

DeFuniak Springs City Council
City Property Purchase Workshop
November 12, 2013

The following members were present: Mayor Bob Campbell, Mayor Pro-Tem Henry D Ennis, Sr., Councilman Mac Work, Councilman Ron Kelley, Councilman Mac Carpenter, Councilman Kermit Wright, Assistant City Manager Bill Holloway, City Attorney Clayton Adkinson and City Clerk Loretta Laird. City Manager Sara Bowers was absent from the meeting.

Mayor Campbell called the meeting to order at 5 p.m. with the discussion topic being proposed city property purchase.

Mayor Campbell addressed the council regarding meetings he has attended on behalf of the city and the expenses associated with the meetings. City Attorney Clayton Adkinson stated this cannot be addressed at this time since the item was not advertised as a discussion topic, but could be brought up at a regular council meeting.

Mayor Campbell discussed a purchase proposal of the current city-owned property at US Hwy 331 South and US Hwy 90 intersection property, with the developer relocating City Hall.

Discussion occurred relating to the different locations and cost involved for the proposed City Hall, which include the properties adjacent to the former Armory building currently occupied by the Boys and Girls Club, former Piggly Wiggly facility on Hwy. 90 East bordered by South 10th and 11th streets, former sawmill property located on South 20th street bordered by US Hwy. 90 West and Baldwin Ave, and the current Triangle Chevrolet facilities located at South 7th Street and US Hwy 90 East.

Mayor Campbell inquired about the meeting held between each individual council member and the developer, which gave the council an opportunity to review the proposed business site and floor plans. Councilman Wright stated he did not review the information at the meeting and informed the council he did not want to know the information until the public was informed. Councilman Work stated the developer was not aware of constructing new facilities for the city with a proposed purchase amount. Work continued by stating the subject property is one of the two most valuable corners within the city limits, and stated the proposed cost of \$2.4 million was not within the correct price range.

The council came to a consensus to have the 2010 property appraisal and construction costs re-evaluated on the subject property and requested additional time to consider the purchase offer. Discussion occurred relating to the city not acting as quickly as the developer has requested, and informed Mayor Campbell no action would be taken at this time.

Citizen J. B. Hillard and Shayne Betts both stated they agreed with the council that additional information is needed before making the decision to sell the current City Hall property. Steve Jaeger, Walton Economic Development Alliance director, discussed the proposed project creating approximately 30 new jobs for the city and further stated he agreed with the council to have all the information prior to making a decision.

There being no further business, Mayor Campbell adjourned the meeting at 5:52 p.m.

ADOPTED this 25th day of November, 2013



Robert "Bob" Campbell, Mayor

ATTEST:



Loretta A. Laird, City Clerk