

Council Meeting
October 19, 2020

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

Others Present: John Flythe, Rhonda Rowe, Tim Tanner, Chad Castleberry 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 October 3, 2020 as presented. Councilman McClain seconded. All were in favor.

Street of Sweets Trick or Treating Event: Brandie Dame, Main Street Director, provided an update on the "Street of Sweets" Trick or Treat event being hosted by the City of Adel & Adel Main Street. It will be a drive-thru event on Parrish Avenue Saturday, October 31, 2020 from 5:00-7:00pm. Any business, organization, church or individuals that would like to participate can register on the city's website. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this is being provided as an alternative to the traditional door-to-door trick or treating.

Veteran Suicide Awareness Walk: Scott Tasker came back before the council with a package that included the map and waiver release form concerning the 5K walk that he is planning for November 8, 2020 beginning at 9:00 am. The side-walk route will begin behind Wal-Mart and travel up to Hutchinson Avenue and back. After a short discussion, Councilman Paige made a motion to approve the event. Councilwoman Sharpe seconded. The decision was unanimous.

Ord. #20-09: This ordinance, approving an amendment of the gas supply contract and supplemental contract between the Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia and City of Adel, was read for the first time. John Flythe, City Manager, explained the ordinance is a continuation for the authority to continue purchasing gas on behalf of cities and perform related transactions.

T-Mobile Lease: Mr. Flythe advised the council that approximately 5 years ago Verizon contacted the city requesting they be allowed to take down our old internet tower at the end of W. 2nd Street and erect a new tower, deeding it back to the City after construction, and paying a monthly lease fee. The contract was for a period of 5 years. T-Mobile has now requested permission to lease a portion of the tower. Both proposed agreements have been forward to Tim Tanner, city attorney, for his review. T-Mobile has offered \$2500 per month for a period of 5 years with an additional 10% increase every 5 years. Mr. Tanner is reviewing the agreements to make sure one doesn't interfere with the other. Staff is asking for authority to execute the agreement once the attorney completes his review and releases for approval. Councilman Greene made a motion to approve the mayor executing the agreement once approved by the city attorney. Councilwoman Sharpe seconded. All were in favor.

Recreation Department Building Bids: The bids for the maintenance building for the new recreation facility were brought back before the council. The bids, including the options, were as follows:

	<u>Base Bid</u>	<u>Base Bid Plus Options</u>
Lariat Steel Design, Inc.	\$35,834.40	\$49,953.36
Elite Structures	\$34,285.00	\$48,470.00
Steel Building Systems, Inc.	\$38,499.00	\$51,919.00
Vulcan Steel Structures, Inc.	\$35,601.00	\$52,871.00
Hornet Steel Buildings, Inc.	\$33,095.00	\$46,286.00

Councilman Paige made a motion to approve the low bid with options from Hornet Steel Buildings, Inc. Councilman McClain seconded. The decision was unanimous.

COLA Adjustment: The council was provided with the costs of COLA adjustments for all departments plus the cost of market rate adjustments in the police department to bring the rate of officers closer to being “in the middle” as compared to surrounding communities. When asked about the amount given last year, the council was advised last year it was just over 1%. Mayor Duke noted it has been small amounts that were given during the last several years. During discussion, Mayor Duke stated that he is cautious about a 3% COLA but would love to do that if staff feels we can support that amount. If not a 3% he would certainly like to aim for a 2% increase. He noted that our employees have stayed with us during this COVID-19 pandemic and though we were working at half-staff earlier in the year, they continued to get the job done. When we decided it was time to bring everyone back together, our employees were on-board. He added that he would like to do the market rate adjustment and 3% COLA. All other members concurred that they were in agreement with the Mayor. Councilman Cowart made a motion to approve the market rate adjustments in the police department totaling \$83,188.62 and a 3% across the board COLA totaling \$113,947.11 for all remaining employees. Budget adjustments will be made in the respective departments. Councilman McClain seconded. There were no opposing votes.

Ord. #20-10 (Rate Tariff on SOLAR): City Manager John Flythe noted at the last meeting a residential customer had installed Solar and tonight he is presenting a proposed rate tariff on SOLAR energy produced by customers of the City of Adel. He noted that it includes a general agreement that includes obligations of both the owner and city. This agreement includes a fail-safe component that there is a disconnect between us and the SOLAR generator in the event of a power outage. It also limits the amount of power that can be displaced by the solar panels and are we are getting close to what the City can accept. It will be on a first come, first serve basis. Councilman Greene made a motion to proceed with adoption of a proposed solar tariff. Councilman Paige seconded. All were in favor. The first reading was held of the proposed tariff.

Utility Rate Discussion: The city manager advised the council that he would like to hire our consulting engineer to look at all rates to see if a study determines if and where we need to make any adjustments to our rate schedules. It was the consensus of the council to proceed.

Communications Decision (Fire Department Radio System): The city manager advised the council that an inquiry has been made with our neighboring communities that have the P-25 system switch. We asked if we used something other than Motorola, would they give us a key to the system switch? We were advised they would not. An inquiry was also made to someone that utilizes Albany's system and we were likewise told that they only allow Motorola on that system as well. Mr. Flythe stated that if Adel designed a system and put it out for bid, he would still recommend the Motorola system. Councilman Cowart asked what % of coverage we would have with Motorola, would it be 100%? Glynn Mccrary, Motorola representative, was present and stated we would be updating the existing police system to accommodate fire on their system, which would also give the fire department P-25 capability to talk with neighboring communities. Councilman Cowart also inquired if we would have a performance bond with the Motorola system. Police Chief, Chad Castleberry, stated that the police department added a booster several years ago and our problems with any dead areas have gone away. There are so many factors involved, he didn't think any system will guarantee 100%. Fire Chief, Richie Weeks, stated that they have been testing two Motorola portable units and it would clearly communicate within the city limits of Adel. They also took one of the radios into Lowndes County at Exit 22 and it was still "clear as day". When they reached the mall exit in Lowndes County it wasn't quite as clear. They haven't tried anything north of Adel yet. City attorney Tim Tanner asked the city manager if this is essentially like purchasing from a sole source provider? Mr. Flythe advised yes, we have already purchased and are using Motorola radios in the police department and we are now trying to extend this to the fire department. Mr. Flythe noted that other brands of radios may work, but, the end game is to get on the system switch. Other systems will not allow other brands to join their system. To achieve our goal, only Motorola will allow you to do what we are trying to accomplish. Councilwoman Sharpe stated she would like to see a performance bond included as well. There is not a performance bond included in the present agreement. It was noted that Motorola will stand by the propagation maps that have been prepared based on studies and it shows the splatter map of coverage. Mr. Mccrary noted that usually, designs show 95% in-building. That is in writing with the map being conservative. Councilwoman Sharpe then asked if the County was joining this? She was advised the County is not included with this particular subject but we're still looking at additional communications outside of Adel. Each government does their own thing with their choice of radios but the county is interested in going to a 800 MHZ system. There are counties to the north and east of us that lack 30% in radio coverage and the 800 MHZ system would complete coverage for the rest of those areas. Mayor Duke noted that our police and fire need to be able to communicate with each other. Chief Castleberry stated he is completely satisfied with the P-25 system from Motorola. The city manager added that it is a matter of safety above everything else. Councilman Paige agreed that we need to fix the problem. Councilwoman Sharpe asked if the council could get an itemized rate sheet on the purchase. She was advised we could obtain that. Councilman Paige made a motion to approve purchasing the Motorola communications system. Councilman Greene seconded. All members voted in favor with the exception of Councilwoman Sharpe who cast an opposing vote.

Plan First Designation: Mayor Duke advised the council that City Clerk Rhonda Rowe completed the application for the Plan First designation several months ago and we have been advised that we are 1 of the 7 communities re-designated this year. The designation will be for a three-year period beginning in 2021. City manager John Flythe noted there are several benefits to this designation with one of those

being the ability to apply yearly for CDBG grants in the amount of \$750,000 as opposed to every other year for \$500,000 grants.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.

Rhonda P. Rowe, City Clerk

Buddy Duke, Mayor
