

DeFuniak Springs City Council

Regular Meeting

June 8, 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, Henry Ennis, Wayne Graham; City Manager Kim Kirby, City Attorney Clay Adkinson standing in for Clayton Adkinson, Finance Director Sara Bowers, City Clerk Susie Campbell-Work, and Deputy Clerk Vanessa Mitchell. City Attorney Clayton Adkinson was not present.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION: Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and Mayor Carpenter gave the invocation.

MINUTES:

(A) *May 11, 2009 – Regular Meeting:* Don Harrison asked for a correction to Page 7, under Council Comments & Committee Reports, Mayor Carpenter-Line 4, it should read *Jefferson County to Escambia County*. Mayor Carpenter requested changes: to page 4, 3rd paragraph, Line 7, for clarification it should read: *Kim Kirby said that the purchase of group burial plots are available in the old and new section. However, coping is available only in the old section and not in the new section;* and on page 5, first paragraph, for clarification it should read: *Kim Kirby asked the Council to reject the bids because none of the bids were in line with the specifications, one did not provide information on maintenance and two were outside of the distance specified;* and on page 7, first paragraph, Mr. Bossley's name should be changed to Mr. Baltzley's; also on page 7, first paragraph, for clarification it should read *DeFuniak Springs Area Council*.

Motion made by Wayne Graham to approve as corrected by, second by Henry Ennis, motion carried 5-0.

MAYOR C. HAROLD CARPENTER:

(A) *Appoint Commissioner to DeFuniak Springs Housing Authority – Mayor Carpenter*

Mayor Carpenter made a request to appoint Julia Walker as Commissioner to the DeFuniak Springs Housing Authority.

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

PLANNING DIRECTOR, GREG SCOVILLE:

(A) *Complete Count Committee Appointment – Councilman James Coffield:* Kim Kirby stated that Greg Scoville had an appointment and was unable to attend the meeting. James Coffield requested that Art Dees serve as the community base organization representative for the complete count committee.

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

REQUEST TO BE PLACED ON THE AGENDA:

(A) *Request permission to participate in the National Trust for Historic Preservation Project "This Place Matters" – Ann Robinson:* Ann Robinson requested permission to participate in the National Trust for Historic

Preservation Project by sending in photos of the DeFuniak Library, Lake DeFuniak, and the Chautauqua Building to the National Trust Project. She said that she would send in any other pictures that the Council suggested. She said she also spoke with the head of the U.S. National Parks and he was familiar with Lake DeFuniak and Chipley Park. She said Chipley Park could qualify as a state park. Furthermore, Mrs. Robinson described the process to become a state park and informed the council that the contact would be the Florida State Park Department. In closing, Mrs. Robinson stated that when a park is named a state park, the park goes into every guidebook that tourist's receive. She added that this could be an asset for the local businesses.

Don Harrison asked if there was a limit to the number of photos one could send in to the project. Mrs. Robinson answered that there was not a limit.

Mayor Carpenter asked Clay Adkinson if there needed to be a motion to approve the photos. Mr. Adkinson stated that there did not need to be a motion to approve the photos unless they were trademarked by the City of DeFuniak Springs. The photos suggested at the meeting are not trademarked.

Consensus of the Council to support Ann Robinson in sending in photos of the DeFuniak Library, Lake DeFuniak, and the Chautauqua Building to the National Trust Project.

(B) Request waiver of fees – Kay Brady, WCCOA: Kay Brady, Walton County Council on Aging, requested a waiver of fees for the use of the Chautauqua Building on the 19th of September, 2009, for an expo with the Northwest Florida Area Agency on Aging (NWFLAAA). She stated that there will be vendors at the expo and they will be non-profit. Ms. Brady requested the use of the building from 8am to 2pm on the Saturday requested. Kim Kirby asked if Ms. Brady had already secured the reservation of the facility. Ms. Brady said that she checked for availability and there was no event scheduled on September 19, 2009. Kim Kirby informed the Council that Ms. Brady was also requesting the waiver of the rental fee in the sum of \$75.00 plus tax. Sara Bowers stated that the Council on Aging is a tax-exempt organization. Ms. Brady acknowledged that the COA is tax-exempt.

Motion made by James Huffman to approve the request of waiver of rental fees, second by James Coffield, motion carried 5-0.

ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER, BILL HOLLOWAY:

(A) Request Approval to Purchase Property: Bill Holloway requested the City Council's authorization to purchase four parcels near the City of DeFuniak Springs airport. He said that the purpose of the land purchase is for future improvements to the City of DeFuniak Springs Municipal Airport. Mr. Holloway said the proposed future project was designed to minimize the disruption of the community and especially to minimize the need to acquire private property. However, Mr. Holloway stated, that the sound design and cost efficiency require the acquisition of some private property to accomplish the project. He said the purchase of the property would be funded by an 80/20 grant from The Florida Department of Transportation. He also noted that the money to purchase the property was in the budget. Three of the parcels are located on Gene Hurley Road and one parcel on Squirrel Haven Road. Mr. Holloway discussed the details of the purchases.

Don Harrison commented that he is in favor of the land purchase, but he would like to go on the record and say that he believes the City is overpaying on the \$45,000 parcel when the appraised value is \$28,000. Mr. Harrison stated that the negotiated price should reflect the appraisal value, but he said that he realized the City needs the piece of property. He said he knows it is prime property and is in favor of the purchase. He added that the state is paying 80% and the City is paying 20% and that is a good deal.

Motion made by Don Harrison to purchase the four pieces of property described by Mr. Holloway for the negotiated price listed, plus the estimated closing costs that would be separate from the negotiated price.

Clay Adkinson clarified that the closing cost would be per parcel, 4 different closing costs.

Second by James Huffman, motion carried 5-0.

Further discussion was made by Don Harrison. Mr. Harrison asked about negotiations with other property owners in that area. Kim Kirby answered that they were in the process of acquisition in various stages.

CITY MANAGER, KIM KIRBY:

(A) *Dr. Joe Carnley:* Kim Kirby introduced Dr. Joe Carnley. She stated that he has been involved in the Leadership Walton program since 2006 and just recently introduced the Dale Carnegie component in the Leadership Walton Program. Dr. Carnley said it was an honor and a pleasure to be at the meeting and made a brief presentation. Dr. Carnley spoke about Michelle Schack and Brian Coley's achievements in the course. He ended by stating how honored he is to know them and how proud he was to have them in his course. Dr. Carnley thanked the Council for allowing him to be there at the meeting.

1. *Facility Rental Presentation – Michelle Schack:* Michelle Schack gave a hand out and a presentation on the facility rentals. Discussion followed. Mayor Carpenter stated that he believed a workshop should be scheduled for further discussion. James Huffman said that Michelle did a tremendous job and this should be further discussed at a workshop.

Consensus was given by the Council to address the information from the presentation at a future workshop. The Council thanked Michelle Schack for her presentation.

2. *Radio Frequency Bridging Presentation – Brian Coley:* Chief Coley passed around a hand out for the Council and gave a presentation on radio frequency bridging. Discussion followed.

Consensus was given by the Council to address the information from the presentation at a future workshop. The Council thanked Chief Brian Coley for his presentation.

(B) *Second Reading and Adoption of the Cemetery Ordinance #776:* Kim Kirby requested the second reading and adoption of cemetery Ordinance #776. She asked the Council if there were any questions. She stated the changes were related to expanding the old section, creating a cremation area, and creating a ground level only section in part of the new section.

Don Harrison made a motion to adopt Cemetery Ordinance #776, second by James Coffield.

Clay Adkinson read by title.

Mayor Carpenter stated that this was a public hearing and the public was invited to speak for or against the ordinance. No discussion from the public.

Motion carried 5-0.

(C) *Approve Cemetery Resolution #2009-4:* Mayor Carpenter requested a change to the resolution. He recommended that in the old section the price be \$800 per lot; in the new section the price be \$700 per lot; and for a cremation niche in the columbarium the price be \$500. Don Harrison asked if this was a recommendation from the Mayor or from the Cemetery Board. Mayor Carpenter answered that the recommendation came from the Cemetery Board.

Mayor Carpenter additionally recommended that there be a 3% increase every year effective October 1, 2009. Clay Adkinson asked if we wanted to leave the effect date as April 27, 2009 or the date of adoption. Mayor Carpenter answered that the date be set for the date of adoption.

James Huffman discussed his concerns. He agreed that the prices should be lowered. He said that the Council needs to be careful when discussing prices within the City. He said there are three things that are never going to operate in the black: the cemetery, the Civic Center, and the Chautauqua Building. He said the City needs to be careful about driving people away from being able to use city amenities. He said the City cannot keep raising prices on services; that's why the citizens pay taxes. He said he does not agree with these automatic increases because it takes the debate out of the citizen's hands and they should be able to publicly face the Council and defend the raising costs. Henry Ennis supported James Huffman's concerns about the increase of prices across the board from the cemetery to the Civic Center. James Huffman said the timing of the raise concerns him. He brought up the concern that the economy is in a recession. He said if we are not careful we are going to price people out of coming here and out of living here.

Mayor Carpenter read from a cemetery ordinance in 2004 noting the price of an old section plot was \$750. He pointed out the increase is by \$50.

Don Harrison said that land was purchased several years ago out of tax payer money. He said somebody has to pay for these services. He said it is either the people who use it or it's the tax payers who will end up paying for it and there is no way around it. He said it's not fair to subsidize it to the taxpayers. He said that people who are buried at the cemetery are not just city residents, so the city tax payers should not have to pay for it. Mr. Harrison said if the city residents paid for it through taxes, then anyone could be buried at Magnolia Cemetery. He said if the City charges people to be buried there, then the residents are not stuck paying for the cemetery.

Mayor Carpenter asked if anyone had anymore suggestions. James Huffman stated that the price increase is more in line with what he thought. Henry Ennis stated that he also agrees with the lower plot price recommendations, but not the 3% increase. Mayor Carpenter said that the City has a utility increase every year and suggested the same with the cemetery. Kim Kirby noted that if the City does an increase steadily over time with small incremental increases, there will not be an instant huge increase. James Huffman said that he supports the price recommendation increase, but does not support the 3% yearly increase.

Clay Adkinson clarified that the date be moved up from October 1, 2010 to October 1, 2009. Mayor Carpenter stated that was correct. Mr. Adkinson requested that the "Therefore" provision be amended to read the usage shall be in effect upon adoption and repeals Resolution 2004-15.

Motion made by James Huffman to approve Resolution #2009-04 with the changes proposed by the Mayor and the effective language proposed by the City Attorney, second by Henry Ennis, motion carried 5-0.

(D) Approve Interlocal Agreement in support of CDBG Project: Kim Kirby requested the City enter into an interlocal agreement for the purpose of clarifying responsibilities concerning Walton County's proposed application for Fiscal Year 2008 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Economic Development grant funds in conjunction with Florida Transformer, Inc. James Huffman said he supports this. Don Harrison said this is not going to cost us any money and asked if Walton County would maintain it. Kim Kirby stated the grant is paying for it. Mr. Harrison asked if we would have maintenance and ownership of the line. Kim Kirby stated that was correct. Mr. Harrison asked if the County would be in charge of maintenance and ownership of the lift station. Mrs. Kirby stated that also was correct.

Motion made by Don Harrison to approve the Interlocal Agreement between Walton County and the City of DeFuniak Springs for the Community Development Block Grant Project with Florida Transformers, Inc., second by Wayne Graham, motion carried 5-0.

(E) *Approve the Beach Highway Resolution #2009-5:* Kim Kirby introduced the Beach Highway Resolution. She stated that Paxton and Walton County had already approved it and now it is before the City for approval. Mr. Huffman said that it is beneficial for our City and getting the traffic to come back through the City.

Motion made by Wayne Graham to approve Resolution #2009-05, second by Henry Ennis, motion carried 5-0.

(F) *Request approval for grant recipients – Bob Jones, CDBG:* Mr. Jones was absent. Vanessa Mitchell brought the recipient names before the Council to determine if there were any kinship between the applicants and the Council. She stated that this did not prohibit the potential applicants from applying, but did require more paperwork to be filled out upon a direct kin to the Council. She gave an update to the Council that because of some low bids on the rehabbing of the homes that, after these five applicants, there might be a little money left to do one maybe two more houses. She also stated that because of lower than normal prices, the City was able to do twenty houses already when they had originally only budgeted for ten. She encouraged people to continue to apply for SHIP funding, there may be another opportunity for the City to get a CDBG housing grant in the future. James Huffman asked Mrs. Mitchell to define kin. She stated that it was mother, father, brother, aunt, etc. Mr. Huffman stated his brother-in-law's brother-in-law was on the list. Ms. Mitchell said that would not be considered kin. Mr. Coffield stated that his neighbor used this grant and is in the process of getting work done on her house, it was a good opportunity. James Huffman added it is making a positive effect on the city.

There was no kinship stated between the Council and the applicants. No action was taken.

(G) *Discuss FBO Rent:* Kim Kirby requested that in consideration of the current economy, and her continued effort to renegotiate the current lease with the Fixed Based Operator, that the Council grant approval to maintain the \$400 per month rental amount.

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

(H) *Nomination for the "E. Harris Drew" Municipal Official Lifetime Achievement Award:* Kim Kirby stated that every year the Florida League of Cities presents the "E. Harris Drew" Municipal Official Lifetime Achievement Award and asked if there were any nominations. Sara Bowers asked if this was the award that Mr. Campbell was awarded. Mrs. Kirby stated that was correct.

There were no nominations.

FINANCE DIRECTOR, SARA BOWERS:

(A) *Expenditure and Revenue Reports-* Sara Bowers advised the Council this was for their information and asked if there were questions. There were none.

(B) *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 5-0.

CITIZENS COMMENTS:

There were no Citizens Comments for the June 8, 2009 meeting.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

Kim Kirby discussed having the Department Directors do the rankings for the IT personnel and once they have met to bring it forth to the Council for approval. She reminded the Council that the Public Works Week had been rescheduled due to inclement weather to Tuesday, June 16th from 9am to 11am at the Wee Care Park. She also reported on the DeFuniak Teen Center and they were holding a pork chop fund raiser on Friday to provide transportation for a field trip for some of the kids to the Naval Air Station. The fundraiser will be at Thriftway from 10am to 2pm. Mrs. Kirby said Sara Commander invited the Council to participate in the Fourth of July parade.

COUNCIL COMMENTS & COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Don Harrison – He reminded the Council about the Florida League of Cities Annual Conference in Orlando in August. Kim Kirby stated that all the fees and hotel arrangements had been made and paid for. Mr. Harrison commended Michelle Schack on doing a super job. He said there are going to be good speakers and he is looking forward to it.

James Coffield – He said that he visited the Life Enrichment Senior Center. He said that it was quiet and the bus was gone, so they must have been on a trip.

James Huffman – He said one day last week he attended a reception dinner for the new Walton County Economic Development Alliance Director.

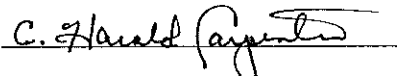
Henry Ennis – He said he attended a meeting with the West Florida Regional Council on May 18th in Niceville. He also said he attended a meeting with the Walton County Council on Aging on the 22nd.

Wayne Graham – He stated attended a meeting for the Communities of a Lifetime. He said the elementary schools had to present their presentations and the winner came from West DeFuniak Elementary.

Mayor Carpenter- He talked about finding the exact material and molding for the picture frames in the Council Chamber to match the other frames that are up. He said the missing pictures will be put up soon.

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

ADOPTED this 22nd day of June, 2009



C. Harold Carpenter, Mayor

ATTEST:



Elizabeth S. Campbell-Work, City Clerk