

The City Council of the City of Monticello, Florida, met in regular session by telephonic conferencing on July 7, 2020 at 7:00 PM.

Mayor John Jones called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL/DETERMINATION OF QUORUM City Clerk Anderson took roll of participating members and city staff. The following members were present on the call:

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

Others participating were:

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

PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENTS – CITY ATTORNEY BRUCE LEINBACK
Attorney Leinback discussed the allowances and procedures for conducting government meetings under the Governor’s Emergency Executive Orders 20-69 and 20-150 due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Leinback gave instructions for participating in the telephonic meeting, and Council Members noted understanding and agreement of the instructions.

Mayor John Jones offered an invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA

***Council Approval of Minutes of 6/2/2020**

***Resolution 2020-04 Amending the 2019/2020 Budget to Reflect Correct Fund Balances**

On motion of Council Member Troy Avera, seconded by Council Member George Evans, the Council voted unanimously, by roll call vote, to approve the Consent Agenda.

PUBLIC HEARING / COUNCIL ACTION

***Applications for Certificates of Appropriateness in Historic District**

-106 E. Washington Street – Awning

-110 E. Dogwood Street - Awnings

Property owner Byron Arceneaux described the applications. Mayor Jones opened the public hearing. With no Council or public comment, Council Member Julie Conley made a motion to accept the recommendations of the Historic Design Review Board and approve both Certificates of Appropriateness. Troy Avera seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved, by roll call vote.

CONSIDERATION OF APPLICATION FOR DESIGNATION AS HISTORIC PROPERTY

-420 W. Washington Street

With no Council comment on the application, the Mayor directed the Clerk to proceed with first reading of the ordinance of designation as historic property.

FIRST READING:

ORDINANCE 2020-02 AN ORDINANCE DESIGNATING PROPERTY LOCATED AT 420 W. WASHINGTON STREET AS AN HISTORIC PROPERTY SUBJECT TO SECTION 54, ARTICLE VII OF THE MONTICELLO CITY CODE: AUTHORIZING THE MODIFICATION OF THE CITY ZONING MAP TO REFLECT SUCH DESIGNATION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Clerk Anderson noted the Ordinance would be scheduled for public hearing at the August 4, 2020 Council meeting.

AWARD OF BID – PEARL STREET SCOP PROJECT

City Manager Clark recommended that the Council accept the lowest responsive bidder for the Pearl Street paving project. On motion of Troy Avera, seconded by George Evans, the Council voted unanimously, by roll call vote, to award the bid for the Pearl Street project to Peavy and Son Construction.

SUNCOAST CONNECTOR TOLL ROAD UPDATES

Ryan Asmus, the Project Production Lead, reported that there was a virtual meeting on June 23rd. The next virtual meeting will be on July 21st, and the report will be due on November 15th.

RESOLUTION 2020-05 UPDATING FEES FOR DEVELOPMENT REVIEW

Clerk Anderson discussed the needed updates for review fees paid to the city engineer, and the resolution also adds some administrative costs. The resolution also adds new fees necessary due to changes in development application requirements. She noted that the engineer will provide an updated task order for these fees. Council Member Julie Conley made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-05. Council Member Gloria Cox seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

APPOINTMENT OF FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES VOTING DELEGATE On motion of Julie Conley, seconded by George Evans, the Council voted unanimously, by roll call vote, to appoint Troy Avera as voting delegate for the City.

BUDGET DISCUSSION

Clerk Anderson noted the rollback rate of 7.0258 and several ad valorem tax rate options, budget timelines, and a draft budget for consideration, noting items for Council determination. She noted a special meeting will be needed in July to set the ad valorem rate to be included in property owners' tax bills and select a tentative budget hearing date.

Council Member Avera noted his preference to keep the millage rate at 7.2000. It was determined to have Council input on the budget at the July meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

***Stephen Frazier** asked for Council consideration of removal of the Monticello “hanging tree” or “meeting tree” at the Courthouse Circle in light of the negative history and image it has left in the community. He asked to be on the next Council meeting agenda to present documentation and ask the Council to vote on removal of the tree. After Council discussion, the Mayor and Council set the matter for consideration at the August 4th Council meeting.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND DEPARTMENTS

***City Clerk Emily Anderson** updated the Council on the Housing Rehabilitation Grant program and upcoming contractor walk-throughs and bid schedule.

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

***City Council Member Troy Avera** noted he would like to renew the resolution passed by the Council regarding “last mile” internet to send to the Governor, President of the Senate and Speaker of the House, especially in light of the need for home schooling.

Mr. Avera also mentioned he was approached by the County Commission Chairman to pursue BP oil spill money for funding of the I-10 extension. Council Member Evans suggested that the County approach the entire Council with those discussions.

***Council Member Julie Clark** asked for a status of the Ecological Park. City Manager Clark noted the bathroom utility installation should be completed next week.

JULY MEETING/WORKSHOP DATES AND TOPICS

The Council set a meeting on July 21st at 6:00 p.m. to vote on a proposed ad valorem rate to include on property tax bills, set the tentative budget hearing date and review the proposed budget. The issue of the request for tree removal by Mr. Frazier will be heard at the August 4th Council meeting.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Anderson
City Clerk/Treasurer

Mayor

NOTE: These proceedings were digitally recorded.