

The City Council of the City of Monticello, Florida, met in regular session on February 4, 2020 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 Mayor Jones led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

***Police Captain Jack Pitts** requested that the Council schedule a workshop for discussion of community-sponsored activities for youth.

CONSENT AGENDA

***Approval of Minutes of 1/7/2020**

***Approval of Application for Parade – Emancipation Day Parade on May 18, 2020
Resolution 2020-03 Assuming Liability for Highway Closure**

***Approval of Accounting/Internal Auditing Services Agreement**

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

CDBG HOUSING REHABILITATION GRANT PROGRAM

***Review of Applicant List and Disclosure of Business or Familial Relationships**

***Approval of Submission of Conflict of Interest Waiver Requests to DEO**

***Adoption of Applicant List**

Consultant Dennis Dingman of Summit Professional Services updated the status of the grant and reported on the homeowners' open house and applications received and scored. He also presented the ranked applicant list and explained the process for developing the scope of work and estimation of the number of applicants who will be able to receive assistance. He also noted that the \$50,000 in SHIP funds offered by the County will be applied to eligible projects. Mr. Dingman also reported that applicant Zona Russell is the mother-in-law of Council Member John Jones and applicant Earnestine Keaton is the aunt of Citizens Advisory Task Force Member Nicky Seaton, and disclosures should be made and waivers requested.

Council Member John Jones declared he had a voting conflict applicable to applicant Zona Russell, who is his mother-in-law. He also affirmed that he intends to abstain from voting on all issues pertaining to her application and participation in the program. Attorney Leinback, after ascertaining no other Council Member had a conflict with any applicant on the list, noted that a formal legal opinion will be prepared along with a letter to DEO requesting the waiver of conflicts of interest.

Council Member Troy Avera made a motion to waive the conflict of interest for applicants Earnestine Keaton and Zona Russell and submit the Conflict of Interest Waiver Request to DEO for approval. The motion was seconded by Gloria Cox. With John Jones abstaining, the vote was as follows:

FOR

Troy Avera
Gloria Cox
Julie Conley
George Evans

Council Member Julie Conley made a motion to adopt the Applicant List dated February 4 for the 2018 CDBG Housing Rehabilitation program. The motion was seconded by Troy Avera. With John Jones abstaining, the vote was as follows:

FOR

Troy Avera
Gloria Cox
Julie Conley
George Evans

JOHNSTON FAMILY – REQUEST FOR VACATION OF ALLEY

Attorney Leinback reported on a request from the Johnston family for the city to vacate a designated alleyway which runs through their property.

Attorney Leinback noted that the local land development regulations do not contain a mechanism and procedure for the vacation of roadways, and he suggested that if the Council would like to proceed to vacate the property, there would need to be an ordinance adopted to authorize the city to vacate rights-of-way, alleyways, streets, etc. under certain circumstances, and he would also need to then prepare another ordinance for this particular requested action.

The Council discussed the alleyway and whether it is a thoroughfare or connects with other streets, and asked the City Manager to make sure the alleyway is not a connector road and report back at the March meeting.

DISCUSSION OF N. CHERRY STREET IMPROVEMENTS / PROJECT

OPTIONS / BID AWARD City Manager Clark noted the budget allocated to the project, and options available given budget constraints. Mr. Clark recommends a reduced scope of work, eliminating improvements on the south end of the sidewalk.

After discussion, Council Member Conley noted that there would not be much lost aesthetically by the elimination of the south portion of the project since that sidewalk abuts a brick wall. Engineer Josh Baxley noted that the bid award would need to be contingent on contractor negotiations for the reduced scope of work.

On motion of Council Member Troy Avera, seconded by Julie Conley, the Council voted unanimously to authorize the city engineer to negotiate with the firm submitting the lowest bid to do the project, as a reduced scope project, for the price not exceeding \$73,400. Noting the ability to go forward with the project if terms are acceptable by the contractor, Council Member Avera amended his motion to include the authorization to award the bid. Council Member Conley seconded the motion, and the motion, as amended, was approved, by unanimous vote.

EDDIE WILLIAMS, JR. OF EW VISIONS, LLC IN RE: REQUEST TO FILM COUNCIL MEETINGS

Mr. Williams presented a proposal for posting of City Council meeting video on social media platforms. The Council took no action on the proposal.

SUNCOAST CONNECTOR TOLL ROAD UPDATE The Study Support Team presented a powerpoint on the Suncoast Connector project, and gave updates on an upcoming task force meeting in Madison on February 11th. There may be more information available at that time regarding avoidance areas in the various counties.

APPROVAL FOR AGREEMENT WITH HARRIS COMPUTERS FOR OFF-SITE UTILITY BILL PRINTING AND MAILING

Clerk Anderson presented a request for off-site utility bill printing and mailing, noting cost difference and advantages of the proposal. Council Member Julie Conley made a motion to approve the agreement with Harris Computers for the option of single-color black printing and no reply envelope. The motion was seconded by Gloria Cox. Attorney Leinback noted that the Agreement should be changed as to governing law and venue to Jefferson County, Florida. He suggested the motion be amended to include that change. Council Member Conley amended her motion to stipulate that the Agreement contain venue language referencing Jefferson County, Florida. Gloria Cox affirmed her second to the amended motion. The motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND DEPARTMENTS

*City Clerk/Treasurer Emily Anderson reported on a vacancy on the Local Planning Agency.

Clerk Anderson also noted that she would like to be replaced on the Tourist Development Council since the time of the meetings is not workable. Council Member Gloria Cox offered to serve on the Board. Clerk Anderson noted she would contact Katrina Richardson regarding the change.

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

***Council Member Troy Avera** mentioned the February 21st Boots Thomas 75th anniversary event.

***Council Member Julie Conley** asked for a status report on removal of abandoned cars. She also mentioned a large fence on E. Pearl Street which has been erected which appears to be inappropriate.

***Council Member George Evans** mentioned he would like to attend the LMS meeting in February. Council Member Conley noted she would be attending, as well.

***Mayor John Jones** reported he will be attending an Apalachee Regional Planning Commission meeting in February.

MEETING/WORKSHOP DATES AND TOPICS

The Council set a workshop for February 25, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss community recreational ideas mentioned by Capt. Jack Pitts, as well as other pending items of recycling, Suncoast Connector updates, and budget issues. A budget committee meeting will also be conducted the morning of March 3rd.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Anderson
City Clerk/Treasurer

Mayor

NOTE: These proceedings were digitally recorded.