

The City Council of the City of Monticello, Florida, met in regular session on August 6, 2019 at 7:00 PM at City Hall. The following members were present:

John Jones, Mayor  
Troy Avera  
Gloria Cox

Others present were:

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

Mayor John Jones called the meeting to order, Council Member Avera offered an invocation, and the Mayor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

\***Jack Carswell** discussed ARI's upcoming conference in October.

\***County Commissioner Eugene Hall** suggested a water fountain which is located on S. Cherry Street have a placard attached which denotes that it used to be "colored only" fountain.

\***County Resident Bill Howard** offered some suggestions for downtown improvements.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

\***Approval of Minutes of 7/2/2019**

\***Approval of Holy Ghost Revival Center March for Jesus**

On motion of Troy Avera, seconded by Gloria Cox, the Council voted unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda items.

#### **PUBLIC HEARINGS / COUNCIL ACTION**

##### **APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATES OF APPROPRIATENESS –**

\***620 N. Jefferson Street – Fence Installation / Shed Installation – Rod and Barbara Hubbard, Owners**

Mayor Jones opened the public hearing. With the petitioners absent, and no public comment received, on motion of Troy Avera, seconded by Gloria Cox, the Council voted unanimously to adopt the recommendations of the Historic Design Review Board and approve the application for fence and shed installation.

**\*695 E. Washington Street – Fence Installation – Edward and Patricia Gadmonski, Owners**

Mayor Jones opened the public hearing. With the petitioners absent, and no public comment received, on motion of Troy Avera, seconded by Gloria Cox, the Council voted unanimously to adopt the recommendations of the Historic Design Review Board and approve the addition of a fence to the property in the manner proposed.

**KATRINA RICHARDSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF TOURIST DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, IN RE: PERMISSION TO MOVE INFORMATIONAL KIOSK FROM COURTHOUSE CIRCLE TO W. DOGWOOD STREET**

The Council discussed relocation of an informational kiosk from the Courthouse Circle to the north side of W. Dogwood Street. After discussion of location options and accessibility, on motion of Council Member Gloria Cox, seconded by Troy Avera, the Council voted unanimously to moving the kiosk to W. Dogwood Street.

**VIVIAN ROYSTER – UPDATE ON STRATEGIC PLANNING** Dr. Royster updated the Council on strategic planning activities and committee appointments.

**2018 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT CYCLE**

**\*Award of Grant Administration Services – Regular Category and Economic Development Category Grants – FFY 2018**

**\*Award of Grant Application Services – Economic Development Category Grants – FFY 2018**

Clerk Anderson announced the CDBG award letter issued to the City by the Department of Economic Opportunity and explained the next steps in processing of the grant. She noted that the city advertised for grant administration services for the regular category and economic development category grants and economic development category grant application services.

Summit Professional Services, Inc. was the sole respondent to the RFP, and a sole source waiver process would be pursued with the Department of Economic Opportunity. On motion of Troy Avera, the Council voted unanimously to approve contracts with Summit Professional Services, Inc., the sole respondent, subject to approval of the sole source waiver from the state, and subject to review of the contracts by the City Attorney and approval of the proposed contracts with the Department of Economic Opportunity.

**APPROVAL OF TASK ORDER FOR ENGINEERING OF SCOP PROJECT – PEARL STREET PAVING**

Engineer Josh Baxley presented a task order for engineering for the Pearl Street paving project. He noted that the city will be performing inspection of the project. On motion of Troy Avera, seconded by Gloria Cox, the Council voted unanimously to approve the engineering task order.

**RESOLUTION 2019 – 14 SUPPORTING THE FLORIDA JOB GROWTH GRANT APPLICATION FOR I-10/SR 59 INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS**

Engineer Josh Baxley discussed the Job Growth Grant and the potential for this grant to provide sewer infrastructure at the I-10/SR 59 interchange to support future businesses. The grant would also assist in alleviating septic tanks which are in the Wacissa Springs drainage area. He explained that if there are not enough funds awarded through the Job Growth Grant, there are other funding programs which may apply to the project. More money is being requested in this cycle than in the past based on cost analysis. Council Member Avera noted the project is a county project for county residents. He expressed concern that the city residents will have to cover the costs of the project and expected revenue is unknown. He suggested the county undertake the project and build it to city specifications. He also noted that the project may cause city residents' rates to rise because of maintenance costs or missteps in the project, especially if there are only a few customers on the new line and there is no requirement of residents on SR 59 to connect. His understanding of the project was that the county was going to put the project proposal together and then come to the city for approval of it. Council Member Avera noted he was willing to do the project, but only with protections to the city.

Former Manager Steve Wingate opined that the project would be a great opportunity to increase revenues, even though there are no high-use customers at this time. He suggested that in ten years, the city could pay off all bonds. He also noted that maintenance will be minimal and predictable and monitoring could be managed with a scada system. Council Member Avera noted that the city has been given no numbers for revenue or cost to maintain the system. Mr. Wingate noted that the city could refuse the funding if the numbers are not satisfactory. County Clerk Kirk Reams noted that he believed that all new development would be required to tie on to the system and that the County can apply for programs from the Suwannee River Water Management District to provide funding for existing property owners to tie on to the system. He also noted that the city residents would also benefit from development by the additional county ad valorem taxes which would be collected, since city residents also pay county ad valorem taxes.

Council Member Avera asked for assurances that the county would make property owners tie on to the system since the Commission has not been proactive in even requiring septic tank inspection. Clerk Reams noted there would be a public presentation on the project, and there will be a city/county task force to evaluate the project if the grant is awarded.

After discussion, on motion of Troy Avera, seconded by Gloria Cox, the Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution 2019–14.

[On September 3, 2019, on unanimous vote by the City Council, the minutes of the August 6, 2019 were amended to include insertion of five points made by Council Member Avera: no city money, built to city specs and standards, county to make up deficits, require hook-ups along the system route, and a meter at the terminus of the system.]

**STEVE WINGATE OF WINGATE CONSULTING IN RE: IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS AND LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY** Mr. Wingate noted he is willing to continue serving on the Legislative Committee. Council Member Avera suggested aggressive requests on a variety of projects. On motion of Gloria Cox, seconded by Troy Avera, the Council unanimously voted to designate Mr. Wingate as city representative on the Legislative Committee.

Mr. Wingate also offered his services as a city consultant for utilities and public works projects for a total of \$17,000 per year, working 40 hours per month, beginning October 1<sup>st</sup>. Attorney Leinback suggested a proposed contract be submitted in writing.

**DISCUSSION OF SIDEWALK USE ALLOWANCES / APPLICATION FOR PERMIT FOR SIDEWALK ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION / HOLD HARMLESS AND INDEMNITY REQUIREMENTS** Attorney Leinback reported he is working on finalization of the forms. He suggests the Council require proof of insurance in the amount of \$300,000 for those wishing to use the city sidewalks for display of merchandise. Council Member Avera suggests those wishing to display decorations or flowerpots should not be required to submit the same forms.

**CITY ATTORNEY CONTRACT RENEWAL** On motion of Troy Avera, seconded by Gloria Cox, the Council approved the city attorney contract renewal.

**CITY ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM GUIDELINES AND TIMETABLES** The Council reviewed the city grant program guidelines. Council Member Avera suggested adding some language to include “community, cultural or educational development” as purposes for funding assistance. He also noted that ARI has already applied for funding. The grant application period will be September 1<sup>st</sup> through September 27<sup>th</sup>. He also wants to ensure the Council has maximum flexibility in the granting of applications and in timing of paying out awards during the two cycles.

On motion of Troy Avera, seconded by Gloria Cox, the Council unanimously voted to approve the grant program guidelines and first cycle application dates of September 1<sup>st</sup> through September 27<sup>th</sup>.

#### **REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND DEPARTMENTS**

\***Police Chief Fred Mosley** asked that the golf cart regulations be added to the workshop topics.

\***City Clerk/Treasurer Emily Anderson** gave a brief update of billing upgrades. She will be presenting options for upgrades in billing forms within a few months.

**COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS**

\***Council Member Troy Avera** reported on a Florida League of Cities discussions on internet sales tax collection, cancer benefits for firefighters, and ability to modify business tax ordinances.

\***Mayor John Jones** noted discussions of the Apalachee Regional Planning Council. He also noted ongoing problems of contaminated materials being placed in recycle containers which causes whole batches of recycling to be discarded.

**MEETING/WORKSHOP DATES AND TOPICS**

The Council will conduct a workshop on August 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. Topics will include budget review, a utility rate study, review of garbage and trash collection and the golf cart ordinance.

Mayor Jones presented Council Member Gloria Cox with a certificate of completion of the Institute of Elected Officials Course IV.

With no additional meetings or workshops scheduled, and with no further business, upon motion, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Anderson  
City Clerk/Treasurer

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Mayor

NOTE: These proceedings were digitally recorded