buildings and she sees numerous children getting on and off school buses at the apartments.

Councilman Goolsby asked if the subdivision has covenants and a copy of the covenants was presented to council for their review.

Don Griffin, 131 Cedar Court, came forward to address council stating that the subdivision is a diverse community and all get along with one another. Mr. Griffin stated that this would affect the property values and there is already a litter problem on Juliette Road and a commercial business will only increase the litter. Mr. Griffin posed several questions to council for Mr. Vaughn:

- If the covenants have expired, why and why are they not renewed?
- Why neglected the property owners? They all bought property from the Vaughn's and paid the asking price for their lot, but this is not in the best interest of the subdivision.
- Does Mr. Vaughn have any moral obligation to those that bought lots from him?
- Roads in subdivision not paved since first term of Paul Jossey because Mr. Vaughn never asked council to pave the roads.
- Should have a moral responsibility to the people in the subdivision.

Mr. Griffin asked council to deny the request and remind Mr. Vaughn that the subdivision is part of the city and everyone in the subdivision pays taxes. Mr. Griffin stated that he doubts a convenience store would bring in more taxes than the residents pay.

Kathy Dunn, 164 Conifer Drive, came forward to address council stating that she and her husband, Chip, raised their family in the subdivision and have worked hard to pay off their home and it is heartbreaking to hear that Mr. Vaughn wants to rezone the property to commercial. Mrs. Dunn read a letter for the record from her husband spelling out his reasons for opposing the rezoning. Mrs. Dunn stated that this tract of land provides a natural buffer from the traffic and noise from Juliette Road; spot zoning would not be best for the subdivision; requested that Mr. Vaughn consider donating the property to the city for greenspace and take as a tax deduction.

Hearing no further comments against the rezoning request, Mayor Wilson called on Mr. Vaughn for a rebuttal.

Mr. Vaughn offered his rebuttal to the opposition stating that he has marketed the property but never by placing signs on the property for any of the lots in the subdivision and there are rules and regulations for setbacks that would apply to a commercial business. Mr. Vaughn stated the homeowners could form a Homeowners Association and that he is willing to sell the property to the homeowners in the subdivision and they could donate it to the city. Mr. Vaughn stated that he does not have a price on the property at this time and that he has not received any interest in the property at residential zoning. Councilman Goolsby asked Mr. Vaughn if he has marketed as residential lots and Mr. Vaughn responded that all lots were originally marketed as residential. Councilman Goolsby stated that he hears from a lot of people that there are no residential lots available in Forsyth and believes that if he markets the property as residential it would sell. Mr. Vaughn stated that he is open to marketing the property to sell it.

Walter Culberson, 202 Conifer Drive, stated that if Mr. Vaughn has been marketing the property he should have a price in mind and Mr. Vaughn stated that the last time the property was marketed it was at \$10,000 per acre.

Mr. Vaughn stated again that nothing would be put on the property that would be detrimental to the subdivision and would be willing to eliminate certain types of businesses.

Hearing no further comments, Mayor Wilson closed the public hearing. Councilman Dodd offered a motion to deny the application on the grounds that it is now zoned Residential Low Density, which is in keeping with the Declaration of Restrictive Covenants, and it is not reasonable to insert Highway Business in an area between the apartments at Village Oaks and the residential subdivision only several hundred feet away and Councilman Lawrence seconded the motion. Councilman Howard stated that we see tonight concerned and worried citizens due to change to the property that they bought and pleased that so many came out tonight to let their voice be heard. Councilman Goolsby stated that it does not appear that it is Mr. Vaughn's intention to make quick money but council cannot make quick decisions either. Councilman Goolsby continued that Mr. Vaughn should research opportunities to sell the property a residential and recommended to the property owners to form a Homeowners Association to protect their property and thanked everyone for attending tonight and voicing their concerns. Mr. Vaughn addressed council and asked what would happen if he withdrew his request and Mr. Melton stated that a motion is on the floor so that motion would have to be withdrawn at this point. Councilman Dodd stated that he feels a decision should be made and not set a precedent for other builders to follow. Councilman Dodd upheld his motion to deny the request. Mr. Vaughn

stated that he is withdrawing his request. Mayor Wilson called for the vote on the motion on the floor and the motion to deny the request carried unanimously.

*Note Councilman Stroud arrived at 7:00 pm therefore, all unanimous votes for the remainder of the meeting will be six (6) votes (Dodd, Stroud, Goolsby, Howard, Hewett, and Lawrence).

APPROVAL OF REVISED RAILROAD CROSSING PLAN TO INCLUDE CLOSINGS & UPGRADES – WILLIAM MILLER, NORFOLK SOUTHERN

Mr. William Miller, Norfolk Southern came before council and reviewed the safety proposal that was presented at the October 1, 2018 council meeting that included closing Indian Springs Drive and Main Street crossings and upgrading Lee Street and Tift/Johnston Street crossings. Mr. Miller stated that they heard overwhelmingly that closing the Main Street crossing would be an issue and they are returning tonight with a revised plan. Mr. Miller presented large drawings of the crossing upgrade to Tift/Johnston Street and stated the original plan was approximately a \$1 million project. Mr. Miller reviewed the revised plan as a \$650,000 project to include closing Indian Springs Drive crossing, upgrading the signals and surface at Tift/Johnston Street crossing, upgrading the surface at Lee Street, and would not include signal upgrades to Lee Street crossing and would eliminate Main Street crossing from the plan. Councilman Dodd stated that two crossings were closed several years ago and both of those were used a lot and stated that he does not understand why a crossing cannot be added somewhere between Indian Springs Drive and Mize Street so there is not such a long distance between crossings. Mr. Miller stated there is not enough room or road between Indian Springs Drive and Mize Street to add a new crossing. Councilman Dodd stated that closing one crossing is going to increase the traffic on the other crossings.

Mayor Wilson requested a motion on the revised proposed plan to allow for discussion. Councilman Dodd offered a motion to deny the proposed plan and Councilman Hewett seconded the motion.

Mr. Miller stated that this is a generous package at no cost to the city and that Indian Springs Drive crossing cannot be improved and fire trucks cannot use the crossing as it is. Councilman Dodd stated that he is not willing to give up that crossing. Mr. Miller responded that closing that crossing will likely save a life and allow the city to grow. Councilman Stroud reviewed a recent experience he had with his 17-year old son who is a new driver and he struggled with the crossing and that he sees how this crossing could pose a risk for a new driver. Councilman Stroud further stated that there have been accidents at the Indian Springs Drive crossing but he does not like that closing the crossing could possibly affect the business that is there. Mr. Bryant, owner of Bryant's Collision, located at the crossing stated that the traffic count on that crossing is higher than what the railroad is stating that it is. Mr. Bryant agreed that there were two accidents at the crossing a couple of years back but there were two accidents at the Tift/Johnston Street crossing this summer. Mr. Bryant stated that the problem is not the crossings it is that people do not stop at the crossings. Mr. Miller stated that more than 5,000 vehicles cross the Tift/Johnston Street crossing and that is considerably more than what crosses the Indian Springs Drive crossing. Councilman Howard stated that he had a similar experience with his son when he was a new driver but he does not want to miss out on assistance from the state either. Councilman Goolsby stated that Indian Springs Drive is an awkward crossing and is also concerned about the affect closing the crossing would have on Bryant Collision and asked Mr. Bryant if he had any idea how much of his business came from "walk in" customers. Mr. Bryant stated that a lot of his business is from people driving by and seeing his business. Councilman Goolsby stated that people would possibly turn onto Railroad Avenue at Mize Street and come down to his business from that direction and Mr. Bryant stated that people come across the railroad crossing and straight into his parking lot. Councilman Hewett asked where the right-of-way for the railroad is on Tift/Johnston Street and Mr. Miller stated that he is not sure. Councilman Hewett stated that part of the problem at Tift/Johnston Street crossing is where the old tracks were and that the railroad needs to fix the road at the crossing. Mr. Miller requested that we stay on topic for the proposal which is for the crossings and not for the road. Councilman Dodd asked for an engineering reason as to why they would not open another crossing and Mr. Miller responded that there are elevation issues and not sufficient space between the road and tracks to install lights and signals. Councilman Dodd stated that the city could realign the road as we did on Railroad Avenue on the other side of Lee Street and increase the space between the road and tracks. Councilman Goolsby stated that this would not address the issue of

harming business for Bryant's Collision. Councilman Dodd stated that if the Railroad would add a crossing between Indian Springs Drive and Mize Street the city could help move the city street over to accommodate the room needed for the signals. Councilman Howard asked if the city could afford to do a project like that and Mr. Miller stated that the city should not waste the time or money because it would not get approved. Councilman Stroud asked why we can't address the upgrades needed for Lee and Tift/Johnston Streets without including closing any of the crossings. Councilman Stroud stated that we could all work together to make this happen. Mr. Kevin Cowan, G-DOT representative, reviewed that this project would be done with federal funding and that the Tift/Johnston Street crossing qualifies for the addition of arms but Lee Street does not qualify for signal upgrades. Mr. Cowan reviewed the hazard index and how that works and stated that Tift/Johnston Street crossing is a 5.4. Mayor Wilson asked what grade the Indian Springs Drive crossing was and Mr. Cowan stated that he would have to look that up but never came back with a number. Councilman Goolsby asked how closing a crossing moves another one up and Mr. Cowan stated that it is due to the safety benefits of a crossing closing. Councilman Hewett asked how long it would take to get the upgrades done if this proposal is approved and Mr. Cowan stated that work could begin in less than 6 months. Councilman Goolsby asked how long if proposal is denied and Mr. Cowan stated several years. Michael Nash, G-DOT consultant, stated that state funds are distributed to all crossings and those with issues are handled first. Mr. Nash stated that there are new engineering standards in place now and must allow enough room on both sides of the track for a tractor with a trailer to be on either side of the tracks without blocking traffic or the tracks and there is nowhere on Indian Springs Drive that there is sufficient room for this to happen. Mr. Nash stated that we try to avoid fatalities at crossings and not wait until fatality happens to close a dangerous crossing but that they see the same sentiment across the state. Mayor Wilson asked how much of this proposal is for just the Tift/Johnston Street crossing and Mr. Nash responded \$400,000-\$500,000 total with about \$300,000 for bells, lights and gates. Since there are only flasher there now, Mr. Nash stated project would include change of circuitry. Mr. Bryant stated that putting arms at Indian Springs Drive crossing would make it safer rather than just closing the crossing. Mr. Bryant stated that some of the problem is that trains have increased their speed through the city as well. Mr. John Ambrose, County Commissioner and retired railroad employee, stated that the trains are not allowed to go over the speed limit.

Mayor Wilson stated that the motion on the floor is to decline the offer and called for the vote. The motion to decline the offer carried with four (4) votes for (Dodd, Goolsby, Hewett, and Lawrence) and two (2) abstentions (Stroud and Howard who both stated they were abstaining due to not sure how they felt about the offer and not wanting to give up state money).

Councilman Goolsby offered a motion for the Railroad to reconsider installing the safety features without any crossings being closed. Seconded by Councilman Stroud, the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Miller thanked council for their openness to discuss the matter and he would be open to meeting in Atlanta if council so desired. Mr. Dean Clements asked council to look at the safety issues and not consider closing any of the crossings.

PRESENTATION TO INCREASE HOTEL TAX – GILDA STANBERY, CVB DIRECTOR

Ms. Gilda Stanbery reviewed that last year council discussed the potential of increasing the hotel tax above 5% which will require a change to the city ordinance and approval from the State Legislature. Mayor Wilson asked Ms. Stanbery if she had spoken with the hotel owners to get their input and she responded that she had not spoken with all of the owners but those that she had spoken with agreed with the increase as long as the monies remain in the community. Ms. Stanbery introduced Tyler Reinagel, DCA Office of Research, to provide additional information on how the additional monies could be spent. Mr. Reinagel provided a PowerPoint presentation showing how the tax dollars are currently divided and spent and also how additional tax dollars would be divided and how those tax dollars could be spent. Councilman Hewett asked if the increase could only be in increments of 1 or could it be 5.75%? Mr. Reinagel responded that there are no restrictions to say it must be exact percentages but it would make it harder to calculate the amounts to divide out. Mr. Sunny Patel, hotel owner, addressed council and stated that he felt increasing to 6 or 7% would be fine but that 8% would be too high. Mayor Wilson stated that the CVB is requesting council approval to initiate sending the request to the State Legislature for approval, and once approved at the state level, city council can then amend the city ordinance.

Councilman Dodd offered a motion to initiate the legislation to increase the hotel tax. Seconded by Councilman Hewett, the motion carried unanimously.

PROPOSAL FROM DDA REGARDING REPAIRS/REMODEL OF OLD CITY HALL BUILDING – TAMMIE PIERSON

Mayor Wilson differed this matter to executive session.

APPROVAL OF LEASE CONTRACT WITH PUBLIC FINANCE STRATEGIES FOR ONE PATROL VEHICLE

Chief Harris requested that this item be moved on the agenda to allow Mr. Danzell to review the contract due to the meeting lasting so long so far and Mr. Danzell needing to leave. Council agreed to allow this change in the order of the agenda.

Mr. Danzell, President of Public Finance Strategies, addressed council stating that prior to 2007 there were approximately 65,000 patrol cars purchased each year and since then the number has decreased to approximately 50,000 per year. Mr. Danzell stated that research shows that the decrease in the number of patrol cars on the road has increased the number of traffic issues and fatalities. Mr. Danzell reviewed that the contract with his company for one patrol car includes the agreement to use the patrol car at least 120 hours per month which will provide consistent enforcement of traffic laws; payment for the vehicle will be made by \$25 per ticket paid from citations written from the vehicle to PFS; 90-day trial basis; \$1 buyout when vehicle paid off; and is a 4-year non-binding contract that terminates each year and automatically renews unless terminated by PFS or the City. Chief Harris stated that he plans to dedicate one officer to the vehicle and not “hot seat” the vehicle. Chief Harris stated that he has discussed with Mr. Danzell that he is short on officers and Mr. Danzell has agreed to initially reduce the required number of hours per month that the vehicle must be driven.

Councilman Stroud offered a motion to approve the contract for one (1) patrol vehicle. Seconded by Councilman Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL TO ADD EMPLOYEE REFERRAL PROGRAM POLICY AND FORMS TO POLICE DEPARTMENTAL POLICY

Chief Harris reviewed the policy and forms written to go along with the motion council approved a couple of months ago. Chief Harris stated that the forms will allow him to track any referrals that are made.

Councilman Hewett offered a motion to approve the departmental policy and forms as presented. Seconded by Councilman Stroud, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL TO AMEND POLICE DEPARTMENTAL POLICY TO CHANGE 3.10 VEHICLE OPERATION DEFINITION CODE 2 TO CODE 3

Chief Harris reviewed the request stating the codes the police department used in the past is different from those that the Sheriff’s office uses and now that 911 is dispatching all calls, we need to use the same codes. Chief Harris stated that Code 1 would remain the same, Code 2 would not be used, and Code 3 would be responding without lights and sirens.

Councilman Stroud offered a motion to approve the departmental policy change. Seconded by Councilman Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL TO AMEND POLICE DEPARTMENTAL POLICY “4.50 USE OF FORCE” TITLE AND POLICY TO “4.50 RESPONSE TO RESISTANCE” TITLE AND POLICY

Chief Harris called on Officer Glyn Corbitt to review this policy change and stated that Glyn is the instructor for this class at the Training Center and is in charge of the city training. Officer Corbitt reviewed that the use of force training must meet federal mandates and case law and if this policy change is approved, he will begin working on revamping other policies to bring them in line with federal mandates and case law as well.

Councilman Hewett offered a motion to approve the departmental policy change. Seconded by Councilman, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL TO CLOSE JACKSON AND JOHNSTON STREET ON THE SQUARE ONLY ON NOVEMBER 9, 2018 FOR PUGET SOUND

Mrs. Hall reviewed the request to close one block of Jackson and Johnston Streets on November 9, 2018 for filming.

Councilman Goolsby offered a motion to approve the street closure as presented. Seconded by Councilman Dodd, the motion carried unanimously.

AUTHORIZATION TO REQUEST REFUND OF YEAREND SETTLEMENT FROM ECG

Councilman Hewett offered a motion to request a refund of the yearend settlement from ECG. Seconded by Councilman Stroud, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF ADMINISTRATION STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES REGARDING GCIC/NCIC INFORMATION

Mrs. Hall reviewed that the policies are required by GCIC/NCIC for the city to require fingerprints for alcohol license. Mrs. Hall stated that Nancy Patten, fire department executive assistant, prepared the policies along with acknowledgement forms for the applicant to sign stating they have received the information required by GCIC/NCIC.

Councilman Dodd offered a motion to approve the administration procedures as presented. Seconded by Councilman Hewett, the motion carried unanimously.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF COUNTRY CLUB PARK PLAN

Mrs. Hall reviewed the amended Country Club Park Plan that was previously presented and now includes the addition of the covered basketball court and the connection of the road through the park to allow two entrance and exits in the event of a large event at the park. Mrs. Hall asked if council has a specific area they would like worked on first or any preference as to a timeline for the work in the park. Mayor Wilson stated that council has previously approved for him to present the Plan to the County Commissioners and he has spoken with each of the County Commissioners and all have asked for a timeline for the project. By consensus, council agreed for Mayor Wilson and Mrs. Hall to present the plan to the county.

APPROVAL OF SPECIAL PROJECTS FOR 2017 PROPERTY TAX PROCEEDS

Mrs. Hall stated that the 2017 property tax special projects was included in the 2019 proposed budget presentation that she gave last month but that she failed to request a motion to approve the projects for the property tax proceeds. Mrs. Hall reviewed the proposed special project list which included estimates of \$15,000 for Community Garden, \$15,000 for pavilion at Splashpad, \$50,000 for renovations at American Legion Hall, and \$15,000 for Christmas decorations.

Councilman Hewett offered a motion to approve the projects as presented. Seconded by Councilman Lawrence, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE CONTRACT WITH RENFROE CONSTRUCTION FOR RESTROOM PROJECT

Mrs. Hall stated this is the contract for the work approved based upon the one response received from the RFP for the restroom work.

Councilman Hewett offered a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Councilman Howard, the motion carried unanimously.

REVIEW CHANGES TO PROPOSED 2019 BUDGET

Mrs. Hall stated there is one addition to the proposed 2019 budget that was omitted from the first presentation and that is the addition of a line item for marketing for the Main Street department in the amount of \$2,500. Mrs. Hall stated this will be added to the proposed 2019 budget for final approval in December.

RECOMMENDATION FROM CITY MANAGER FOR WATER/WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT COMPANY EFFECTIVE JANUARY 2019

Mrs. Hall stated that two responses were received for the water/wastewater management RFP and those were from Utility Partners and Clearwater Solutions. Mrs. Hall stated that the scope of work presented in the responses is essentially the same with only the pricing being different. Mrs. Hall reviewed the pricing for Utility Partners as \$1,094,000 and Clearwater Solutions as \$1,080,259 which is a \$13,741 annual difference. Mrs. Hall stated that we have a current contract with Utility Partners for \$1,085,218 and recommended remaining with Utility Partners and authorizing her to work with Utility Partners to reduce the annual cost and extend the contract for more than one year.

Councilman Hewett offered a motion to accept the recommendation from the City Manager and award the water/wastewater management services to Utility Partners and to authorize the City Manager to work with them to reduce the annual cost and extend the contract for more than one year. Seconded by Councilman Stroud, the motion carried unanimously.

RECOMMENDATION FROM CITY MANAGER FOR CITY ENGINEERING FIRM EFFECTIVE JANUARY 2019

Mrs. Hall presented council with a spreadsheet comparing the seven proposals for engineering services received in response to the RFP request. Mrs. Hall recommended that we remain with Hofstadter & Associates.

Councilman Stroud offered a motion to accept the recommendation from the City Manager and award the engineering services to Hofstadter & Associates. Seconded by Councilman Hewett, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE INVOICES - \$341,443.07

Mrs. Hall reviewed all invoices for approval by department for a total of all invoices \$341,443.07.

Councilman Stroud offered a motion to approve the invoices for payment as presented. Seconded by Councilman Hewett, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF REQUISITIONS GREATER THAN \$5,000

- a. Etheridge Heating & Air – replace HVAC unit at PD - \$6,600**
- b. ADC – captor chemical - \$7,484.40**
- c. Gresco – 20 stock LED flood lights - \$9,700**

Councilman Dodd offered a motion to approve the requisitions greater than \$5,000 as presented. Seconded by Councilman Hewett, the motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Mrs. Hall offered the following report:

- Leadership Monroe Fox Hunt project – previously approved placing statue in Lee Street in back right-hand corner. Leadership Monroe is requesting to change location and to include installation of plaques. The new location will be in the front left-hand corner beside the bench and to install plaques on the brick wall behind the bench. The plaque mounts will be drilled into the grout not the brick. Cheri Lance, Chamber of Commerce, is here if we have questions regarding the placement. Councilman Hewett offered a motion to approve the placement of the fox and plaques. Seconded by Councilman Howard, the motion carried unanimously.
- Land & Water Conservation Fund grant pre-application was submitted on 10/31 for golf course projects for \$100,000 and is a 50/50 match.
- Public hearing on 11/19 for rezoning of property on Berner Avenue from TND to HB
- Movers & Shakers group will have survey and announcement sent out this week regarding branding for the community. Will work on getting the word out to utility customers to go to website to take the survey. Deadline is 12/21
- Engineering has been the holdup on EDA grant for the upgrade to the electric lines in the Industrial Park but that was cleared up last week and process should begin moving again
- Open enrollment for insurance benefits is tentatively set for 12/4 and 12/5. All elected officials will have to attend to submit paperwork to be added to the insurance coverage. To try to accommodate the PD, we will hold a meeting at 5 pm on 12/4 and then on 12/5 at 8, 10:30 and 2:00. The dates could change depending on the renewals. Getting quotes from BCBS, Aetna, Cigna, Humana and United Healthcare. Also getting quotes on dental and vision coverage.
- Railroad began the work on the cross ties and railings today so expect delays for the next couple of days. They will return in a couple of weeks to complete the railing work.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

Mr. Melton had nothing further to report.

MAYOR’S REPORT

Mayor Wilson stated that he would defer his report to the next meeting due to the long meeting we have had.

ADDITIONAL COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilman Howard asked Mrs. Hall to change the sign at the corner of Main and Martin Luther King Jr, Drive to have the sign spell out the name rather than the abbreviation of MLK that was recently installed. Mrs. Hall stated that she had already requested that the sign be replaced.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (MAYOR WILSON TO REVIEW RULES FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS)

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilman Stroud offered a motion to adjourn into executive session for the purpose of land transactions. Seconded by Councilman Hewett, the motion carried unanimously and council adjourned into executive session at 9:23 pm and included Tammie Pierson and Kerri Swearingen for a portion of the executive session.

Mayor Wilson called the meeting back into open session.

Councilman Goolsby offered a motion to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the DDA for renovations to the old city hall and annex buildings and to match funds needed for the renovations up to \$125,000. Seconded by Councilman Hewett, the motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Dodd offered a motion to approve a purchase contract agreement for property from Diversified Capital. Seconded by Councilman Hewett, the motion carried with five (5) votes for (Dodd, Stroud, Howard, Hewett, and Lawrence) and one (1) vote against (Goolsby).

ADJOURN

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 10:09 pm.

Submitted by:

Janice L. Hall, City Manager