

The City Council of the City of Monticello, Florida, met in regular session by telephonic conferencing on August 4, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor John Jones called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL/DETERMINATION OF QUORUM City Clerk Anderson took roll of participating members and city staff. The following members were present on the call:

John Jones, Mayor
Troy Avera
Gloria Cox
Julie Conley
George Evans

Others participating were:

Raymond Clark, City Manager
Fred Mosley, Monticello Police Chief
Emily Anderson, City Clerk
Bruce Leinback, City Attorney

PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENTS – CITY ATTORNEY BRUCE LEINBACK

Attorney Leinback discussed the allowances and procedures for conducting government meetings under the Governor’s Emergency Executive Orders 20-69 AND 20-179, extended to September 1, 2020 due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Leinback gave instructions for participating in the telephonic meeting, and Council Members noted understanding and agreement of the instructions.

Mayor John Jones offered an invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES OF 7/7/2020 AND 7/21/2020 MEETINGS

On motion of Council Member Gloria Cox, seconded by Council Member George Evans, the Council voted unanimously, by roll call vote, to approve the minutes of the 7/7/2020 and 7/21/2020 meetings.

PUBLIC HEARING / COUNCIL ACTION

ORDINANCE 2020-02 AN ORDINANCE DESIGNATING PROEPRTY LOCATED AT 420 W. WASHINGTON STREET AS AN HISTORIC PROPERTY SUBJECT TO SECTION 54, ARTICLE VII OF THE MONTICELLO CITY CODE: AUTHORIZING THE MODIFICATION OF THE CITY ZONING MAP TO REFLECT SUCH DESIGNATION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Clerk Anderson read the title of the ordinance. Mayor Jones opened the public hearing on Ordinance 2020 – 02. With no public or Council discussion, on motion of Council Member Troy Avera, seconded by Council Member Julie Conley, the Council voted unanimously, by roll call vote, to adopt Ordinance 2020-02.

PUBLIC HEARINGS / COUNCIL ACTION

***615 N. JEFFERSON STREET – BIG BEND HOSPICE, INC.**

***Application for Special Exception Use – Professional Office in Mixed-Use Office/Residential R-1 Zoning Overlay District**

Mayor Jones opened the public hearing on the Application for Special Exception Use. Project Representative Michael Eurich discussed the project. With no public or Council comment, on motion of Council Member George Evans, seconded by Council Member Troy Avera, the Council voted unanimously, on roll call vote, to approve the Application for Special Exception Use.

***Application for Certificate of Appropriateness – New Construction in Historic District**

Mayor Jones opened the public hearing on the Application for Certificate of Appropriateness for new construction in the City Historic District. Mr. Eurich discussed the architectural design of the building and its consistency of other structures in the District. With no public comment, and no Council discussion, on motion of Council Member Julie Conley, seconded by Council Member Gloria Cox, the Council voted unanimously, on roll call vote, to approve the Application for Certificate of Appropriateness.

SUNCOAST CONNECTOR TOLL ROAD UPDATES

***Updates from Project Representatives** Project Representative Greg Garrett discussed the recently-conducted Task Force meeting and the goal of refining the guiding principles of the proposed toll road. The next Task Force meeting is scheduled for August 27th, at which time further options for locating corridors will be considered.

ONTAYA SANCHEZ AND STEPHEN FRAZIER IN RE: REQUEST FOR REMOVAL OF OAK TREE AT THE COURTHOUSE CIRCLE

Mr. Frazier and Ms. Sanchez requested Council action removing the live oak tree at the Courthouse Circle, presenting research regarding the tree's history as a hanging tree for blacks, and noting that the tree is also designated by a plaque at the base of the tree as a meeting place for Confederate soldiers. Presentations of exhibit material and petitions for removal of the tree, as well as for removal of the Confederate Monument at the Courthouse, were referenced. Public comment on the request was received by Council.

At the conclusion of public comment, Council Member Gloria Cox requested clarification on the ownership of the tree. City Attorney Leinback noted that the Council has no authority to remove the tree, but could request, by Resolution, that the Department of Transportation remove the tree. Council Member George Evans asked for information regarding who approved the placement of the "meeting tree" marker at the tree location. City Attorney Leinback noted he is not aware of any City records which describe the circumstances regarding the placement of the marker, and that, most likely, such permission should have been issued from the Florida Department of Transportation since the marker is not on City property.

After discussion, Council Member George Evans made a motion that the tree be kept, but the “meeting tree” marker at the tree be removed. The motion was seconded by Council Member Gloria Cox. The roll call vote was as follows:

FOR	AGAINST
John Jones	Troy Avera
Gloria Cox	Julie Conley
John Jones	

PEARL STREET PAVING PROJECT

***Approval of Supplemental Agreement Awarding \$20,000 in Additional Funding for Construction Engineering Inspection (CEI) Services**

***Approval of Resolution 2020-06 Authorizing Execution of the Supplemental Agreement by City Manager**

On motion of Council Member Julie Conley, seconded by Council Member Troy Avera, the Council voted unanimously, by roll call vote, to approve the Supplemental Agreement and Resolution 2020-06.

***Approval to Negotiate for CEI Services with North Florida Professional Services, Inc.**

On motion of Council Member Julie Conley, seconded by Council Member Gloria Cox, the Council voted unanimously, by roll call vote, to approve negotiating with North Florida Professional, Inc. for CEI services for the Pearl Street project.

APPROVAL FOR PURSUIT OF GRANT FUNDING FOR HURRICANE HARDENING OF CITY FACILITIES

Council Member Avera discussed a grant for hurricane hardening and asked for City Council approval to apply for a grant for lift station and water tower generators. Costing is expected to run between \$75,000 and \$120,000, with no matching funds required. On motion of Council Member Gloria Cox, seconded by Council Member Julie Conley, the Council voted unanimously, on roll call vote, to approve the grant application.

BUDGET UPDATES

City Clerk Emily Anderson noted the small adjustments to be made to the budget after the July 21st discussions by Council. The Council will be able to review the budget again at the September 1st Council meeting. Council Avera suggested additional changes to the budget.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND DEPARTMENTS

No reports given other than written reports provided.

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

***Council Member Troy Avera** offered thanks to Ramsey Wheeler for cleaning weeds from E. Dogwood Street.

***Council Member Julie Conley** suggested that late fees on utility bills be waived for 90 days due to the continuing COVID crisis. On motion of Council Member Julie Conley, seconded by Council Member Gloria Cox, the City Council voted unanimously, by roll call vote, to amend the agenda to consider the action. On motion of Council Member Julie Conley, seconded by Council Member Troy Avera, the Council voted unanimously, by roll call vote, to approve waiver of late fees on utility bills for the next 90 days.

AUGUST MEETING/WORKSHOP DATES AND TOPICS

The Budget Committee will meet at 10:00 a.m. on September 1, 2020.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF SEPTEMBER MEETINGS

Clerk Anderson reported on the format of the millage and budget tentative and final budget hearings as specifically allowed by Executive Order 20-179. Those hearings will be conducted by telephone.

Additional information was provided regarding the uncertainty of the format of other City Council meetings as of September 1st, due to the possible expiration of the current Executive Order authorizing virtual regular meetings and noted that, due to the continuing concerns of the effects of COVID 19 in the community, short-notice change of dates, locations or formats of future City Council meetings is uncertain, but updates would be posted on the city website or available by calling City Hall.

With no further business, upon motion of Troy Avera, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Anderson
City Clerk/Treasurer

Mayor

NOTE: These proceedings were digitally recorded.