

Council Meeting
December 21, 2015

Members Present: Mayor Buddy Duke, members Butch Fausett, Greg Paige, Michael Purvis, Chandler Hill and Jody Greene.

Others Present: John Flythe and Rhonda Rowe

Invocation was given by Councilman Fausett.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes: Councilman Paige made a motion to approve the minutes of December 7, 2015 as presented. Councilman Hill seconded with all in favor.

Ord. # 15-05: This ordinance, annexing property of Williams Investment Company with a zoning classification of HI (Heavy Industrial) , located on South Hwy 41, was read for the second time. This annexation consists of Tract I containing 10 acres and Tract II containing 2.681 acres. This property adjoins the presently existing corporate limits. Councilman Greene made a motion to approve the ordinance with Councilman Paige seconding. All were in favor.

Electrical Rate for Large Power User: City Manager John Flythe advised the council that we have been in negotiations with JM Manufacturing over the past 4 months and presented what will be a two-part issue. They have asked that we place a maximum or a limit on the top side of their rate. With them being about 40% of the City's load, they can swing our costs either up or down. The second part is that we've asked them to change their operating hours to come off peak in June, to which they have agreed, and in turn will help the City of Adel. We are going to hold their price at a cost of 6.3 cents per kilowatt hour. In exchange, they have to maintain their load and they think that if we can do this, they will be able to increase their output. This agreement is only for one year. In May, we will come back to the council and ask for the second part which is the time-of-day rate we are going to install. If everything goes as planned, they will save money, the City will save money and our margin will remain the same at the end of the year. Councilman Paige made a motion to sign the one year agreement. Councilman Purvis seconded with all in favor.

Curb Cuts/Signage Discussion (South Georgia Graphics): Jerry Connell, in the absence of Tim Fuller, addressed the council. Mr. Connell is president of the Adel-Cook Chamber of Commerce and a representative of the Downtown Development Authority, both of which are interested in viable business in the downtown area. Brian Harrell, owner of South Georgia Graphics, has purchased the building located at 206 S. Burwell Avenue. He needs permission to cut out a door in the side of the building and cut the sidewalk to allow for a drive-in ramp so that vehicles can be pulled inside the building. There appears to be plenty of room and this would require losing 2 parking spaces closest to the railroad tracks on W. 5th Street. To the west, the sidewalk is in bad shape and they will repair this deficiency at the

same time they are preparing the curb cut. Mr. Harrell has already met with both Chris Davis and the contractor, Tim Fuller. Councilman Paige asked Mr. Harrell how long he had been in business. He replied since 2001, with 11 years being in his current location. Mayor Duke questioned the elevation of the inside floor compared to the sidewalk. Mr. Harrell stated it is minimal difference with the ramp extending about two feet past the sidewalk. Councilman Fausett verified this would all be done at the expense of the business owner, not the city. Councilman Fausett made a motion to approve the curb cuts. Councilman Paige seconded. The decision was unanimous.

Mr. Connell then stated signage would be brought back at a later time for discussion. There has been conversation about digital signage, however; our existing sign ordinance doesn't allow for this although there are some in existence in Adel.

Other Business:

Jerry Connell – Introduced Marcus Johnston, the manager of Wal-Mart. He noted that Mr. Johnston has already been very active in the community. Mr. Johnston added that he looks forward to being a permanent part of the community and hopes Wal-Mart will be a building block for the community. Mayor Duke expressed the city's support and noted our doors are always open.

Alabama Road - Mr. Flythe stated the newly surfaced road will be back open on Wednesday.

Body Camera Updates: City Manager John Flythe read an update provided by Chief Castleberry for the purchase of body cameras. He stated they are currently in the evaluation and study phase. They are reviewing camera specs, storage issues, storage cost (short and long term), policy development and training. He emphasized he did not want to rush to a decision that could lead to costly mistakes and waste very limited resources with the changing technology of these cameras. He is estimating a project completion around March, depending on the vendor.

Railroad Updates: In response to questioning by Councilman Paige, City Manager John Flythe stated he has met twice with railroad officials. There is no funding in the current contract the railroad has for improvements. However, Blue Sky (formerly Sierra Pine) has indicated they will utilize rail service. If so, then every one of the crossings from 9th Street northward to 5th Street will be on the needs list. According to Mr. Zeigler with the railroad, there is a 2nd contract coming and he is going to ask these be placed on this contract for January. Hopefully, this will come to fruition.

Burn Barrels: Councilman Paige stated that he has been getting calls concerning debris versus fire barrels. We came up with a policy on debris, basically that if someone called complaining it had to be put out. However, the loop has never been closed on burn barrels. At the Big Oak Tree festival scheduled this week, there will be barrels burning all day and night. He added that he has never voted regarding fire barrels and has never been opposed to them in his 16 years of being on the council. Mayor Duke suggested gathering our information and bringing this forth at the next meeting. It was

decided for the council to meet at 5:00 pm on the 4th of January regarding this issue before the regular meeting to be held at 5:30 pm.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.

Rhonda P. Rowe, City Clerk

Buddy Duke, Mayor
