

The City Council of the City of Monticello, Florida, met in regular session by telephonic conferencing on September 1, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

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

Clerk Anderson thanked Librarian Natalie Binder who is assisting with hosting the telephonic meeting.

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, extended several times, most recently by Executive Order 20-193, due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Leinback gave instructions for participating in the telephonic meeting, and Council Members verbally confirmed understanding and agreement with the instructions.

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN REMEMBRANCE OF GREG SEABROOKS

The Mayor recognized the recent passing of Greg Seabrooks, who was a 24-year city employee and friend of many in the community.

The Moment of Silence was followed by an Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Jones.

APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES OF 8/4/2020 MEETING

On motion of Council Member George Evans, seconded by Council Member Julie Conley, the Council voted unanimously, by roll call vote, to approve the minutes of the 8/4/2020 with a correction noted in the vote recordation regarding removal of a plaque at the oak tree at the Courthouse Circle.

REPORT FROM MOTICELLO VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT CHIEF

LESTER LAWRENCE Chief Lawrence reported on the improved ISO rating and thanked the volunteers and the County Fire Chief for their efforts. Chief Lawrence noted there is a need for fire hydrant replacement and there is a suggestion that the volunteer department establish a training facility. He asked if the Department could use the city property at the Goldberg facility. The Mayor asked Chief Lawrence to work with the City Manager.

[SUNCOAST CONNECTOR TOLL ROAD UPDATES – no project representatives were available, and no Council or public comment was received]

CDBG HOUSING REHABILITATION PROGRAM – AWARD OF CONTRACTOR BIDS FOR DEMOLITION AND RENOVATION

Clerk Anderson updated the Council on the contractor bids. She asked for the bids to be awarded.

Mayor Jones noted he was abstaining on the vote since one of the grant recipients, Zona Russell, is his mother-in-law. Council Member Julie Conley made a motion to approve the recommended contractor bids as set forth in the bid tabulation form provided. The motion was seconded by Council Member Gloria Cox. With John Jones abstaining, the roll call vote was as follows:

For
Julie Conley
George Evans
Troy Avera
Gloria Cox

PEARL STREET PAVING PROJECT – AWARD OF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING INSPECTION (CEI) SERVICES CONTRACT AFTER NEGOTIATION WITH NORTH FLORIDA PROFESSIONAL SERVICES, INC.

On motion of Council Member Troy Avera, seconded by Council Member Gloria Cox, the Council voted unanimously, by roll call vote, to approve the contract with North Florida Professional Services, Inc. for construction engineering services.

RESOLUTION 2020 – 07 ADOPTING RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR PUBLIC INPUT AT CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

City Attorney Leinback discussed the proposed rules of procedure to ensure decorum and order at public meetings. On motion of Council Member Troy Avera, seconded by Council Member George Evans, the Council voted unanimously, by roll call vote, to adopt Resolution 2020 – 07.

RESOLUTION 2020 – 08 RELATING TO PUBLIC HEALTH, ADOPTING RULES FOR THE WEARING OF FACE COVERINGS AT PUBLIC MEETINGS OF THE MONTICELLO CITY COUNCIL, MONTICELLO LOCAL PLANNING AGENCY, MONTICELLO HISTORIC DESIGN REVIEW BOARD AND OTHER CITY BOARDS AND COMMITTEES, IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE THE SPEARD OF COVID-19 After discussion on the purpose of the Resolution, on motion of Council Member Troy Avera, seconded by Council Member Gloria Cox, the Council voted unanimously, by roll call vote, to adopt Resolution 2020 – 08.

2020 – 2021 MILLAGE AND BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS FROM BUDGET COMMITTEE Council Member Troy Avera reported that the budget committee and department heads all recommend that the rollback rate be used for the budget. The Council Members agreed to use the rollback rate in the budget. Council Member Avera also noted that the County is raising the landfill rate and fire assessment.

[NO PUBLIC COMMENT]

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

***Council Members George Evans and Gloria Cox** offered memories of Greg Seabrooks.

***Council Member Troy Avera** reported he has submitted a grant request for generators. The City did not receive the Florida League of Cities Environmental Award, but he will continue to promote the city’s accomplishments. He also discussed the League legislative priorities, including the need for broadband availability.

***Mayor John Jones** noted changes in the League Legislative representatives.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF SEPTEMBER MEETINGS

The City Tentative Budget Hearing will be September 3, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

The City Final Budget Hearing will be September 15, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

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.