

Council Meeting
February 3, 2020

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

Others Present: John Flythe, Rhonda Rowe, Chad Castleberry, Tim Tanner 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 21, 2020 as presented. Councilman McClain seconded with all in favor.

Public Hearing (De-Annexation Request): Councilman Jody Greene made a motion to enter into public hearing to gain input on a de-annexation request filed by the Cook County Board of Commissioners. Councilwoman Sharpe seconded the motion with no opposing votes. Mayor Duke advised that the application requests to de-annex property located on the corner of Sixteenth Street & South Gordon Avenue, identified on the tax maps as 0040H Parcel 029B, and consists of 5.33 acres. It is the county's desire to add this property back to the original county property for marketing purposes. City Manager John Flythe stated that no one from the county is present tonight as they are currently holding their county commission meeting. Altheia Paige questioned if the intent was to build apartments to which she was advised that was contingent upon project approval. She asked if the county would be selling the property to the city and was advised no, they would be selling to a developer. She asked what would be done with the funds and was told that since it was originally purchased for recreation it will probably be placed back into the recreation account. She asked isn't the recreation "city"? Mr. Flythe explained that it is joint with the city taking care of the day to day operations. She concluded by stating if the city has anything to do with it she wants to know we won't spend \$90K per acre for property. Randy Lane was present and stated he had been told it was the county's intent to put the money back into recreation. Councilman McClain asked if we would be de-annexing all 60 acres? He was advised no, only the corner lot which consists of 5.33 acres. The remainder is not listed as being inside the city limits, it is in the county tax district. There were no further comments and the public hearing was declared closed.

Ord. #20-02: This ordinance, de-annexing land of Cook County from the corporate limits, was read for the first time.

Ord. #20-01: This ordinance, amending and restating the retirement plan for the employees of the City of Adel, was read for the second time. Adoption of the ordinance and related plan documents ensures the continued tax-favored treatment for GMEBS members plans by the IRS. Councilman Paige made a motion to adopt the ordinance. Councilman Greene seconded. The decision was unanimous.

Georgia Cities Week: Brandie Dame, Downtown Development Director, was present to discuss plans regarding the Georgia Cities Week. There will be a special insert in the Adel News Tribune and the Cook County Schools will have an essay contest. A brown bag lunch will be held at the depot on Friday, April 24th, with an opportunity for citizens to meet elected officials and city employees. The week will conclude with a Food Truck Friday event that night.

Mainstreet Update: Brandie Dame also advised the council the board held their first meeting in January with Pat Bush being named as Chairman and Kim Cone as Vice-Chairman. The state has assigned Ellen Hill from the City of Valdosta to be Adel's mentor during the process. Brandie is working on getting new pole banners, landscaping and benches in downtown. The rural zone designation has created interest in downtown buildings and they will also be working on signage. She will be asking for donations to help pay for the benches that can contain a plaque regarding the donor's name if they wish. Councilwoman Sharpe inquired about the cost and Brandie advised she has already had 2 commitments.

Economic Development/AIDA Update: City Manager John Flythe stated that the community has been busy with prospects that have been asking for property in the opportunity zones. The Adel Industrial Development Authority has asked for a presentation on opportunity zones and he would like the mayor & council, county commissioners, and zoning board to have an understanding of how these work and would like for them to attend when this is scheduled.

Visionary Award: Mayor Duke announced that the City of Adel was one of nine cities to be awarded with the inaugural Visionary City Award that was sponsored by Georgia Municipal Association and Georgia Trend magazine. He noted some of the projects entered by the other recipient cities and advised ours included the Blockstream project where we partnered with 6 other MEAG cities that had excess energy to be able to provide service to Blockstream. He expressed his appreciation to our staff who prepared the application.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.

Rhonda P. Rowe, City Clerk

Luther L. Duke III, Mayor
