

The City Council of the City of Monticello, Florida, met in regular session on December 4, 2018 at 7:00 PM at City Hall. The following members were present:

John Jones, Mayor
George Evans
Troy Avera
Julie Conley

Others present were:

Fred Mosley, Chief of Police
Emily Anderson, City Clerk
Bruce Leinback, City Attorney
Steve Wingate, City Manager

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

***Michelle Arceneaux** of Main Street thanked the city for assistance in installing Christmas decorations and invited the Council to Downtown Christmas festivities.

***Council Member Troy Avera** read a letter from Gretchen Avera requesting permission to install leyland cypress Christmas trees at the Opera House. He also noted he would like to amend the agenda to discuss Christmas bonuses for city employees. On motion of Troy Avera, seconded by Julie Conley, the Council unanimously voted to amend the agenda to add the items of placing leyland cypress decorations at the Opera House and to discuss an employee Christmas bonus.

On motion of Council Member Julie Conley, seconded by George Evans, the Council voted unanimously to approve placement of leyland cypress plants at the Opera House for Christmas.

***Gene Hall** asked that the city look into a ditch issue which may be dangerous.

CONSENT AGENDA:

***Approval of Minutes of 11/6/2018**

***Approval of MLK Parade on January 21, 2019 / Resolution 2018-16 Assuming Liability for Highway Closing**

***Resolution 2018-17 Approving Improvements Included in FDOT Resurfacing Project 3439729-I**

On motion of Troy Avera, seconded by George Evans, the Council voted unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda, noting the addition of an item to be discussed later regarding employee Christmas bonuses.

APPROVAL TO PARTICIPATE IN AMERIS BANK CASH SWEEP PROGRAM FOR 2013 BOND RESERVE AND SET-ASIDE ACCOUNTS Clerk Anderson discussed a banking program offered by Florida Rural Water and asked for permission to utilize the program for various accounts. On motion of Troy Avera, seconded by Julie Conley, the Council voted unanimously to approve setting up accounts with Ameris Bank as requested.

RESOLUTION APPROVING ESTABLISHMENT OF CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT #181961440 – OBLIGATION SINKING FUND RESERVE ACCOUNT (1990 BOND) On motion of Julie Conley, seconded by George Evans, the Council voted unanimously to approve the establishment of a Certificate of Deposit for the Obligation Sinking Fund Reserve Account for the 1990 bond.

DESIGN GUIDELINES FOR MODULAR HOMES – COUNTY MEMBER AVERA Council Member Avera noted that he had had some complaints regarding modular houses being allowed in any neighborhood. He suggested that there should be standards and guidelines regarding what these units should look like, especially with the increase in residential growth which is expected here. He opined that modular homes which are not equivalent to the designs of adjacent homes may cause loss of housing values. He has reviewed the City of Apalachicola design standards for housing and suggested that the Council request that the Local Planning Agency look at these standards to determine if a similar proposal should be considered for the R-1 zoning district. City Attorney Leinback noted that design standards would need to be applied to all single-family homes, and other Council members agreed that the issues should be explored. Council Member Conley noted that she would provide these comments to the Planning Agency Board.

HISTORIC PROPERTY SURVEY REPORT Clerk Anderson presented a report from a Historic Property Survey Report which was compiled from a grant administered by Main Street Monticello. The Historic Design Review Board will be looking at using this data in their advocacy for historic preservation. Council Member Avera noted the usefulness of the report. Clerk Anderson noted there has also been a phase II grant submitted by Main Street.

SUGGESTION FOR CITY REPRESENTATIVES TO TOURIST DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL The terms for Council Member Conley and Clerk Anderson as City TDC representatives are over. Clerk Anderson volunteered to continue service on the Board. Council Member Troy Avera volunteered to serve on the Board in place on Ms. Conley. On motion of George Evans, seconded by Julie Conley, the Council voted unanimously to recommend Troy Avera as a Board Member.

LOCAL PLANNING AGENCY VACANCY The Council reviewed the application of Jim Smith to the Local Planning Agency. On motion of Troy Avera, seconded by Julie Conley, the Council voted unanimously to approve Mr. Smith to the Local Planning Agency.

OLD BUSINESS

Council Member Troy Avera discussed an employee Christmas bonus. After discussion, on motion of Troy Avera, seconded by Julie Conley, the Council voted unanimously to give a \$50 Christmas bonus via gift cards to full-time and part-time employees.

Council Member Julie Conley reviewed the discussion of the sidewalk permit program and her efforts to develop alternatives and address challenges of enforcement. She noted the prior discussion of the city providing all permanent sidewalk furniture and then adopting a standard for allowable business sidewalk signage. Ms. Conley also provided a prototype of sidewalk directional signage to benefit businesses. She is working on a proposed ordinance change which establishes guidelines for outdoor sidewalk signs.

Council Member Avera opined that the merchants need to provide the furniture due to cost and restaurants need a legal right to allow outside alcohol consumption. He also discussed a law which limits regulation of franchise signage on state right-of-way. He suggested looking at city-wide sign ordinance updates.

NEW BUSINESS

SELECTING DATE FOR JANUARY, 2019 MEETING On motion of Troy Avera, seconded by Julie Conley, the Council voted unanimously to move the January meeting to January 8, 2019.

Clerk Anderson also mentioned that Gloria Cox wishes to attend the Institute for Elected Municipal Officials conference in Jacksonville in January, and the costs were estimated to be \$850. On motion of Troy Avera, seconded by George Evans, the Council voted to amend the agenda to include the issue of conference attendance by Ms. Cox. On motion of Troy Avera, seconded by Julie Conley, the Council voted unanimously to approve travel for Ms. Cox to attend the conference.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND DEPARTMENTS

***City Attorney Bruce Leinback** wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

***City Manager Steve Wingate** noted that the Department of Transportation has agreed to pay for moving utilities from the rights-of-way during the upcoming U.S. 90 paving project. He also noted that the City has been approved for the planning phase of the treatment plant solar grant. He also reported that the date of completion for the ecological park improvements has been moved twelve months due to continued work on the archaeological studies. The Christmas dinner will be on Friday, December 21st.

***City Clerk Emily Anderson** noted that Arbor Day will be next month. Council Member Avera suggested plantings at the Monticello Volunteer Fire Department.

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

Council Member George Evans asked about the status of installation of LED street lights. City Manager Wingate said that two proposals would be forthcoming. Council Member Avera noted that the price should be less than originally proposed. City Council Member Evans noted there are a few citizens who also want the LED lighting.

Mayor John Jones discussed again the importance of home rule.

The Council did not set a workshop for December.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Anderson
City Clerk/Treasurer

Mayor