

DeFuniak Springs City Council

Regular Meeting

February 9, 2009

The DeFuniak Springs City Council met in Regular Session at 6:00 PM with the following members present: Mayor C. Harold Carpenter; Mayor Pro-Tem James Huffman; City Council Members: Don Harrison, James Coffield, Wayne Graham, Henry Ennis; City Manager Kim Kirby, City Attorney Clayton Adkinson, Finance Director Sara Bowers, and Deputy Clerk Vanessa Mitchell.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Carpenter called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Carpenter gave the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Mayor Carpenter announced Item 6 (A) would be removed.

MINUTES:

(A) *January 26, 2009 – Regular Meeting:* There were none.

Motion made by James Huffman to accept as reported, second by Henry Ennis, motion carried 5-0.

MAYOR, C. HAROLD CARPENTER:

(A) *Appoint Cemetery Board Member:* Mayor Carpenter requested a motion to appoint Jack Hicks to a two year term to the cemetery board.

Motion made by James Huffman to approve the request, second by Wayne Graham, motion carried 5-0.

REQUEST TO BE PLACED ON THE AGENDA:

(A) *Request permission to sell tickets and waive rental fees at the Community Center for fund raiser – Brian McBroom, Walton County Tax Collector Employee Fund:* Mr. Brian McBroom, representing the Walton County Tax Collectors Employee fund, gave an overview of the organization. He requested permission to hold a gospel sing to be held at the Civic Center for St. Jude's. He said the cost will be a \$5.00 donation and all donations will be used to support St. Jude's. Mr. McBroom requested the rental fees be waived also.

Motion made by James Coffield to approve the request, second by Henry Ennis, motion carried 5-0.

(B) *Discuss the possibility of a budget billing plan for utilities – Donna Huxhold:* Ms. Donna Huxhold said she was here with Kay Brady, Council on Aging, to propose a budget billing program that would be a great benefit to the City and a small investment from the City. She explained it was similar to what the electric companies do for their customers; the average yearly bill is spread out through the year. She requested the Council consider the possibility. Ms. Huxhold read a letter from ARC's executive director. Mr. Harrison asked if she had spoken with Sara Bowers, the Finance Director. Ms. Huxhold said she had not, that she had just asked if there was such a program and when there was not one, she proposed it to the Council. James Huffman asked about her hearing it was a minimum expense to the City. Ms. Huxhold said that's what she was told. Ms. Huxhold said what Gulf Power does is take an average of your yearly bill then average that over 12 months. She said another requirement was that you had to have good standing for 6 months to qualify. Ms. Kirby said there is a true up period at the end of the year. Ms. Sara Bowers said she and Mike Sasser had discussed the possibility and offered to speak with Ms. Huxhold. Ms. Bowers said it's the true up month that staff thought would be unfair to the customer. Mr. Huffman advised Ms. Huxhold

to talk with Ms. Bowers about it to understand the intricacies. Ms. Bowers asked Ms. Huxhold to come see her and she would discuss it.

No action taken by the Council.

(C) *Life Enrichment Senior Center quarterly report – Leigh Morrison:* Ms. Leigh Morrison gave an update on for the quarterly report for 2008. She said everything was going well at the Senior Center. Don Harrison commented that everything he has heard about it is good.

CITY MANAGER, KIM KIRBY:

(A) *Approve Work Order #3, Landscaping – PMA:* Item removed from agenda.

(B) *RFP for Engineering for Phase III Water System Improvements:* Kim Kirby

1. *Accept Proposals and Approve Ranking:* Kim Kirby advised the Council they had received two proposals for the professional engineering services for Phase III Water System Improvements. Peters Municipal Associates were the top ranked firm. She asked the Council to accept the proposals and approve the ranking sheet.

Motion made by James Huffman to approve the request, second by Wayne Graham, motion carried 5-0.

2. *Negotiations with Top Ranked Firm:* Kim Kirby said we have Mr. Peters here from Peters Municipal Associates. The fees were negotiated and accepted by the Council.
3. *Award RFP:* Kim Kirby said the last step was to award the RFP. Charles Peters advised the Council there were other fees such as the geotechnical survey that would not be covered under this (RFP).

Motion made by James Huffman to award the RFP to Peters Municipal, second by Henry Ennis, motion carried 5-0.

(C) *Approve Request for Purchase for Tiling and Repairs of City Hall Men's and Women's Restrooms:* Kim Kirby said there was a scope of work in their packets for the restrooms at City Hall. She advised the Council that staff had measured and purchased partitions and received quotes for the tiling. Ms. Kirby said the new tile should go up the walls too. She said we have the money in the budget and it is available. Don Harrison commented on the Men's restroom, that it's not just aesthetic; there are holes in the walls. Mayor Carpenter said being a gentleman here daily I would like to make that a motion.

Motion made by Wayne Graham to approve the request of award to Evan's Carpet City in the amount of \$3,924.95, second by Henry Ennis, motion carried 5-0.

(D) *Approve Water Conservation Plan:* Kim Kirby said the request was for a formal adoption by the City Council of the Water Conservation Plan. Don Harrison said we have discussed this and believed it affected our water rates. Ms. Kirby said the Water Management District would like all of the communities to go to a progressive rate structure. Mr. Harrison asked when we will go to that. Ms. Kirby said we have one in place but it needs to be increase to encourage conservation.

Motion made by James Huffman to approve, second by James Coffield, motion carried 5-0.

FINANCE DIRECTOR, SARA BOWERS:

(A) *Approve Health Insurance for Employee Benefits – Kevin Loch, Corporate Benefits:* Sara Bowers advised the Council it was time for health insurance, the renewal is March 1. She commented that it is always a balancing act to provide good health insurance at a cost that is affordable. Ms. Bowers said after working with Mr. Locht they had three options for employees that can stay within the budget. Mr. Kevin Locht, Corporate Benefits, expanded that to say they came up with a third option for employees that want to add a family member. He said these options worked out the best for the budget and a benefit plan to the employee. Ms. Bowers said staff recommends the three options from Blue Cross and Blue Shield. Mr. Harrison asked for clarification, he saw five columns. Mr. Locht reviewed the spreadsheet with the Council. Don Harrison asked about insurance for the employee only, will the City still pay for that. Mr. Locht said yes and went over the other rates. Mr. Harrison said he knew it was high but it sounded reasonable to what other people paid. Mr. Harrison asked if there was any way to partner with the County and the School Board insurance. Ms. Kirby said they have looked into that, there were issues. Discussion followed. Mr. James Coffield asked Mr. Locht what was the premium loss ration last year. Mr. Locht addressed him.

Motion made by Don Harrison to approve the new rate plan and the health benefit plan as presented tonight and present it to the employees, second by James Coffield, motion carried 5-0.

(B) *Bills:* Sara Bowers requested a motion to pay all bills in order.

Motion made by James Huffman to pay all bills in order, second by Wayne Graham, motion carried 5-0.

CITIZENS COMMENTS: There were none.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT: Kim Kirby reminded the Council there was a sign workshop tomorrow. She said there was a packet given to them on Friday and there was a letter received today. She handed out the letter. Ms. Kirby said she was still scheduling for the tour of site C-6. She said she had spoken with the County about the Animal Control Ordinance and said she would put a copy of the ordinance in their packet. She mentioned policy changes. Ms. Kirby said we had submitted projects for the stimulus project and the most likely candidate was the Master Site Development plan at the airport. Discussion followed on the possibility of funding.

COUNCIL COMMENTS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:

James Coffield - none

James Huffman – went to the Chautauqua assembly and commented on what others said.

Don Harrison – said he was attending the next monthly meeting of the FLOC directors meeting in Panama City Beach. He said they will get a tour of the new Panama City airport and discuss lobbying issues.

Henry Ennis – said he attended the Council on Aging board meeting.

Wayne Graham – attended the Boys and Girls Club steak and hamburger program. He said it was a good program. He said the TPO meeting will be in Niceville.

Mayor Carpenter invited the Council to come to City Hall for the kindergarteners coming from Maude Sanders tomorrow.

There being no further business, Mayor C. Harold Carpenter adjourned the meeting.

ADOPTED this 23rd day of February, 2009

C. Harold Carpenter

C. Harold Carpenter, Mayor

ATTEST:

Vanessa Mitchell

Vanessa Mitchell, Deputy Clerk