

The City Council of the City of Monticello, Florida, met in regular session on January 8, 2019 at 7:00 PM at City Hall. The following members were present:

John Jones, Mayor
Troy Avera
George Evans
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. City Council Member George Evans offered the invocation and Mayor Jones led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

***Sylvia Sheffield** of the Jefferson County Senior Citizens Center reported on activities.

***Vivian Royster** discussed updated community improvement planning initiatives in the southside area.

INTERIM REPORT ON LOCAL PLANNING AGENCY REVIEW OF DESIGN STANDARDS FOR R-1 SINGLE-FAMILY ZONE RESIDENCES Mayor John Jones noted the Local Planning Agency is in the process of developing recommendations for Council consideration.

Tom Dunn, city resident, encouraged the City Council to consider a short-term moratorium on all site-built or modular residences in R-1 zoning since there are rumors of aggressive plans to install more modular homes, noting that the draft design standard ordinance proposal is in development, but will take time to finalize. He noted that the installation of modular homes has a potential negative valuation effect on surrounding residences. City Attorney Leinback suggested he research the issue to determine if the city has the ability to adopt such a moratorium and suggested the matter be discussed at a special meeting with public notice. Council Member Avera noted that this is an issue to consider since development trends have changed and protection of the ad valorem tax base is important. Council Member Conley suggested that the Planning Agency be informed that the matter is considered urgent.

RECOMMENDATION FROM LOCAL PLANNING AGENCY REGARDING CITY PLANNING/PERMITTING/INSPECTION FUNCTIONS Mayor Jones noted the Board has made recommendations that the Council determine a way to ensure permitting and inspection procedures are being followed.

Council Member Avera noted that code enforcement discussions with the county have taken place, and City Manager Wingate noted that personnel changes at the county will probably take place within a few months.

APPROVAL FOR LIFT STATION PUMP PURCHASE City Manager Wingate reported the lift station on Independent Street is the next lift station replacement project needed, and an appropriate pump has been located through Power and Pumps, Inc. It is proposed that the pump will be paid for out of sewer reserve funds. On motion of George Evans, seconded by Troy Avera, the City Council unanimously voted to approve the purchase of the lift station pump.

NEW BUSINESS

***Arbor Day Proclamation and Activities for January 18, 2018** Clerk Anderson reported that tree plantings will be held at the Monticello Volunteer Fire Department.

***Distribution of Aid to Private Organizations – Clerk Anderson** Clerk Anderson reported she will schedule distribution of half of budgeted aid to the Chamber, Main Street and the Humane Society unless the Council directs otherwise. Since it is unknown if the Humane Society has an active city program at this time, the City Manager asked that distribution of those funds be held off until the City receives an update of spay/neuter activities.

***Announcement of FDOT Public Meeting – U.S. 90 Improvements – January 22 5:30 p.m. – First United Methodist Church** The Clerk reported a public meeting for review of U.S. 90 improvements during the upcoming paving projects.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND DEPARTMENTS

***City Attorney Bruce Leinback** noted he will be researching the ability of the city to issue a moratorium.

***City Manager Steve Wingate** reported that the state will be starting a resurfacing/milling project on U.S. 19 South.

***City Clerk Emily Anderson** reported the FEMA documentation for Hurricane Michael is almost complete.

The Clerk also presented Mayor Jones with a certificate of completion of the IEMO IV class.

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

Council Member Troy Avera reported on his attendance at his daughter's ceremony of admission to the U.S. Supreme Court Bar.

Council Member Julie Conley noted she has been working with Attorney Leinback regarding enforcement of the sign ordinance and sidewalk permit ordinance.

Attorney Leinback reported that a statute regarding regulation of signage for gas stations does not inhibit the City from enforcement of sign ordinances other than prohibition of adding requirements for certain color schemes or other limitations of use of franchise symbols.

Attorney Leinback also reviewed the existing sidewalk permit program requirements and the additional language regarding consumption of alcohol on city sidewalks. The concern is that the City has the existing ordinance which is not being enforced, and the attorney recommends that the City ban items on the sidewalk which are not permitted due to city liability. There was discussion of enforcement of the sidewalk use permit program on state rights-of-way. Attorney Leinback noted that the outside consumption of alcohol outside can be enforced on DOT right-of-way. The process for notification and enforcement was discussed, and it was suggested that one last mail notification be provided before removal of items off of the sidewalks.

Council Member George Evans reported he was interviewed by Students Working Against Tobacco and that group will be reaching out to other Council Members.

OTHER BUSINESS

City Manager Wingate reported on a new business in the Industrial Park on a lot west of the Harrell Nut Company property. The county will not be charged for tap fees or systems charges, but the Council will be paying for all materials and labor for line connections.

SWEARING IN OF COUNCIL MEMBERS GEORGE EVANS AND GLORIA COX Council Members Evans and Cox were sworn in by County Judge Robert Plaines.

ELECTION OF MAYOR AND VICE-MAYOR Troy Avera nominated John Jones for Mayor. With no further nominations, the Council voted unanimously to elect Mr. Jones as Mayor for 2019. Nominations for Vice-Mayor were opened. Troy Avera was nominated for Vice-Mayor. With no further nominations, the Council voted unanimously to elect Troy Avera as Vice-Mayor.

BUDGET COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT / OTHER ASSIGNMENTS Council Member Avera offered to serve on the Budget Committee, and Council Member Cox also agreed to serve on that committee. Mr. Avera asked that another Council Member serve as City Chamber Representative, and Council Member Conley offered to serve.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Anderson
City Clerk/Treasurer

Mayor