

Council Meeting  
December 15, 2014

Members Present: Mayor Pro-tem Greg Paige, members Jody Greene, Chandler Hill, Buddy Duke and Butch Fausett.

Others Present: John Flythe, Rhonda Rowe, Tim Tanner, Chad Castleberry, Pam Hamilton and members of the public and press.

Moment of Silence was observed in recognition of Public Works Supt. Wayne Giddens who is in the hospital with serious medical issues.

Invocation was given by Councilman Hill.

Approval of Minutes: Councilman Hill made a motion to accept the minutes of November 3, 2014 as presented. Councilman Greene seconded with all in favor.

Special Presentation: Lamar Norton, Chief Executive Officer of the Georgia Municipal Association, along with Pam Helton, were present to recognize former council member John H. Folsom with a "Lifetime Service Award" for his nearly 40 years of service as an elected official for the City of Adel.

Public Hearing (Patricia Woodham & Lynn Brocious Variance Request): Councilman Duke made a motion to enter into public hearing to gain input on this application requesting a reduction on the side setback for two parcels; specifically to reduce the setback at 501 S. Gordon Avenue by 4.55 ft, and reduce 402 E. 8<sup>th</sup> Street by 5.35 ft from the required 10 ft setback requirement. Councilman Hill seconded with all in favor. Ms. Brocious spoke in favor of the application stating she had tried to sell the house and apartments for three years. They have a buyer interested in the house but not the apartments so she wants to separate the parcels in order to sell the properties. There was no one present to speak against the application. Councilman Duke questioned if the utilities were connected together to which she replied they were not. There was no further discussion and the public hearing was declared closed.

Variance Request: Councilman Hill made a motion to grant the variance request filed by Patricia Woodham and Lynn Brocious on side setback requirements. Councilman Duke seconded. All were in favor.

Health Insurance Proposals: City Manager John Flythe advised the council we had interest from three vendors to provide quotes and received a response from two of those. Mr. Flythe stated that several weeks ago Billy Greene of Greene's Insurance Agency presented us with a substantial renewal increase from our current carrier. He began seeking other quotes and met with us again last week and presented another excessive quote. He provided a 3<sup>rd</sup> quote today, which is the same plan from the same

company that Guy Whidby with Partners Benefit Group provided us initially. This policy does meet our budget requirements and is as follows:

Partners Benefit Group	\$92,302.92 per month
Greene's Insurance Agency	\$92,443.00 per month

Mr. Flythe explained that Partner's Benefit Group presented this United Healthcare plan first and Greene's did not present this policy until today. Since Partner's provided this first, he felt this merits consideration. Billy Greene then addressed the council stating he appreciates Mr. Flythe's position but hoped the council would select him. He stated that he has worked diligently on our plan and they had sent their request to United two weeks before Partners did but he just didn't bring back the current quote until today although he had it for two weeks, it just wasn't in his hands. There wasn't a deadline. John had told him to get what he had before the meeting today and the quote is here. They have worked hard for 2 days on this. He further added that he has been the agent for many years and takes great pride in the city. If there is a problem, he stated they take care of it. He is requesting the council to thank John for his recommendation and then give the business to him. Councilman Fausett then asked what the annual difference would be in the premiums and confirmed they were the same policies presented by two different agencies. The annual difference is \$1681. Mr. Flythe then read additional services that will be included with Partners Benefit Group and include (1) employee booklets summarizing all coverages provided by City. Mr. Greene confirmed he could provide these as well. (2) employee navigator – a human resources, benefit communication and compliance technology platform (3) employee benefit meetings and assistance with all claims (4) assistance with newly required IRS Employer forms 10095C & 10094C for ACA compliance. Councilman Fausett then stated that if the policies are the same you can't compare by what doctors may or may not be included on one versus the other, we've got to compare in other ways. He didn't want to ever be accused of spending money for something we could have gotten cheaper but he didn't want to be accused either of not spending his money in Adel rather than sending in to Chicago or somewhere else. That's where he sits over \$1700. Mr. Greene interjected over a \$1 million deal. Councilman Hill questioned where Partners is located and he was advised they are in Valdosta and Tifton. City attorney Tim Tanner stated that in spelling out whether someone is local vs 20 or 100 miles down the road is permissible, however, it needs to be tied to the service itself such as for example: if you were buying a truck and a quote was \$500 cheaper than a quote from Adel, you could factor in that you could get it serviced in Adel which would save money. But it's got to be tied to some benefit. You just can't discriminate in favor of someone from Adel. Councilman Fausett then stated that he wasn't saying Billy was a better boy than Guy but we wouldn't ever get a benefit probably as much as we would Billy. When it comes to money Billy's not my buddy no more than anybody else, but he might be. Kemp Greene added one service that might offset that cost is that they are right here in downtown Adel. When employees are at work, they can stop by the office and they can service the claim or help with a problem they may be having. Billy stated there are many factors involved and he bet the monthly premium will end up being different than what is presented; but not the individual rate amounts. He can adjust the rate to match whatever the other quote is to save the \$1700. Mayor pro-tem Paige asked to hear what the city attorney had to say about this. Mr. Tanner replied that would probably violate the bid process in that you would have to give the other

bidder any opportunity to respond. He also wanted to clarify that being local can be a factor but it can't be the sole factor in making their decision. This has to do with the commerce clause. Councilman Jody Greene asked other than being local and helping with claims, what else he thought they could do better than the other company? Mr. Greene stated service is what they are selling, many times employees will call and they take care of them, and that's a lot of money. Beyond service, they support Adel with their heart and soul. They take great pride in having been the agent for so long. He stated it wouldn't end up costing them \$1700 on a million dollars. He can make it work. Council Hill stated this tends to hurt the integrity of the bidding process because they don't have Partners here to plead their case. This reminds him of the time they took bids on farm equipment and the guy wanted to cut his bid back by what the other guy had. If it was anybody else we would say we are going with the low bid. He's not saying Greene is not doing an excellent job. He just wanted to know if they are the exact same proposals. It's not about who services what. Based on the information that he has at this time, he made a motion to accept the low bid. The motion died for a lack of a second. Councilman Fausett then made a motion to accept the bid of Greene Insurance Agency. Councilman Duke seconded. Councilmen Fausett, Duke and Greene voted in favor. Councilman Hill opposed. Councilman Paige could not vote since he was sitting in the position of Mayor tonight. Mr. Greene expressed his appreciation to the council and stated he would do them a good job. Councilman Hill stated that he wanted to say that he felt the council is setting a dangerous precedent. This is going to hurt the integrity of the bidding process in the future. Bids would now be coming in slacker than they already are if bids from Adel boys are going to take precedence over anyone else. If we are going to take the low bid at all times, then we need to do that and not play favorites.

Vehicle Policy: Councilman Hill made a motion to adopt the vehicle policy presented at the last work session pending approval by the city attorney. Councilman Greene seconded. Councilman Fausett asked if there were any significant changes over the current one. City manager John Flythe stated the biggest administrative change is that we will now have to run a background check on anyone being hired that will drive a vehicle. All members voted in favor.

Dumpster Bids: Bids were received on eight, (8) cubic yard rear loading containers and were as follows:

Cook County Welding	\$1650 each
Bakers Waste Equipment	\$1020 each

Councilman Duke made a motion to accept the low bid followed by a second from Councilman Hill. The decision was unanimous.

Alcohol License Renewals: Councilman Hill made a motion to grant renewals to 14 businesses that have submitted their applications and fees. Councilman Duke seconded with all in favor.

Electronic Metering Proposals: City manager John Flythe advised the council we are sending out proposals for electronic metering equipment. Hopefully, we will be awarding a contract by the first of March.

Economic Development Update: The city manager stated that Sierra Pine facility has been sold to Blue Sky. Also, he provided updates of other projects including that Wal-Mart had requested an extension until January 9<sup>th</sup> before signing an agreement with the Williams Company.

Commendation: Altheia Paige expressed her congratulations to Councilman Hill for his graduation from Valdosta State University and to Councilman Paige for being named the recipient of the Political Award from Mount Olive Church.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.

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Rhonda P. Rowe, City Clerk

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Greg Paige, Mayor Pro-tem

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