

Council Meeting
November 4, 2019

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

Others Present: John Flythe, Rhonda Rowe, Tim Tanner, Chad Castleberry, Randy Lane 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 21, 2019 as presented. Councilman Paige seconded. All were in favor.

Public Hearing (Rezoning Application – Rashid Sandhu): Councilman Paige made a motion to enter into public hearing to gain input on the rezoning application filed by Rashid Sandhu for property located on Old Quitman Rd, Map 0040E, Parcel 021. Councilman Greene seconded the motion to enter into public hearing. The decision was unanimous. The application requests that the property be rezoned from HI (Heavy Industrial) to GB (General Business). Mr. Sandhu spoke in favor of the application stating that he would like to build a gas station/convenience store. With the hospital relocating to that exit, he wants to build the store. Mayor Duke asked what size the store would be. Mr. Sandhu replied that it would be 3600 sq. ft. in size. There were no further questions or further input either for or against the application and the public hearing was then declared closed.

Ord. #19-05: This ordinance, rezoning property of Rashid Sandhu located on Old Quitman Road from HI to GB, was read for the first time. Councilman McClain asked if the store could be operated under the current HI (Heavy Industrial) classification. City attorney Tim Tanner replied that typically, you can do a “less intense” use than what property is currently zoned, you just can’t go in the opposite direction. He stated he would review for verification in this case.

Ord. #19-06: This ordinance, granting a franchise to Colquitt EMC, was read for the first time. City manager John Flythe explained that we have been receiving franchise payments from Colquitt EMC for many years, as well as Georgia Power; however, neither Colquitt EMC or the City of Adel can locate the original agreement. This ordinance only codifies what we’ve been doing for years and provides a written record.

Alcohol License (Happy Management, LLC): Happy Management, LLC d/b/a Liberty 7 located at 100 Old Quitman Road has applied for a new beer license due to a change in ownership. Based on the information received, Councilman Paige made a motion to approve the license. Councilwoman Sharpe seconded. There was no opposition.

Ladder Truck Discussion: City manager John Flythe advised the council that the City of Nashville has looked at the truck they were previously interested in purchasing and due to the difficulty in obtaining parts, they are no longer interested. He asked for permission to place the surplus vehicle on the gov deals website as there could also be an interest for parts use. Councilman Paige made a motion to approve the city manager's request. Councilman Greene seconded. All were in favor.

Police Vehicles: City manager John Flythe noted this item had been tabled at the last meeting but after a discussion with the police chief, he wanted him to provide the council with additional information. Mr. Flythe stated the police department is 4 officers short and if we filled those positions, we would not have enough vehicles. We are looking at both SUV's and Dodge pursuit vehicles.

Chief Chad Castleberry then explained to the council that Dodge is changing the platform on the chargers, which is the pursuit model currently in our fleet, from a two-wheel drive to an all-wheel drive platform. Therefore, there is a delay in production from the old line to the new line along with a price increase. He further explained that the last dodge we ordered, which was a replacement for a wrecked vehicle, took 24 weeks for delivery. It is now a best guess as to when we would receive additional chargers with the delayed timing. He is estimating at least 20 weeks or longer.

Chief Castleberry stated that the SUV's (Chevrolet Tahoes) that were on hold and presented at the last meeting have now been sold. There are a few more coming in and the dealership will place them on hold for Adel if we get a purchase order submitted. The estimated delivery on these is 10 weeks.

Mr. Flythe stated we are looking at 8 weeks before the end of year, with an additional 2 more if we get officers hired and in place after the first of the year; therefore, we are going to need some vehicles. Secondly, he had asked the Chief to give an estimate on the life of the two vehicles. The chargers have an estimated life of 4 years and the SUV's an estimated life of 6 years. The differential in price is about \$8,000 higher for the Tahoe; however, you get 2 more years out of the vehicle.

Chief Castleberry explained that the SUV is "pursuit" rated, which means it has heavier duty suspension, additional cooling for the engine and a larger alternator for batteries, etc. He further expressed the time element is critical since everyone else is trying to get vehicles as well.

Councilman Paige then asked Randy Lane, Community Development Director, how long did he serve as a Georgia State trooper? Mr. Lane replied for 26 years, with 31 total in law enforcement. Councilman Paige then stated, "and we drove crown vics, and we're both pretty big men". He stated they had no problem with the crown vics. Chief Castleberry agreed that the crown victorias were wonderful, but they are no longer available. Councilman Paige stated that he personally didn't have the chance to drive a dodge charger. Mr. Lane stated that he did and you basically had to roll out of it. He added that a lot of people that worked with him had "went out" on disability for back and knees. You could have a minor accident and your knees would hit the dash. He stated that when he was with the City of Nashville, they had bought 5 SUV's that he thought they still have. They sit up higher. He stated the crash rating was higher on the SUV than a charger. It just depends on what you're looking for. Councilman Paige stated to Mr. Lane that since he worked most wrecks for the deputies, what would his recommendation be? Mr. Lane replied that he would consider both vehicles but the chief has already

told you that. He stated that he does like the fact that the Tahoe should last for 6 years. You would get more use than out of a charger.

Altheia Paige then questioned Chief Castleberry if he was down three sergeants, that's 3 vehicles, so why would he still be short? He explained to her that 2 have been hired that are waiting to go to academy. Also, those vehicles of the ones who are no longer here were passed up. The older vehicles were given down to the 2 new hires. He doesn't have enough to put everyone in serviceable cars at a full staffing level. She then asked if he had an officer to have a wreck? He replied that yes, we did. The insurance company replaced that vehicle and it is in the process of getting up-fitted now.

Councilwoman Sharpe apologized for delaying this item at the last meeting. She understands the importance of cars for the officers but her concern was the speed. She stated she should have asked about this last week at the prior meeting. She added she was partial to the chargers as she has always driven a fast car. She noted that while going to a meeting last week, a police car was driving wide open. Were they just showing off or something else? How fast will they be going? Chief Castleberry responded that he did have a complaint of speeding on 9th Street and it was verified and addressed. Councilwoman Sharpe advised this was over near the new apartments and that was her problem with buying bigger vehicles. Chief Castleberry stated that the Tahoes are actually slower than the chargers. He further stated that they take violations seriously. If they know about it, they can address it. Councilwoman Sharpe replied that she should have called about it. Chief Castleberry encouraged them to call if they have any complaints so it can be checked into.

Councilman Paige stated that yesterday he heard chargers all day long zooming by. He was even too scared to get out and walk in the mornings. He noted the cars jump the railroad tracks they're going so fast. He stated that if he's going to vote on a vehicle, he's going to vote knowing somebody's going to take care of it. They don't need to be driving like cowboys and Indians. He doesn't want to vote on them because they're not taking care of it. "If this seat is going to vote, I need to have assurance they are going to take care of it". Chief Castleberry responded that his officers are responding to requests for services. Councilman Paige stated that these young officers are not doing what they need to. It is now time for him to stand up and talk about it. Chief Castleberry stated to Councilman Paige that "you are making a blanket statement". Councilman Paige exclaimed that he was "sick and tired of it". He was afraid to even walk the dog. Chief Castleberry asked "What officers have you seen"? You said you have heard them, but what have you seen? Councilman Paige stated he could hear them. They need to quit dogging those cars. He took care of his car.

City Manager John Flythe stated that when the complaint on 9th Street was received, the recorder was reviewed and saw where it was valid. He asked the council to let us know when yall hear something. Councilman Paige stated that other people are complaining. He further stated "I pay a hell of a lot of taxes because I own property". Mayor Duke then asked if we were in a position to vote on the cars tonight? Councilman Paige replied "I'm not voting on cars tonight". Mayor Duke then stated that the issue of the cars speeding is one thing and having cars to patrol in is another. Councilman Paige stated that he thought it was a law you couldn't go over 10 mph. He has read it somewhere. He'll look in his law books and bring it back to the council when he finds it.

Councilman Greene asked if a purchase order was submitted, how long would it take to get the vehicles? If it takes 10 weeks, wouldn't that give time to find out who the officer is that is speeding and get it addressed? The chief concurred that it would. The city manager asked the city attorney if we issued a purchase order, would we be obligated at that point? The attorney's opinion was that it would create an obligation, it would be dependent upon any other wording on the purchase order. Councilman Paige stated that for those who violate, we need to fire their behinds tonight! Ms. Paige then questioned the chief that he was not down 4 officers any longer, he had already hired 2? She stated an officer just had a wreck night before last, Councilman Paige stated they hit someone at Piggly Wiggly. He should have been told about this and wasn't. He stated "I bet yall don't even know anything about it".

Councilman Greene made a motion to issue a purchase order for the Chevrolet SUV's. Councilwoman Sharpe seconded. After a call of the votes, members Greene, Sharpe and McClain voted in favor of purchasing the vehicles. Councilman Paige cast an opposing vote. Councilman Paige then stated to the other members, "Yall gone be responsible if they kill somebody". Yall got blood on your hands, remember that. I'm not responsible because I voted "no". They are going to get out here and kill somebody and yall are responsible. What happened in Piggly Wiggly parking lot the other night, the officer was at fault. I should have known something about that. Councilwoman Sharpe asked if we could do some type of in-service training regarding speeding. Chief Castleberry advised that yes, we do that training. Councilman Paige stated that if we can't get some response from the police department maybe we need to start firing some people, starting with the top.

City Marshall Position: Councilman Paige questioned the status on the city marshall position. City manager John Flythe stated the application deadline was October 25th. They are being reviewed. Altheia Paige questioned who does the reviewing and hiring. She also asked who does the hiring and interviewing for the police department. She was advised they have a review board that does the interviewing but final approval is by the city manager. The city manager is the final approval for all positions.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.

Rhonda P. Rowe, City Clerk

Luther L. Duke III, Mayor
