

MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING SEPTEMBER 10, 2019 6:00 P.M.

The Mayor and Council met for their regular meeting.

Those Present:	John Howard	Mayor
	Wayne Adcock	Vice-Mayor
	Lee Malcom	Council Member
	Myoshia Crawford	Council Member
	Ross Bradley	Council Member
	Larry Bradley	Council Member
	Norman Garrett	Council Member
	Nathan Little	Council Member
	David Dickinson	Council Member
	Logan Propes	City Administrator
	Debbie Kirk	City Clerk
	Russell Preston	City Attorney
	Paul Rosenthal	City Attorney
	Jesse Couch	City Attorney

Staff Present: Danny Smith, Jeremiah Still, R.V. Watts, Bill Owens, Beth Thompson, Brian Thompson, Patrick Kelley, Sadie Krawczyk, Chris Bailey

Visitors: Andrew Kenneson, Sharon Swanepoel, Les Russell, Cindy Little, Charlotte Fox, David Fox, Rebecca Lowe, Jenny Lowe, Karen Barnes, Eula Mae White, Irene Bowles, Sandra Hall, Dottie Firster, Larry Firster, Joshua White, Samuel Byron, Amber Tanner, Johnathan Cofield, Crystal Landrum, Rody Mitchell, Carolina Ellis, Valerie Ellis, Pam Whitehead, Marc Hammes, Daniel Hawkins, Todd Ware, Veronica Sanders, Charles Sanders, Whit Holder, Teri Smiley, Crista Carrell, Jr. Hogan, Wanda Davidson, Larry Farmer, Judith Farmer, Lee Dillard, Brenda Crooms, Cassaundra Hainsworth, Carol Queen, Chris Conner, Amy Leigh Dire, Terrie Giles, Lisa Anderson, Wesley Sisk, Nan O'Kelley, Susan Sykes, Camille Garrison

I. CALL TO ORDER – JOHN HOWARD

1. Invocation

Council Member Larry Bradley gave the invocation.

2. Roll Call

Mayor Howard noted that all Council Members were present. There was a quorum.

3. Approval of Agenda

To approve the agenda as presented.

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

4. Approval of Consent Agenda

- a. August 6, 2019 Council Minutes
- b. August 13, 2019 – 11:00 AM Council Minutes
- c. August 13, 2019 Council Minutes
- d. August 6, 2019 Executive Session Minutes
- e. August 20, 2019 Planning Commission Minutes
- f. August 27, 2019 Historic Preservation Commission Minutes
- g. Out of State Travel – To allow Beth Thompson to attend the American Water Works Association Water Loss Conference in Nashville, Tennessee, December 3-6, 2019, for a cost of \$1,659.00. (Recommended for Council approval by Finance Committee September 3, 2019)
- h. Purchase – Automated Leaf Vacuum Truck – To purchase from Carolina Environmental Systems, Inc. for \$170,061.00. (Recommended for Council approval by Public Works Committee September 3, 2019)

MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING SEPTEMBER 10, 2019 6:00 P.M.

- i. Out of State Travel – To allow Rodney Middlebrooks to attend the American Water Works Association Water Loss Conference in Nashville, Tennessee, December 3-6, 2019, for a cost of \$1,559.00. (Recommended for Council approval by Utilities Committee September 3, 2019)
- j. Approval – Walton County School SRO Program Agreement – To approve contract for \$55,000.00. (Recommended for Council approval by Public Safety Committee September 3, 2019)
- k. Approval – Walton County School SRO Program Agreement for Foothills Charter – To approve contract for \$24,600.00. (Recommended for Council approval by Public Safety Committee September 3, 2019)
- l. Approval – Taser Axon Camera System Yearly Contract – To approve the five-year extension to the master agreement with the new pricing terms, along with the 2019 payment of \$41,699.91. (Recommended for Council approval by Public Safety Committee September 3, 2019)

To approve the consent agenda as presented.

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

II. PUBLIC PRESENTATION**1. On Stage Walton**

Mr. Marc Hammes stated he is the Artistic Director for On Stage Walton, the community theater in Monroe. He thanked the City of Monroe for funding their new roof and the beautifications of their grounds. He discussed the history of On Stage, which has been located in Monroe since 1971, and is a non-profit organization that is continuing to grow. They will be expanding from four main stage performances to six main stage performances. He stated the shows sell out and by expanding, the doors will stay open the entire year. Steel Magnolias will be showing in October. They are also adding a youth cast show, strictly for ages 8 to 18, which will be performing Oliver Twist in January. Mr. Hammes discussed their cabaret shows, education workshops, and their outreach to the schools.

No Action.

2. Walton County 4-H

Ms. Cassaundra Hainsworth stated she is the Walton County 4-H Agent and discussed their program. She explained the Walton County 4-H Program is part of the Cooperative Extension Service. There are three different program areas in their office that work within the County program. She discussed the Agriculture and Natural Resources Program, the Family and Consumer Science Program, and the 4-H Youth Development Program. 4-H collaborates with the State of Georgia, the UGA's Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, UGA's Family of Consumer Sciences, Fort Valley State University, the USDA, Walton County, Georgia 4-H Foundation, and the National 4-H Council to provide programming. Ms. Hainsworth discussed the history of 4-H, their expansion, and programming areas. She stated their mission is to develop youth with the knowledge and skills necessary to become productive citizens. They are located at 100 North Broad Street in case anyone has questions or program suggestions.

No Action.

3. Downtown Development Authority Presentation

Ms. Sadie Krawczyk recognized the Downtown Development Authority Board Members for winning the award for Best Downtown of the Year. She stated the volunteers serve the City and help with all of the programs in Downtown. The DDA also received the award for Best Creative New Event from the Georgia Downtown Association for the Farm to Table Dinner. She explained the event raises money and funds the farmers market each year. Ms. Krawczyk invited the Farm to Table Planning Committee and the Downtown Development Authority Board Members to come up and have pictures taken with their awards.

Ms. Lisa Reynolds Anderson thanked the Council for their support.

No Action.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING SEPTEMBER 10, 2019 6:00 P.M.**III. PUBLIC FORUM****1. Public Comments**

Ms. Cindy Little, the Executive Director of FISH, spoke representing the churches and pastors. She stated they are in anguish by the conditions that their neighbors are living in at the Conestoga Trailer Park. They understand the need for marked improvements within the park and respect the City of Monroe's stance on the issue. She explained they are assisting the renters with relocating and will have moving Saturdays until the October 11 cutoff date. They are searching for lots to relocate the trailers that are owned by the individuals, but that is a challenge. The churches request the City to have mercy and grace for the trailers which are owned by individuals. She requested the utilities for these trailers to be allowed to remain on past the October 11 deadline. Ms. Little thanked Council for their kind consideration.

Ms. Rebecca Lowe stated she owns her mobile home, and it has been located in the Conestoga Mobile Home Park for 20 years. She stated that they don't blame the City in any way. Many of the residents own their homes but don't have anywhere to move them. She still owes a mortgage on her home and will be paying a mortgage on a home she can't live in. She requested law enforcement to help keep looters from stealing their property. She questioned why the City has not fixed their Code, why her cable has not been buried, what the Code violations are, what the residents can do to help with the violations, and whether the City wants the property for something. She stated her dog is a service dog for her seizures. It will be hard to find places that will allow them to keep their pets, which are part of their families. She questioned what will actually happen to them on October 11 and thanked Council for their time.

Ms. Pam Whitehead stated she is a missionary from the Appalachian Baptist Association. She and her husband started a Mission Church in the middle of Conestoga 15 years ago. It was a very dangerous park when they arrived, but the park and the people have been transformed. The park is 100% better and a safe place now. She discussed the widows, elderly, and disabled residents living there; they have the same visions and dreams as others. She stated maybe there's a way to get Conestoga to look the way Council wants it to and help the people there. The children will probably have to start over in another school; there are lots of variables. Ms. Whitehead said she has been hearing the City is going to close the park for the last 15 years; they have always had Code violations. She questioned why it has to happen now. The park has improved; the new owner has been working on the trailers and trying to make it better.

Mr. Joshua White stated he moved into Conestoga about six months ago. Five or ten years ago he would not have lived there, but it is a decent place to live now. He has been looking for a place to move since August when the Code Enforcement paper came out. He has two dogs which are guard dogs for his two-year-old daughter. It is hard for him to take care of his daughter, pay child support, and have all of this stress. He stated it is ridiculous why everyone can't come together as a community to help, and he doesn't ask for handouts. The residents are all here, because they don't want to move.

Ms. Brenda Crooms stated her mom is 84 years old and has lived in Conestoga for 22 years. Everyone is being displaced, and the owners are not communicating or answering any of their questions. The residents have gotten a letter for Notice of Disconnection of Utility Services that has Code Sections 18-67(b) and 98-7 on it, but none of them know what any of that means. She questioned whether anyone knows if there is a buyer. She stated that her mother will be displaced. They are on a waiting list at the Housing Authority, but it could take up to four years to get a one-bedroom home. Ms. Crooms discussed the extenuating circumstances and moving the trailers. She questioned who is responsible for answering their questions; they don't know where to get answers.

Mr. Todd Ware stated he is Pastor of the First Baptist Church in Monroe. The Trailer Park timeline of events states that on September 10, 2019 the City of Monroe is still willing to accept a serious detailed plan of action from the owner addressing all of the concerns stated in the letter from June 7, 2019. It is his understanding that someone has a serious interest in purchasing the property and willing to present a plan for bringing it up to Code. That would be a great way to move forward, if he were allowed to present a plan. It would show whether the plan is feasible to provide a nice place for these people to live.

Ms. Valerie Ellis thanked Council for considering the extension. She stated there are electricians, plumbers, and ditch diggers that have a wealth of training and experience; they are willing to help with the upkeep of the park. She stated the residents didn't have much of a notice and are in shock. They love their community and want to keep their community.

2. Public Hearing**a. Variance for Sign – 206 South Hammond Drive**

Code Enforcement Officer Patrick Kelley presented the request for a sign variance from First Christian Church at 206 South Hammond Drive. The applicant wants a variance to allow modification of an existing nonconforming sign to a lower level of nonconformity, allowing their changeable copy portion to be changed to LED. The “First Christian Church” portion of the sign would remain internally illuminated. The Planning and Zoning Commission recommended approval. The Code Department recommends approval with the condition that the sign be made more conforming by using suitable materials, such as metal or wood and halo lighting.

The Mayor declared the meeting open for the purpose of public input.

Mr. Lee Dillard, representing the First Christian Church, spoke in favor of the sign variance. He explained the Church wants to update their sign. The current sign is very old, and they want to install a digital sign. Their plan was to install the new sign within the same brick framework; it would be the same size sign, only digital. The digital part would have to be illuminated internally, and the “First Christian Church” header can be illuminated however it needs to be.

There were no other public comments; Mayor Thompson declared that portion of the meeting closed.

No Action.

IV. NEW BUSINESS**1. Variance for Sign – 206 South Hammond Drive**

Council Member Ross Bradley questioned whether the statement is different from what is on the application, and whether they are willing to do halo lighting for the top portion of the sign.

Council Member Larry Bradley questioned the recommendations from the Planning and Zoning Committee, which would include the top lighting.

Code Enforcement Officer Patrick Kelley answered the recommendation is that the “First Christian Church” portion at the top of the sign be made from wood or metal and be either halo, ground lit, or goose neck lit.

Mr. Larry Bradley questioned whether the applicant agrees with the recommendation.

Mr. Dillard questioned the brick framework of the sign.

Mr. Kelley answered that the brick framework portion of the sign can remain exactly as it is currently, and LED is not considered to be internally illuminated. The banner portion at the top can be halo lit, ground lit, or goose neck lit.

Mr. Dillard stated that he agrees with the recommended conditions.

To approve the variance.

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

2. Approval – Chamber of Commerce Contract

Ms. Teri Smiley, from Chamber of Commerce, presented the new contract and gave an update. She stated they appreciate everyone that attends their events in Monroe. The Chamber is excited to be going to an annual Community Magazine next year. She discussed the network breakfast, which tripled in quantity from last year. Ms. Smiley discussed the upcoming events and programs in the City. She invited everyone to use the hashtag Walton Proud when posting about new business openings and events around the City. She discussed the Buy Local Discount cards and Young Gamechangers. She explained letters will be mailed out this week notifying about the City of Monroe Political Candidate Forum on October 9, at 6:30 pm.

Council Member Ross Bradley discussed the Downtown Development Authority working with the Chamber of Commerce to incorporate public parking areas on the map.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING SEPTEMBER 10, 2019 6:00 P.M.

To approve the contract for the period of one year.

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

3. Appointments (2) – Planning Commission

To reappoint Kyle Harrison to a five (5) year term to expire September 1, 2024.

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

To reappoint Rosalind Parks to a five (5) year term to expire September 1, 2024.

*Motion by Dickinson, seconded by Malcom.
Passed Unanimously.*

4. 2nd Reading – Wireless Facilities and Antennas Ordinance

City Attorney Paul Rosenthal gave the second reading of the ordinance to amend Chapter 98, Utilities, by adding Article VIII – Wireless Facilities and Antennas, Section 98-227 through 98-231.

To approve the ordinance.

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

5. Approval – Award CDBG No. 17p-x0147-2-6016 to IPR Southeast, LLC

City Administrator Logan Propes presented the recommendation from Hofstadter and Associates to award the CDBG 17p-x0147-2-6016 Project to IPR Southeast, LLC, the lowest bidder, for the amount of \$1,274,673.75. He explained the project consists of sanitary sewer improvements along South Madison Avenue, Stokes Street, Knight Street, Mears Street, Lawrence Street, and Pine Park Street.

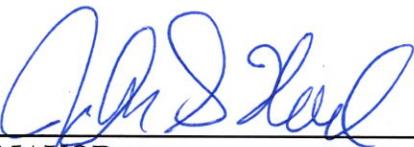
To approve of the contract with IPR Southeast, LLC for the amount of \$1,274,673.75 for the CDBG 17p-x0147-2-6016 Project.

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

Council Member Larry Bradley commented that Council appreciates the citizens in attendance, and the City will continue to take their comments into consideration and continue looking for a better solution.

V. ADJOURN

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


MAYOR


CITY CLERK