

The City Council of the City of Monticello, Florida, met in regular session on December 3, 2019 at 7:00 PM at City Hall. The following members were present:

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

Others present were:

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

Mayor John Jones called the meeting to order, Police Chief Fred Mosley offered an invocation, and the Mayor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

RECOGNITION OF RETIREMENT OF MACK NORTON Police Chief Mosley recognized Capt. Mack Norton for his 25 years of service to the City Police Department. Chief Mosley requested that the City Council award Capt. Norton with his service revolver. On motion of Council Member Troy Avera, seconded by Julie Conley, the Council voted unanimously to amend the agenda to include the item. On motion of Troy Avera, seconded by Council Member Gloria Cox, the Council voted unanimously to declare the service revolver as surplus property and award it to Capt. Norton.

AGENDA AMENDMENT REQUEST

Council Member Julie Conley made a motion to amend the agenda to add an item addressing the scope of work for inmate labor crews, particularly as relates to the downtown area. The motion was seconded by Council Member Troy Avera and passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

***JoAnna Hand of FDOT** introduced a team of individuals assigned to the M-CORES project and noted two upcoming regional M-CORES Suncoast Connector Toll Road public meetings. Ms. Hand noted that the project is in the pre-planning phase. The team discussed the next phase will determine swaths of possible routes. The Team will be attending City Council meetings to continue to collect feedback from communities. The issues of utility infrastructure routing along the road and a possible by-pass in Jefferson County were discussed. Council Member Avera noted that a by-pass around the City of Monticello could be very detrimental to the local business environment.

An M-CORES meeting will be held in Jefferson County in March, 2020. The Team Members are willing to attend a workshop to further discuss the project.

***Clayton Tolbert** reported on recent discussions with the County Commission and School Board regarding County discontinuation of payments for the A-Building, and he suggested beginning negotiations with the County regarding the city share of local option gas tax monies. Mr. Clayton noted that the county should be more willing to work with the city once the School Board lease payments are stopped, and he will be discussing this with the County Commission.

CONSENT AGENDA

***Approval of Minutes of 11/5/2019**

***Approval of Application for Street closing for Downtown Christmas on December 6th**

***Approval for Travel for Council Member Avera to Attend IEMO III Training**

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

MOLLY LORD, VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED WAY OF THE BIG BEND

Ms. Lord discussed the United Way program, its community goals, and involvement in Jefferson County.

N. CHERRY STREET IMPROVEMENTS CONCEPTUAL PLANS

UPDATE/COST ESTIMATES Engineer Josh Baxley presented updated plans and costing for N. Cherry Street improvements. He noted that an “as-built” survey does not have to be included, which would be a savings of \$6,500. He also noted the estimated costing is based on historic data from the last project. He noted that the trees and benches could be looked at later. The light poles also may be donated by Duke, so he removed cost of light poles. Mr. Baxley noted that the engineering can be completed, and the project bid out, then the Council can look at value engineering once the costs are received.

Council Member Conley suggested bidding the project after full completion of the plans. A workshop can then be conducted to review the pricing and value engineering.

[Later in the meeting, Attorney Bruce Leinback suggested a motion is appropriate for proceeding with a bid on the project. On motion of Julie Conley, seconded by Troy Avera, the Council voted unanimously to authorize the engineer to complete the construction documents and bid the project.]

ECOLOGICAL PARK PROJECT UPDATE / OPTIONS FOR RESTROOM

FACILITY Engineer Josh Baxley noted that a bathroom unit for the park will take four months from date of order. He presented two alternate options for a restroom for Council consideration. Option One is a concrete block building with a skylight for lighting. Option Two is a modified design with hardiboard siding with automatic lighting and a covered porch. Both buildings are cheaper than the pre-fabricated bathroom which was initially specified. Mr. Baxley suggested allowing the contractor to cost out the two alternate options. Council member Troy Avera made a motion to look into pricing for the Option Two bathroom and if it is less than \$35,000, to put it out for bid. Council

Member George Evans announced he was abstaining from the vote. The motion was seconded by Julie Conley. With Council Member George Evans abstaining, the Council voted unanimously to approve the motion.

INMATE CREWS SCOPE OF WORK Council Member Conley suggested that the inmate crews need more guidance with identifying tasks, noting the recent severe trimming of the crepe myrtles on E. Washington Street. She noted that, while edging and mowing might not need supervision and instruction, more detailed tasks should be managed. Mayor Jones noted the inmate crews are only occasionally available. It was noted that a population change will be made at the prison, and more skilled labor may become available.

RESOLUTION 2019-20 REQUESTING SUPPORT OF THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE FOR FUNDING TO PROVIDE AFFORDABLE HIGH SPEED INTERNET SERVICE TO THE CITY OF MONTICELLO AND JEFFERSON COUNTY, AND TO SUPPORT THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES 2020 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY TO PROVIDE RELIABLE AND AFFORDABLE HIGH SPEED INTERNET TO RURAL AREAS Council Member Troy Avera and City Attorney Bruce Leinback discussed the purpose of the Resolution. On motion of Troy Avera, seconded by Julie Conley, the Council unanimously voted to adopt Resolution 2019-20.

Council Member Avera also noted he intends to talk to some other smaller counties to determine how they are obtaining high-speed internet.

NEW BUSINESS

***EMPLOYEE CHRISTMAS GIFT** Troy Avera made a motion to approve the employee Christmas cash gifts, which are included in the budget. The motion was seconded by Julie Conley and passed unanimously.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND DEPARTMENTS

***City Manager Raymond Clark** reported the solar project is still in the planning phase. Duke Energy will begin LED streetlight installation in December.

***City Clerk/Treasurer Emily Anderson** discussed work being performed by an arborist and plans for Arbor Day, which will be January 17th. She also passed out a budget update. She suggested that the asset management plan items to be performed this year should be reviewed and costed out.

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

***Council Member Troy Avera** noted he will re-submit an application for an environmental achievement award. He also mentioned the buzzards on the communications tower downtown are causing problems again.

He also mentioned attendance by several Council Members at the recent Florida Legislative Conference.

***Council Member Gloria Cox** mentioned the FLC Black Caucus and efforts to increase involvement in all city issues.

MEETING/WORKSHOP DATES AND TOPICS

The Council, noting that no definitive information on the toll road routes is available, determined that no workshop session will be scheduled in December. Council Member Julie Conley noted full information on the toll road would not be available for two years, and also opined that the Council would most likely be not in favor of a road proposal which would negatively affect businesses downtown. She noted that the process now is about forming the guiding principles for the toll road proposals. Council Member Avera also noted that it is too early to take a position on the toll road until all information is available, but is concerned that a bypass would inherently be detrimental to the city, and that determination should be made known to the planners.

The Council Members noted they would take input from citizens and encouraged the public to attend the task force meetings and sign up for information.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Anderson
City Clerk/Treasurer

Mayor

NOTE: These proceedings were digitally recorded.