

**DeFuniak Springs City Council
Workshop
March 9, 2020**

The following members were present: Mayor Bob Campbell, Mayor Pro-Tem Robert McKnight (Seat 2); Councilmember Todd Bierbaum (Seat 1); Councilmember Kevin Crystal (Seat 3); Councilmember Henry D. Ennis (Seat 4), and Councilmember Wayne Graham (Seat 5). Also present were Clay Adkinson, City Attorney; Mell Smigielski, City Manager; Debra Gibson, Finance Director; and Maryanne Schrader, City Clerk.

Mayor Campbell called the workshop to order at 5:04 p.m. and turned it over to City Manager M. Smigielski.

City Manager M. Smigielski went over the Consent agenda items and explained FDOT asked for an amended resolution on the FDOT agreement for roadside maintenance in the right-of-way. He mentioned that DOT has complimented our workers on their work. Councilmember R. McKnight asked about the city's responsibility on pruning trees and weed removal on the right of way, and M. Smigielski replied it only pertained to what is in the right-of-way. City Manager M. Smigielski stated the city's responsibility has increased by \$9,000 per year, so the funding will increase from \$27,000 to \$36,000.

Under Planning, City Manager M. Smigielski said Councilmember K. Crystal asked to have the May Day Festival pulled to the regular agenda.

Councilmember R. McKnight asked about parades on Baldwin Avenue, as some merchants had asked that parades not be permitted at that location. Councilmember H. Ennis said they will be flowing back to the ball field if an alternate route is used, as he could not see kids crossing 331. Councilmember T. Bierbaum said the Little League parade will have rolling blockages, so it is temporary. He added the merchants did not have a problem with it unless the parade kept street closures for long periods of time.

Regarding the TNT Special Event, Planning Director K. Schultz confirmed it was for sparklers only.

City Manager M. Smigielski said he will move Item #3 to Item #1, so the Union negotiator can leave afterward.

City Manager M. Smigielski mentioned the new Planning Coordinator is from Lake City and was their City Planner. In response to Councilmember K. Crystal, Planning Director K. Schultz responded that she has between 50 – 75 open cases and believes that the new person will be able to assist her, as she has practical experience and knowledge. She hopes they will be able to overlap and spearhead some projects. City Manager M. Smigielski said the City Planner will fill in when K. Schultz is out of the office. Mayor Campbell added Lake City is quite a bit larger than DeFuniak Springs.

City Manager M. Smigielski asked permission to start negotiations with Chelco on acquiring their building. City Attorney Clay Adkinson said two appraisals are needed because the property is over \$500,000. He explained that F.S.166.045, governs all actions of purchased property, so the City is required to obtain two appraisals. It will be important that we dictate the Phase II environmental is needed because there were fuel tanks on the property. They also stored treated power poles, so could have groundwater impacts. We have additional requirements to cover the

public interest. Councilmember K. Crystal requested an email update on how we are choosing our appraisals.

In response to Councilmember W. Graham, on plans for the main building, City Manager M. Smigielski said we will utilize the brick building at the front. He explained Mr. Mitchell can get a grant from the Historical Society to rehab it, so we hope to use it for the utility building, and there is also an area for storage.

Mayor Campbell cautioned this is not the vision for a new City Hall; it is only temporary so we can build a new building to make a nice statement. He envisions a beautiful City Hall facing Highway 90 that will add to the city.

City Attorney Clay Adkinson said there is some space on the side that is not used by Chelco across from the Post Office, so the city would like to lease it for the Planning department. Part of this authorization is to get use of the building that has twelve or fourteen offices.

Councilmember R. McKnight asked for a tour of the Chelco building. City Attorney Clay Adkinson recommended a site visit before we enter into a contract. He said we could find there is a major environmental issue, so we need to know it from the start. Regarding the status of Chelco as a non-profit, he said there is less potential tax benefits, but we have not explored that yet. City Manager M. Smigielski said that is no use to them, and it would have no impact on what we pay for the building in reply to Councilmember McKnight. He added Chelco will need to move their people when their new building is constructed, so our move will be in 2021. Councilmember K. Crystal said with the different positions we have added, we need more space and suggested we ask if we could use the building annex before they leave. Mayor Campbell replied that if we get a potential buyer, we could move our people to the annex, if needed. In reply to Councilmember W. Graham, City Attorney Clay Adkinson said the property where Chelco tore down an old house is included in the purchase.

City Manager M. Smigielski spoke about the non-profit policy and asked Council if they had any other input. Councilmember T. Bierbaum asked about the review criteria on page 4, as 1-3 seem to be the same question worded four different ways. He added #4 sounds good in practice, aside from Red Cross that do tracking, but the smaller organizations do not have the ability to track who lives within the city limits. Council voiced concern about tracking people moving, as well as having to pay for information. Councilmember T. Bierbaum suggested condensing questions 1 – 3. Councilmember R. McKnight suggested removing questions 2 and 3. City Manager M. Smigielski clarified that we are combining 1, 4 and 5 and removing 2 and 3. Councilmember R. McKnight liked the policy and added the questions are global as a whole, so it may not be the best match for everyone. He suggests placing the words “strong public need” in front of number 3. Councilmember T. Bierbaum suggested adding a question on whether they have paid staff. Councilmember K. Crystal said the staff may be on assistance.

Discussions ensued on the questionnaire. Councilmember R. McKnight suggested agencies may need to sit out for three or four years, so we must have a way of shoehorning new agencies. We do not need to give the donations perpetually, as it should be competitive. Councilmember K. Crystal said grant money for three years is too long.

Councilmember T. Bierbaum said there are some agencies that are bringing relief to the city, so we may not want to drop them for a year. He added the Matrix assists the police department. He

agreed we only have a certain amount of money, and they must prove their need and plan accordingly. He added our generosity is a reflection of the people of the city.

Councilmember W. Graham suggested looking at it on a case by case basis during the budget process. If we have the money, we should look at their need. Councilmember H. Ennis agreed and said we should not do any damage to the ones that are helped.

City Manager M. Smigielski said, the financial imaging process has been submitted by Finance. He mentioned Debra Gibson sent Morgan Hulion to Birmingham who did a walk through with the company. The utility department utilizes many hours for one employee to print the bills, and the machine has had to be serviced several times in the last few months. With the new system, we will submit a file and they will format with a larger print at a cheaper cost. Councilmember T. Bierbaum added the payments will come to us, so they will just do the printing.

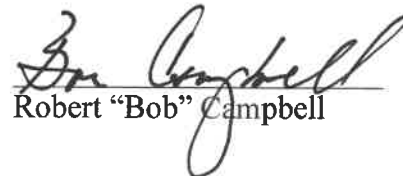
City Manager M. Smigielski went on to Planning. Planning Director K. Schultz said the 2nd Reading Ordinance does not include the RV amendment, as it only references modular homes.

Next, Planning Director K. Schultz said Mr. Don Butts purchased a property which includes an alley way. City Attorney Clay Adkinson added this is just to set the date for a Public Hearing. Councilmember H. Ennis asked about the sewage problem and asked if the alley was going to be closed, and she responded that it will not be closed.

Under Police, City Manager M. Smigielski said they have a request for a grant for police equipment. City Marshal J. Hurley said the purchase will affect the next four budgets.

Mayor Campbell adjourned the meeting at 5:57 p.m.

Approved:


Robert "Bob" Campbell

Attest:


Maryanne Schrader, City Clerk

