

Council Meeting
May 20, 2019

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

Others Present: Rhonda Rowe, Tim Tanner, Chad Castleberry and members of the public.

Invocation was given by Councilman McClain.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes: Councilman Purvis made a motion to approve the minutes of May 6, 2019 as presented. Councilman McClain seconded with all in favor.

Larry Watford: Mr. Watford, owner of Watford Pools located at 300 W. 4th Street, came before the council stating that he would like a variance regarding the sign ordinance. He understands the ordinance was imposed years ago concerning the placement of signs in windows and was done for the protection of law enforcement. He stated they have placed perforated window tint inside the window at their store location and it will allow to you to see inside the building. They will be leaving the lights on at night and you will be able to see both inside and outside. He also presented pictures to the council. He indicated they plan to paint and provide upkeep to the building and would like to install an awning and brick façade next year. He is asking for a variance since you can see in and out of the building. In reference to window signs not being able to exceed 25% of windows according to the sign ordinance, he stated you could break it down further by taking the doors out and tracks out, and put you within 25%. If you cheat it without the doors, etc it will put you outside the 25%. Mayor Duke advised Mr. Watford the council could not act until a variance application has been filed, which would have to be processed through the building and zoning department. Mr. Watford stated that he had asked the building/zoning official about a permit and was told what the code is regarding the signs. He was also told he needed to get with Jerry Connell as the window signage could not be approved until Jerry looked at. He stated Mr. Connell came by and measured the windows. He indicated he also knew that we are working on some things in the DDA area but his store is outside the area. Pinch a Penny in Valdosta has their whole window blocked out. He stated recently he had Timmy Tanner ready to retain. Tim Tanner, the city attorney, was present and said "I'm Tim Tanner". Mr. Watford stated that was no big deal, he had left his number for him to return his call but he also has other attorneys. He had been advised to request open records on permits that had been filed. Mr. Watford stated there were several local shops that had not pulled permits and wanted to know if this was something he would continue to be harassed about. He had been told if he didn't take down the perforated window tint his fine would be doubled. He understands Mr. Connell made the complaint but he doesn't see any issue. Councilman Purvis explained to Mr. Watford that we have a process and "right now, you have jumped two or three steps". Mr. Watford contends he did try to go through the steps but the DDA is trying to go across the tracks. He is caught between a cat & mouse fight. Councilman Purvis explained that we are trying to grow and do things the right way, not trying to cause a ruckus. You can't give a permit if he says its 35% of the space. City attorney Tim Tanner advised that you have to pull a permit before you start the variance

process. The variance process can take place if it is determined that the sign is not in compliance. Mayor Duke stated to Mr. Watford that he is the one who didn't get a permit and put the sign up ahead of time. Mr. Watford stated there were several other issues. Councilman Purvis stated to Mr. Watford that this is "not intended to hurt you. We are trying to clean up and make your business better for you." We have to go through channels and work with you the best we can. He also advised him the Downtown Development Authority has been charged with this task and we don't want home-made signs, etc. Mr. Watford then sited other locations where you can't see in or out, M & E Wings and Mega Mart. He stated he knew they were already on the tattoo shop. He also questioned the pulling of a permit for Laserlife and Cone. Mayor Duke explained the problem is the process. We have things to go by and it's up to the building/zoning inspector to approve or deny. He has to do his job.

Mower Quotes: Mayor Duke advised the council that after a review of the bids presented at the last meeting, the council is being asked to reconsider. We currently have replacement parts on hand for the mower that was the low bid; the 2nd highest bid had been chosen since it had a 1-1/2 larger horsepower, although that is not a strong factor in the bids for this particular mower. Councilman Purvis made a motion to rescind his original motion on this item. Councilman Paige seconded. All were in favor. Councilman Purvis then made a motion to accept the low bid from Chris's Mower Clinic in the amount of \$8,754.00. Councilman Greene seconded. The decision was unanimous.

Library Board Appointment: The council was advised that Jan Lindsey will complete her second 3-yr term as a board member on June 30, 2019. She has agreed to continue serving if reappointed. Councilman Paige made a motion to reappoint Ms. Lindsey to the board for a 3 year term beginning July 1, 2019. Councilman Purvis seconded with all in favor.

Res #19-03: This resolution, submitting an application to become a Georgia Department of Community Affairs - Georgia Department of Economic Development Rural Zone, was presented to the council. Councilman Purvis made a motion to approve the resolution. Councilman Paige seconded. The decision was unanimous.

Res. #19-04: This resolution, to assist in obtaining a Georgia Department of Natural Resources Historic Preservation Division Georgia Heritage Grant for needed repairs to the old Adel Post Office, was presented to the council. Councilman Purvis made a motion to approve the resolution. Councilman Greene seconded. All were in favor.

Res. #19-05: This resolution, to submit an application to become a University of Georgia – Georgia Initiative for Community Housing (GICH) Participating Community, was presented to the council. Councilman Purvis made a motion to approve the resolution. Councilman Greene seconded. The decision was unanimous.

Transformer Bids: Bids were received for two sizes of transformers needed for stock and were as follows:

300 KVA:

Stuart C. Irby	-	\$8,350
Tri-State	-	\$8,140
Gresco (Ermco Brand)	-	\$9,315
Gresco (Cooper Brand)	-	\$9,960

Councilman Purvis made a motion to accept the low bid with Councilman Paige providing the second. There were no opposing votes.

500 KVA:

Stuart C. Irby	-	\$9,170
Tri-State	-	\$11,002
Gresco (Ermco Brand)	-	\$11,825
Gresco (Cooper Brand)	-	\$12,105

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

Disability Insurance Premium: City Clerk Rhonda Rowe explained to the council a proposal to amend the long-term disability insurance plan provided by the City of Adel to employees. The proposed change would be to add the cost of the premium to each employee's W-2 as a part of salary at the end of the year; thereby paying taxes on the premium amount. This would allow for a tax free benefit to that employee if they had to go on long term disability. The taxes would be much less paying on the premium rather than the monthly benefit. Councilman Purvis made a motion to approve including the premium for LTD on employees W-2's at the end of the year to allow for a monthly tax free benefit to any employee that goes on claim. This action will be retroactive until January 1, 2019. Councilman Paige seconded. All were in favor.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.

Rhonda P. Rowe, City Clerk

Buddy Duke, Mayor
