

Virtual Council Meeting
March 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, Randy Lane and other members from the public.

Invocation was given by Councilman McClain

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes: Councilwoman Sharpe made a motion to approve the minutes of February 15, 2021 as presented. Councilman Paige seconded. All were in favor.

Hay Bids (Sewer Treatment Plant): Bids were accepted for the operation and maintenance of approximately 195 acres of mature hay fields used for land application of municipal wastewater at the treatment plant. Bids were as follows:

Clint Bullard	-	\$12,000.00
Scott Thompson	-	\$13,250.00

Councilman Cowart advised that he would be abstaining from any discussion or vote since Mr. Bullard is his brother-in-law. Councilwoman Sharpe made a motion to accept the high bid. Councilman Greene seconded. The decision was unanimous among the members with the exception of Councilman Cowart, who abstained.

Land Rental (Sewer Treatment Plant): Bids were accepted on the rental of 54 acres of cultivatable land on Honeymoon Lane near the treatment plant. Bids were as follows:

Ernest Joiner	-	\$110.00 per acre (\$5,940 annually)
Scott Thompson	-	\$128.70 per acre (\$6,950 annually)

Councilman McClain made a motion to accept the high bid. Councilman Greene seconded. The decision was unanimous.

Electric Service Truck Bids: Bids were accepted on a service bucket truck with a 40' aerial device and were as follows:

Equipment Technology LLC	-	\$139,357.36
Altec	-	\$129,286.00

Councilman Cowart made a motion to accept the low bid pending it meets specifications. Councilman Greene seconded. All were in favor.

Downtown Development Authority Appointments: The council was presented with a list of names submitted for consideration as replacements on the DDA board for seats previously held by Susan Griffin and Sharon Harnage. Councilman Paige made a motion to appoint Brandi Deberry to the board. Councilman Cowart seconded. The decision was unanimous. Councilman McClain made a motion to appoint Kemp Greene. Councilman Cowart seconded. There were no opposing votes.

Noise Control Ordinance: City attorney Tim Tanner presented a draft noise control ordinance to the council for their review. City manager John Flythe noted there was no penalty clause and stated that a resident in the area of the track had suggested that the end time during the week be 9:00pm and on Friday and Saturday nights it be 11:00 pm. Mr. Tanner noted the draft copy coincides with that of another racing community and is designed to break-up the noise distances by zoning classifications, giving more protection to residential areas. He also noted that many do not regulate HI (Heavy Industrial) zoning areas because many facilities in these districts operate 24 hours per day. Mr. Tanner further noted that the race track is in the industrial park and you cannot regulate the race track in and of itself. You must regulate the “area” itself. You have to be cautious that you don’t prohibit other companies that operate 24 hours per day. All plants would have to abide; you can’t single out one business. The sample ordinance is used in both Valdosta and Brookhaven. It is designed more for residential and commercial areas. You would need another section for heavy industrial. If a company is located on the north side of the race track for example and constantly running, the race track will question why you are regulating us, but not them? Mayor Duke added that he had spoken with the race track manager following this past week’s activities and noted they had 300+ cars in that one weekend. That particular race is the largest they have during the year. On Tuesday, they were finished around 9:30; on Wednesday they went past that due to 2 wrecks; Thursday, Friday and Saturday they finished before midnight. He noted there are two other races scheduled with one being in March and one in October. Those will not have as many participants. After a discussion, it was the consensus to hold a work session on Thursday, March 4, 2021 beginning at 5:30 pm.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.

Rhonda P. Rowe, City Clerk

Luther L. Duke III, Mayor
