

DeFuniak Springs City Council

Regular Meeting

March 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, Wayne Graham, Henry Ennis; City Manager Kim Kirby, City Attorney Clayton Adkinson, Finance Director Sara Bowers, and Deputy Clerk Vanessa Mitchell. Councilman James Coffield was not in attendance.

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

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Wayne Graham gave the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Mayor Carpenter announced an Emergency Item would be added to the agenda: Item 6 (E) Well and Tank Land Purchase. He also pointed out Item 4B was in front of them.

MINUTES:

(A) *February 23, 2009 – Regular Meeting:* There were no corrections.

Motion made by Wayne Graham to approve the minutes as presented, second by James Huffman, motion carried 4-0.

REQUEST TO BE ON THE AGENDA:

(A) *Request Permission to Use the Lakeyard for Take a Kid Fishing Day, Kiwanis (David King):* David King, Kiwanis Club, said this request would be for the 6th Annual Take a Kid Fishing Day. He referenced the letter given to the Council, they would like to sell concession and cord off the pier one week prior to the event. Mr. King said Ace Hardware donates two types of fish food and feeds the fish. Mr. Huffman said this was a very worthwhile program and has been able to witness the kids catching their first fish and its an exciting thing.

Motion made by James Huffman to grant the request by Reverend King on behalf of Kiwanis, second by Wayne Graham, motion carried 4-0.

Don Harrison said all proceeds are used for children's programs by the Kiwanis Club, it is a great cause. Rev. King said the majority of the money raised is kept right here in DeFuniak Springs.

Motion carried 4-0.

(B) *CH2MHill/OMI Annual Report, Jayne Swift:* Jayne Swift, CH2MHill/OMI gave a presentation on the packet information. She discussed issues of lightning damage and the grounding issues they have corrected. Mr. Harrison asked if our insurance took care of the damage costs Bill Holloway said yes, some of it. Ms. Swift told the Council if they had any questions to call her. Mr. Huffman asked about the unaccounted for water usage going down, what had they found was the source. Ms. Swift said one of the biggest issues was not having meters where they flushed the Water Wells and replacing meters that needed it.

No Council Action.

FIRE CHIEF, BRIAN COLEY:

(A) *Request Authorization to Purchase New Chief's Vehicle:* Chief Brian Coley requested permission to purchase a new vehicle that had been budgeted for. He said the car was under state contract purchase. Don Harrison asked is the old car was 13 years old. Chief Coley said yes. It was clarified that the vehicle would be purchased under the Sheriff's Department contract. Ms. Bowers requested the

motion include a stipulation of verifying the purchase is under the Sheriff Dept. contract.

Motion made by Wayne Graham to purchase this vehicle under the Sheriff's Department contract for the price of \$20,856.00, second by Don Harrison, motion carried 4-0.

Don Harrison thanked Chief Coley for the letter to the Council, it spoke well of the maintenance department and Fire Department to get that much use out of a vehicle. Wayne Graham asked what the Chief will do with his old car. Ms. Kirby said it would probably be put out for bid.

ASSITANT CITY MANAGER, BILL HOLLOWAY:

(A) *Discuss Natural Resources Conservation Service Agreement and Request Authorization to Proceed:* Bill Holloway said he has been working with the US Dept. of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Services and the Florida Dept. of Transportation for a problem with erosion at 5th St. and Chaffin. He said the NRCS has given us a grant for emergency water shed protection. Mr. Holloway explained it is a 75/25 grant with the NRCS funding 75% not to exceed \$75,000 and the City to provide 25% of the cost of construction. Mr. Holloway requested the Council's approval of the grant to provide a grade stabilization structure. Mr. Huffman asked if we had the money in the budget. Ms. Bowers said yes.

Motion made by James Huffman to accept the grant proposal with the US Dept. of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service and provide a match up to \$25,000, second by Henry Ennis,

Discussion followed. Motion stayed the same.

Motion carried 4-0.

Mayor Carpenter thanked Mr. Holloway for the outstanding job of getting this accomplished with as many parties that are involved.

(B) *Accept and Award Bids for Sidewalk Repair Services:* Bill Holloway advised the Council we went out for bid to get the sidewalk trip hazards repaired on Circle Drive, along East and West Main St. and all of Chipley Park. Mr. Holloway requested the Council's approval and award to Precision Sidewalk Safety Corporation to remove 597 total trip hazards for a cost of \$19,897.71. Mr. Holloway explained the repair work and said it will help to repair the sidewalks with out removing the entire slabs and possibly disturbing tree roots. He said safety is a primary importance to the City and they had to discover a solution that would be quick, cost effective, and not harm the City's trees. Mr. Holloway said the money is in the budget.

Motion made by Don Harrison to award the contract for sidewalk repair services to Precision Sidewalk Safety Corporation for \$29,897.71, second by Henry Ennis.

Henry Ennis pointed out the contract says East and West Main St., it should say East and West Main Ave. Mr. Huffman thanked Mr. Holloway for his efforts to save our trees, and for the estimated savings of \$64,000, that is commendable. Mr. Harrison agreed and said it could save us a whole lot more than that for the liabilities.

Motion carried 4-0.

(C) *Approve Agreement for Sidewalk Repair Services:* Bill Holloway requested approval to enter into an agreement with Precision Sidewalk Safety Corporation to perform repairs on various City sidewalks. Mr. Holloway explained the packet document was a draft and would like the Council's input on a working contract for a City sidewalk safety program. Mr. Holloway said the contract can be for now, and then we would be able to use them in the future instead of going out for bids for future sidewalk repairs. Ms. Kirby said we can't do a continuing contract; it would only be good until they finish the scope of work which would end in

May, making it 90 days. Clayton Adkinson said we can do this contract for the \$29,000 and the only way to change it is by change order but not anything beyond the time.

Motion made by James Huffman to authorize entering into this contract which is designed to the scope of work, second by Wayne Graham, motion carried 4-0. .

(D) *Accept and Award Bids for Compact Pedestrian Trencher*: Bill Holloway advised the Council we went for bid for a Compact Pedestrian Trencher for the Natural Gas Department. He said it is a budgeted item and they received one bid from Ditch Witch in Alabama for \$13,242.83. Mr. Holloway discussed the trencher and its usefulness. Mr. Huffman asked if the price was within the budget range. Mr. Holloway said yes. Mr. Harrison asked what we had now that was similar to this. Mr. Holloway said the department had an older version; this one was a lot smaller. Mayor Carpenter asked about depth, to which Mr. Holloway replied 48 inches.

Motion made by Don Harrison to purchase the Compact Pedestrian Trencher from Ditch Witch of Alabama for \$13,242.83, second by Henry Ennis, motion carried 4-0.

(E) *Well and Tank Land Purchase*: Bill Holloway explained the Council's previous approval of the purchase of the land was not enough to cover the final cost. He said the requested road that was included in the purchase raised the price to over \$174,000. Mr. Holloway requested authorization to purchase the property for \$175,000 plus closing costs. Mr. Harrison said his intent when he made the previous motion at the authorized amount was to be *in addition to* closing costs.

Motion made by Don Harrison to approve Mr. Holloway's request tonight, second by James Huffman, motion carried 4-0.

CITY MANAGER, KIM KIRBY:

(A) *Highway Beautification Grant Presentation of Conceptual Plan, Michael Canaday*: Kim Kirby advised the Council Mr. Michael Canaday was working in cooperation with Peters Municipal & Associates on a landscaping plan for our landscaping grant that covers primarily Hwy 90 and a small portion of Hwy 331. She said we are looking for Council's input on plants and materials they would like to see. Mr. Michael Canaday gave a hand out and a presentation. Discussion followed on grass. Mr. Harrison asked about specifications by FDOT for the tree widths. Mr. Greg Scoville said there was a formula that is used that depends on the size of the median and speed of traffic, etc. Mr. Harrison said his main concern was how they are grouped and that it matches and blends with Hwy 331, so that when you come in, it is continuing the whole way down. Discussion followed on the wildflowers. Ms. Kirby said she had stressed low maintenance plants and water conservation for the landscaping plan. Mr. Huffman said he would like to see more native evergreens if possible.

No Council Action.

(B) *Natural Gas System Recommendations, CJ Arnold*: Kim Kirby introduced Mr. Al Bean and Mr. CJ Arnold with ACT Energy Management who are working in partnership with Goodwyn, Mills and Cawood. She said they have worked with Mr. Mike Sasser, our Natural Gas Supervisor, and other City staff to do an in depth look at our systems, billing, purchasing, training, etc. and have a draft report with their recommendations. Mr. CJ Arnold, ACT Energy Management, gave an overview of the draft report. Ms. Kirby explained what gas lines were presently in place, and where we get our gas from. Mr. Harrison asked if we pay for the pipeline along with the gas. Ms. Kirby discussed. Mr. Arnold discussed his recommendations. Mr. Harrison said he agreed with buying gas from different people and creating competition but was unsure of hedging and where we pass on some of the costs. Mr. Harrison said he would like to see the potential savings of one year versus the price of a consultant for one year. Mr. Mike Sasser agreed to contact other cities to get a comparison and see how they do things. Mr. Harrison

said he would like to see a comparison to cities our size with our consumption. Ms. Kirby said she would recommend a workshop when Mr. Arnold was finished to discuss the details. Mr. Arnold continued his presentation. Mr. Harrison said everything was very thorough but didn't see a recommendation of wanting the City to put other gas lines that would be profitable. Mr. Al Bean said this was only a portion of what they wanted to report on, they expect that to be part B, marketing. Ms. Kirby thanked them for their presentation and the many good recommendations and working very well with the staff.

(C) *Approve Amendment No. 1 to Senior Center Agreement:* Kim Kirby said she is requesting approval of an amendment to the agreement between Walton County Tri-County and the City for the Life Enrichment Senior Center. She said the amendment is to extend the term to September 30 of our budget year. Funding will be discussed during our budget time

Motion made by James Huffman to approve the Senior Center Agreement, second by Henry Ennis, motion carried 4-0.

(D) *FDOT Road Maintenance:*

1. *Memorandum of Agreement – Contract Renewal:* Kim Kirby advised the Council this agreement was the same agreement with FDOT as in previous years for maintenance of the rights of way for mowing and litter pick-up and the amount was the same as last year.

Motion made by Don Harrison to approve the contract renewal with FDOT for Highway Maintenance for \$44,153.04, second by Wayne Graham, motion carried 4-0.

2. *Adopt Resolution #2009-1:* Ms. Kirby requested approval of the resolution in support of the memorandum of agreement with FDOT.

Motion made by James Huffman to adopt Resolution #2009-1, second by Wayne Graham, motion carried 4-0.

(E) *Adopt Resolution #2009-2 Recognizing the 'Building Citizenship in the Community: Back to the Basics' Initiative:* Kim Kirby advised the Council this resolution recognizes the building citizenships in the community initiative lead by the FLOC as Mr. Harrison had recommended bringing forward. Mr. Harrison explained the resolution was not for anything in particular but it encourages us to get out and work to get civics back in schools.

Motion made by James Huffman to adopt Resolution #2009-2 second by Henry Ennis, motion carried 4-0.

FINANCE DIRECTOR, SARA BOWERS:

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

Motion made by Henry Ennis to pay all bills in order, second by Wayne Graham, motion carried 4-0.

CITIZENS COMMENTS: There were none.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT: Kim Kirby reminded the Council to RSVP for the Site C-6 tour on Wednesday, March 18 at 9:00am. She also invited the Council and public to the Walton County Chamber's roundtable discussion and requested RSVP's go to the Chamber. She said it was an opportunity for area businesses to ask questions and discuss challenges they are facing in this economy. Mr. Harrison asked about needing a resolution to support having a train stop here. Ms. Kirby said the Mayor had written a letter about two years ago asking for the stop. Mayor Carpenter said the response was whenever it goes back into service; it is possible to have a flag stop here and it said we will do something at the appropriate time. Mr. Harrison clarified it is a resolution in

support of Amtrac coming through here (Northwest Florida). Ms. Kirby said she would look into it and bring something back.

COUNCIL COMMENTS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Henry Ennis -- none

James Huffman -- none

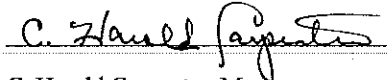
Don Harrison -- announced he was leaving to go to Tallahassee for the FLOC lobbying the legislature. He also discussed the training for legislative lobbying and recommended anyone who would like to go to see Michelle, she had information.

Wayne Graham -- attended the Boys and Girls Club meeting and gave an update.

Mayor Carpenter - announced Mr. DeFuniak's relatives would be here at the museum on the 15th at 3 pm.

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

ADOPTED this 23rd day of March, 2009



C. Harold Carpenter, Mayor

ATTEST:



Vanessa Mitchell, Deputy Clerk