

Council Meeting
November 7, 2022

Members Present: Mayor Buddy Duke, members Terry McClain, Greg Paige, Walter Cowart, Celestine Hayes 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: Councilman Paige made a motion to approve the minutes of October 17, 2022 as presented. Councilman McClain seconded. Councilman Greene noted one correction to the minutes – his comment should have read that he doesn't recall a dollar amount for "specific" projects on recreation. There were no further additions or deletions and all were in favor of approval.

Antenna Bid: City Manager John Flythe noted that after the last declared disaster, funds became available to help with mitigation efforts. We explored utilizing these funds for an antenna system to connect Adel and Cook County with surrounding counties. After much discussion, it ended up with just us. We will be connected to the switch in Tifton. This system will result in there being no "dead spots" for emergency communication in Adel or Cook County, if they go with the system. He stated the amount of the grant was \$1,918,507. When it was sent out for bids, there was only one company to pick up a bid package. After speaking with the Department of Community Affairs (bid awarding agency), it was readvertised as recommended. We still only received one bid. He is asking the bid be awarded to Motorola in the amount of \$1,667,488. The city and county went together with a \$50,000 match. The engineers have said there will be a sum total of a little over \$6500-7500 that comes out of our pocket. We will spend, all together, around \$60,000 out of pocket total for over a \$1.6 million dollar system. Councilman McClain asked if this was all inclusive? Mr. Flythe replied there would be a little expense to connect to the switch in Tifton, but the system will work independently until that is accomplished. Mr. Glenn McCrary with Motorola was present and spoke about the system. He noted that it is a P25 communications project and the good thing is we won't have to purchase a switch that costs \$700-\$800 thousand dollars by connecting with Tifton. It is a win/win situation and many systems are partnering together across the state. He noted this is a great move for public safety. Councilman Paige made a motion to approve the bid. Councilman Greene seconded. The decision was unanimous.

Health Insurance Quote: The city has received its renewal quote from United Healthcare for calendar year 2023 and is a 3.50% change from the current rates. A second plan was also presented that included a larger out of pocket amount for the employees. The renewal quote represents a total annual dollar change from current in the amount of \$54,663. \$49,196.70 is the total employer change and \$5,466.30 representing the total employee change. He noted the amount of this increase was a pleasant surprise. Councilman Greene made a motion to approve renewing the current plan. Councilman McClain seconded. All were in favor.

Demolition Bids: Bids were received for the demolition of 7 dilapidated houses. Following the submittal of bids, 2 of those units were torn down by the owners. The bids below reflect the demolition of the remaining 5 houses and are as follows:

Wild Boar Land Management	\$48,750.00
Allen's Land Clearing	\$20,300.00

Councilman McClain made a motion to accept the low bid. Councilman Greene seconded. All were in favor.

Request to Close Alley: The city has received a request from Donnie Quick, owner of Universal Millworking, to close the alley between 213 W. 5th and 215 W. 5th Street. Mr. Quick now owns the properties on both sides of the alley and asked that we consider closing the alley. The city manager spoke with Bruce Roberts, owner of the business south of Universal Millworking, and he is not opposed to the closing. A resolution would be required to close the alley if the council decides to take that action; however, the city manager advised the city would need to retain an easement for utilities. Councilman Paige asked if this was the alley beside the old shirt factory building and was advised, yes, that is the alley. He stated that he uses that alley when the train has 9th Street blocked and stated, "I hope you guys would stand with me and not block it." Mayor Duke asked if there was a road on the south side as this has been opened forever and used as a thoroughfare. There hasn't been a plat of the property presented for review. The city attorney, Tim Tanner, stated the city could have it by implication, so the city would have to take action. Mr. Tanner further stated that to close a street, the city would have to make a finding that its in the best interest of the city to close. Mayor Duke stated we would need to identify what is street/alley and what belongs to the city before moving forward. Councilman Paige made a motion to table this item until the next meeting. Councilman McClain seconded. All were in favor.

Street Paving Estimated Costs: The engineers have prepared a preliminary construction estimate for the paving of Bill Street, Ayers Street and Lavind Way. That cost is \$163,381.90. The council had proposed we utilized ARPA funds to complete this project. The city manager stated the council needed to advised if they wanted this project sent out for bid. Councilman Paige stated he would like to see us move forward. Councilwoman Hayes asked why we had to use ARPA funds. She stated she had a page where we voted on it for SPLOST. City manager John Flythe stated that if the SPLOST is voted in and we get those funds we could use it for that. He stated it is up to the council as to whether they wanted to use ARPA funds or not. This is what the council had asked us to do. Councilwoman Hayes stated that instead of giving a \$400 credit to residents on their utility bills, we could give more credit if we didn't use the ARPA funds to pay for the paving. Mr. Flythe explained that he wasn't sure when the collections would start on the new SPLOST monies, pending that the vote passes tomorrow and it is approved. The only other option would be to borrow money using the projected SPLOST as collateral if you done the paving before the money comes in; however, you would have to pay interest on the loan. Councilman McClain asked if the next step would be to go ahead and get bids? The city manager stated that with the way pricing is changing, a bid would probably not be good for longer than 30 or 60 days. He would not recommend bidding it out if the funding source has not been identified. He also stated that paving would not begin until at least March or so, when it is warmer weather. Councilman Paige made a

motion to table any action until after the election to determine the funding source. Councilman Cowart seconded. All were in favor.

Sharon Harnage: Mrs. Harnage came before the council to share good news. The annual tree lighting will be held on November 26th. She noted that other activities have been added in this year, including roasting chestnuts over a fire pit. They will not need to close any streets and this event will be held the same day as the Small Business Saturday. She noted they have teamed up with Bud Fuller, the manager of Reed Bingham State Park, who will be assisting with the activities. She also noted that the friends group is now in Cook County, instead of Colquitt County. They had over 1000 people in attendance at the Halloween event hosted at Reed Bingham State Park last month.

Bank Account Approvals: The city manager advised the council of required paperwork that needed approval by the council for checking accounts at Renasant Bank. The authorized signatures on the accounts will be the city manager, city clerk and mayor. Councilman Cowart made a motion approving the authorization to open the accounts. Councilman Greene seconded with all in favor.

Other Business:

Councilwoman Hayes -Stated that at the last meeting Dr. Gear had asked about Jim Battle Park. She further stated that Councilman Greene had said there wasn't a specific amount; however, she had a paper where it was on there for \$150-\$200 thousand dollars. That was the amount presented for consideration. The city manager advised Councilwoman Hayes that this would need to be done at budget time.

John Flythe – Mr. Flythe thanked Councilman Paige, Councilman Cowart and Councilwoman Hayes for attending the event in Douglas, GA to pick up the check from the Department of Community Affairs that will be used for paving in the Industrial Park. He noted the proposed pellet mill is on the hook for the balance of the road paving. One of the requirements is that DCA has to sign off on so, this is not a done deal yet, but wanted to advise.

Mayor Duke – Reminded the council of the Veterans' Day event to be held on November 11th, beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Trulieve will be having a tour of its facility tomorrow at 2:30. The council was invited to attend.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.

Rhonda P. Rowe, City Clerk

Luther L. Duke III, Mayor
