

Virtual Council Meeting
February 1, 2021

Members Present: Mayor Buddy Duke, members Terry McClain, Greg Paige, Walter Cowart, Vivian Sharpe and Jody Greene.

Others Present: John Flythe, Rhonda Rowe, Tim Tanner, Brandie Dame and members of the public.

Invocation was given by Councilman McClain.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of minutes: Councilwoman Sharpe made a motion to approve the minutes of January 18, 2021 as presented. Councilman McClain seconded. The decision was unanimous.

Hay Field Operation Discussion: The council was advised that the existing contract for the operation and maintenance of approximately 195 acres of mature hay fields used for land application of municipal wastewater expired in December 2020. City Manager John Flythe inquired if the council would like to extend that contract up to 5 years, noting that the contractor has to obtain soil samples, have fertilizer added, etc. and with such, they need a period of time in order to get their return on the rental. He stated that because we "leach out" pretty significantly, they have to keep up the fertilization efforts. City attorney Tim Tanner suggested extending the contract to 4 years, since this was the length of the terms for the elected officials. Councilmen McClain, Greene, Sharpe and Cowart were in favor of extending the contract for 4 years with Councilman Greene recalling we've had problems in the past getting bidders. Councilman Paige stated that he liked a 3-year contract. Mayor Duke asked for a motion. Due to the lack of a motion, the contract was left at 3 years. Mr. Flythe noted the beginning of the year is a critical time for fertilization so we will get this advertised and accept bids within the next 30 days.

Land Rental Discussion: The existing contract for the rental of 54 acres of cultivatable land located at the treatment plant property also expired in December. Due to the discussion on the above item, City manager John Flythe stated we would proceed for advertising for bids on this as well.

Notice of Conflict of Interest on 2017 CDBG-MIT Application: The City of Adel is applying for grant funds for a communications tower that will be located on City of Adel property at the treatment plant on Honeymoon Lane. The total cost for building the road to the tower and the construction of the tower, along with equipment, is close to \$2 million. The grant writer has advised that if we inject 5% into the project (\$100,000), the application will receive a higher leverage score. We are asking the county to participate in submitting a joint application and this item is being discussed at their meeting tonight as well. We are asking them to share 50% of the cost injection. This tower will solve current communication issues by providing a better signal county-wide. This will be a 100% grant funded project subject to only the cash injection if we choose. Mr. Flythe further noted the need to disclose any potential conflict of interest. The conflict of interest provision applies to any person who is an employee, agent, consultant, officer, or elected official or appointed official of state, or a unit of general

local government, or of any designated public agencies, or sub-recipients which are receiving or administering CDBG-MIT funds. None of those persons who exercise or have exercised any functions or responsibilities with respect to activities assisted with CDBG-MIT funds or who are in a position to participate in a decision making process or gain inside information with regard to these activities, may obtain a financial interest OR benefit from a CDBG-MIT assisted activity, or have an interest in any contract, subcontract or agreement with respect thereto, or in the proceeds thereunder, either for themselves or those with whom they have family or business ties, during their tenure or for one year thereafter. There was no conflict of interest disclosed.

Res #21-01: This resolution, submitting a joint application with Cook County to obtain FY 2017 Community Development Block Grant Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) funds for communication infrastructure, was presented to the council. Councilman Greene made a motion to adopt the resolution. Councilwoman Sharpe seconded. All were in favor.

Georgia Main Street Designation: Brandie Dame, downtown development director, advised the council we have completed the annual assessment for Classic Main Street. She noted that she has participated in the mentor/mentee program; a 13-member board has been established with all members becoming certified within 6 months. A community visioning session was held and she noted local events held before COVID restrictions. Additionally, less than 8% of buildings downtown are presently unoccupied. Adel Main Street has been invited to become Classic Main Street, which will be announced in March 2021. City manager John Flythe noted he had requested Brandie to have this task completed within 3 years of her coming on board. It has been completed in 2-1/2 years. Mayor Duke noted that it is good to see things going on in downtown and this program is making a difference. The other members of the council commended Mrs. Dame on her work.

Plumbing Bids (Recreation Facility): The council was advised that the low bid awarded at the previous meeting for plumbing at the new maintenance building has been rescinded by the bidder. Due to loss of personnel, he cannot perform the work. Mayor Duke noted the next bid from Young’s Plumbing, Inc. was only \$145.26 higher. Councilman McClain made a motion to approve awarding the bid to Young’s Plumbing. Councilman Greene seconded. All were in favor.

Depot Use Request: The director of school transportation has asked Mayor Duke for permission to park a school bus at the depot for one week or so to advertise for driver positions. Councilman Paige made a motion to grant the request. Councilman Greene seconded. There were no objections.

Tables & Trash Receptacle Bids (Recreation Facility): Bids were received for picnic tables and trash receptacles for the new facility and were as follows:

	Premier Polysteel	Kay Park Recreation
(6) 8’ Picnic Tables	\$ 4,170.00	\$ 6,123.60
(4) 8’ Handicap Accessible Picnic Tables	\$ 2,780.00	\$ 4,172.40
(4) 32 Gal. Trash Receptacles	\$ 1,520.00	\$ 1,670.40
Freight	\$ 1,205.00	\$ 1,145.00

Total

\$9,675.00

\$ 13,111.40

Councilman Cowart made a motion to approve the low bid. Councilman Paige seconded. The decision was unanimous.

Dr. Treva Gear: Dr. Gear advised she was reaching out as a follow-up for a request to have a virtual town hall meeting. The town hall would allow people to hear more about the pellet mill, issues and long-term effects. Following COVID, it is now making breathing even harder. She had sent an email to each member with no response except from Councilman Paige. She would like to hold the virtual meeting either February 11th or 18th. Mayor Duke advised Dr. Gear he would get with the council regarding the time and get back with her. She noted this matter was time sensitive and she would like to get a response. She further stated that she has a zoom account and would be glad to get everything set up for the call-in.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.

Rhonda P. Rowe, City Clerk

Luther L. Duke III, Mayor