

MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING NOVEMBER 5, 2019 6:00 P.M.

The Mayor and Council met for a called meeting.

Those Present:	John Howard	Mayor
	Wayne Adcock	Vice-Mayor
	Myoshia Crawford	Council Member
	Ross Bradley	Council Member
	Larry Bradley	Council Member
	Nathan Little	Council Member
	David Dickinson	Council Member
	Logan Propes	City Administrator
	Debbie Kirk	City Clerk
	Paul Rosenthal	City Attorney

Absent:	Lee Malcom	Council Member
	Norman Garrett	Council Member

Staff Present: Danny Smith, Jeremiah Still, R.V. Watts, Bill Owens, Beth Thompson, Rodney Middlebrooks, Brian Thompson, Darrell Stone, Chris Bailey, Beverly Harrison, Sadie Krawczyk

Visitors: Andrew Kenneson, Les Russell, Matt Bidwell

I. CALL TO ORDER – JOHN HOWARD

1. Roll Call

Mayor Howard noted that Council Member Lee Malcom and Council Member Norman Garrett were absent. There was a quorum.

2. City Administrator Update

City Administrator Logan Propes stated the West Spring Street Project is in the closeout phase, and the contractor will be working on the punch list items. The North Broad Street Project is headed towards closeout status. There will be a walk-through tomorrow, and the lights will be installed within the next couple of weeks.

3. Central Services Update

Mr. Chris Bailey stated the invitation to bid for the Police Department Municipal Court Building will be going out on November 11 and close on December 20. The bids will be brought back to Council on January 7, 2020. The trees in Downtown and City Hall have been trimmed and all of the planters have been cleaned out for fall flowers. He stated the Winter Newsletter will go out on December 2.

II. COMMITTEE INFORMATION

1. Finance

a. Monthly Finance Report

Ms. Beth Thompson presented the monthly Finance Report. She stated accounts are trending as budgeted, with utilization around 75%. Expenses are 79% for the General Fund, 72% for Utilities, and 73% for Solid Waste. The new SPLOST Funds and 2019 Property Tax payments have started being received. The Finance Department has been working on the 2020 Operating and CIP Budgets. The Budget Workshop will be on November 7 at 2:00 pm. She explained the construction for the cashier workstation area will be starting in the next couple of months.

2. Airport

a. Monthly Airport Report

Mr. Chris Bailey presented the monthly Airport Report. He stated fuel sales have been consistent. There is a design project being developed for paving the entire runway in 2021. This will replace the crack and seal project in 2020 and become a full runway rehabilitation project. He explained the total project cost will only result in a difference of approximately \$7,000.00.

3. Public Works**a. Monthly Solid Waste Report**

Mr. Danny Smith presented the monthly Solid Waste Report. He stated collections have increased over 1,000 tons compared to this time last year. The Friday schedule will be extended for the remainder of the year; the Transfer Station will stay open until 5:00 pm. There has been no activity on the projects. The Automated Side Loader was put in service. There were a few glitches, but things have started to smooth out. Mr. Smith reviewed the Holiday Collection Schedule.

b. Monthly Streets & Transportation Report

Mr. Jeremiah Still presented the monthly Streets & Transportation Report. He explained the crews have been putting the Christmas lights up in Childers Park. They have also been cleaning the right-of-ways, getting ready for cold weather. The leaf truck will start running within the next couple of weeks and will go until March.

c. Approval – 2020 LMIG Application

Mr. Jeremiah Still presented the patching, overlay, and striping of 1.82 miles of roadway on South Madison Avenue for the 2020 Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant (LMIG). He discussed the contract with the Georgia Department of Transportation. He explained the total cost of the project is \$227,345.14. The grant requires a thirty percent local match, which will be \$52,464.26 and will come from SPLOST Funds. The remaining \$174,880.88 is reimbursable from GDOT.

Council Member Larry Bradley questioned why all of Madison Avenue would not be done.

Mr. Still explained the Pavement Condition Index (PCI) for North Madison Avenue is higher than South Madison Avenue. There is also a specific amount allotted for the LMIG Project and that amount only covers approximately 1.89 miles of road.

Mr. Bradley also questioned whether it will be a joint project with Walton County.

City Administrator Logan Propes answered hopefully it will be a joint project. They will get an Intergovernmental Agreement with Walton County to partner on the paving.

The committee recommends approval of the 2020 LMIG Application as presented to Council.

*Motion by Little, seconded by Adcock.
Passed Unanimously.*

4. Utilities**a. Monthly Electric & Telecom Report**

Mr. Brian Thompson presented the monthly Electric & Telecom Report. There will be a preconstruction meeting with the contractor next week for the Spring Street Project and work should start the first week of December. The electric lines will be relocated from Highland Avenue to Breedlove Drive. The North Madison Avenue Project is nearing final design for construction bids. He stated the pole inspections and yearly truck insulation inspections are almost complete. Facebook will be speaking at the quarterly FNA meeting. The testing of the Community WiFi is ongoing, and he should have pricing for Council next month.

b. Monthly Water, Sewer, Gas, & Stormwater Report

Mr. Rodney Middlebrooks presented the monthly Water, Sewer, Gas, & Stormwater Report. The gas main for Phase II of Grand Haven has been started and Creekside Subdivision will start in December. The sewer main is currently being installed along Milledge Avenue, and the sewer rehab on 2nd Street has been completed. He explained they had the 2018 CDBG preconstruction meeting, and the project will start after Thanksgiving. They will move over to Dewey Hogan Road after they finish the second water line extension on Wall Road. Mr. Middlebrooks stated the Takeuchi Excavator and the Lime Slurry System were both CIP purchases made in October.

5. Public Safety**a. Monthly Fire Report**

Fire Chief Bill Owens presented the monthly Fire Report. He stated October was Fire Prevention Month. The department had over 15 Public Education Events, which included over 2,000 kids and over 1,000 adults. He explained Live Fire Training will be held in November, and they will also have their hose testing.

b. Monthly Police Report

Police Chief R.V. Watts presented the monthly Police Report. He explained Part 1 Crimes had a 22% decrease from this time last year. The department participated in five community events. He stated the Joint Operations Unit has been proactive and aggressive with drug cases in Monroe. They executed three search warrants and had a total of 14 arrests.

c. Approval – Out of State Training

Police Chief R.V. Watts requested approval to send Officer Ryan Gee and Officer Brandon Studdard to the Regional Counterdrug Training Academy. He stated the officers are in the Joint Operations Unit and are new to narcotics. The training will be held at the MS National Airforce Station from November 18 – 22, 2019 in Meridian, Mississippi. He explained there will be no cost for the training, lodging, or meals. The two officers will travel in one vehicle, and the only cost for the City will be a total of \$100.00 for the per diem.

The committee recommends to Council to allow Officer Ryan Gee and Officer Brandon Studdard to attend the Regional Counterdrug Training Academy in Meridian, Mississippi, November 18 – 22, 2019, for a total cost of \$100.00.

*Motion by R. Bradley, seconded by L. Bradley.
Passed Unanimously.*

6. Planning & Code**a. Monthly Code Report**

Mr. Darrell Stone presented the monthly Code Report. He stated there were eight new businesses and two businesses that closed, but one of those was a change in ownership. Silver Queen is working on the curbing and finishing up the building. They are looking to open around the first of the year. He stated the Dentist Office at 1190 West Spring Street is turning out to be a very nice building and layout.

7. Economic Development**a. Monthly Economic Development Report**

Ms. Sadie Krawczyk presented the monthly Economic Development Report. She gave a recap from Fall Fest and the last Farmers Market. There will be a Chili Cookoff this weekend. She discussed the Georgia Writers' Project, which will be coordinated by Jessica Huggins. The Stroke of HOPE Fall Workday was last Saturday; they worked on three homes. Hodge Podge Antiques opened in their new location and Ebb & Flow Yoga has another location opening. Wing Foot Running will be celebrating their one-year anniversary on Saturday. She stated everyone is excited about the Light Display in Childers Park and the upcoming Christmas Parade.

8. Parks**a. Monthly Parks Report**

City Administrator Logan Propes explained the parks have been on a 20-year lease to Walton County. He has been working with the County on the City taking the balance of the parks back. They will most likely hand the parks over to the City at the end of the year. He and Chris Bailey will be working on a transition and maintenance plan for basic safety concerns. The application has been submitted to the Department of Natural Resources for the Town Green and Rails to Trails Project. When the crews from Public Works finish helping with the Christmas Lights, they will be starting Phase 1 of the Athens Tech Project. Mr. Propes explained they have received the permit from the US Army Corp of Engineers for rehab of the stream in Childers Park; the work will be able to start the first part of next year.

III. ITEMS OF DISCUSSION

- 1. Application – Spirituous Liquors and Beer & Wine On-Premise Consumption – Silver Queen
- 2. Application – Beer & Wine On-Premise Consumption – Just Wings of Georgia

There was a general discussion on the above items. There was no action taken.

IV. ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION

1. Renewal – Health & Ancillary Insurance

Mr. Les Russell explained there have been a couple of large claims this year, and the plan is running at about 75% of the expected claims through October. This will require the City to take a little more risk on the renewal plan. Due to two potentially large claims, there will be two lasers this year. There will be a \$350,000 laser and a \$185,000 laser. He stated the policy will be changing from a 9-month plan to a yearly annual plan, which will be renewed on January 1 and go through December 31. The projections will be 9-months versus 12-months. The employee premiums will not be raised this year for health insurance. The dental plan will be going from \$26.16 to 27.80 for employees.

Mr. Matt Bidwell, with MSI Benefits Group, reviewed the changes made last year. The City changed the insurance plan renewal date to January 1, employee deductions were made uniform, deductibles changed from \$500 to \$1,750, and deductibles could be lowered by employees participating in the wellness program. He explained there will be one administrative change in the 2020 plan; the medical deductible on physician charges will be eliminated. The deductible will be paid to the facility, which will reduce confusion on payments. Mr. Bidwell discussed the renewal offer, paid claim amounts, specific insurance, reinsurance, fixed claims, expected claims, and lasers in detail. He explained lasers are exposures on additional deductibles. There will be two exclusions or higher deductibles on two members within the group. The contract is for 9-months currently and starting January 1 it will turn into a 12-month contract. He stated the dental insurance rates are going up fractionally to adjust for the increase in dental premiums.

Council Member Larry Bradley wanted to verify employee premiums will not be raised, and the plan will pick up the additional costs.

Mr. Bidwell answered that to be correct.

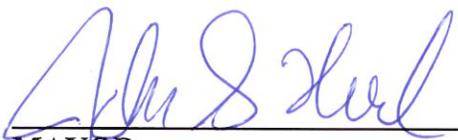
Council and Mr. Propes further discussed lasers, premiums, budgetary amounts, and allocation.

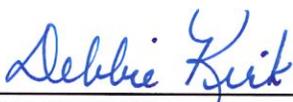
To approve the plan as presented for renewal of the 2020 Health Insurance.

*Motion by Dickinson, seconded by R. Bradley.
Passed Unanimously.*

V. ADJOURN

*Motion by R. Bradley, seconded by Crawford.
Passed Unanimously.*


MAYOR


CITY CLERK