

Work Session  
City Hall  
Fayette, Alabama  
April 28, 2015

The City Council of the City of Fayette held a work session at 6:00 o'clock, p.m. on April 28, 2015, in the Council Chambers of the City Hall.

Upon roll call the following were found to be present: Mayor Ray Nelson, Council members Linda McCraw, Mike Hardin, Jason Cowart, Cedric Wilson and David Brand. Also present were City Clerk Dawn Clapp, City Attorney Dale Lawrence and City Engineer Dewayne Roby.

Mayor Ray Nelson announced that a quorum was present and that the meeting was open for the transaction of business.

#### GARGAGE EXEMPTIONS

Mrs. Beth Wallace discussed the garbage exemptions with the Council. She stated those households whose only source of income is Social Security benefits are the only ones eligible for the exemption. Mrs. Wallace stated there are problems verifying if a household's sole source of income is social security benefits.

There are currently 1,430 garbage customers and of those, 310 are exempt. Mrs. Wallace recommended that persons who have had multiple previous past due accounts pay an increased deposit fee when they sign up for garbage service again.

Mrs. Wallace stated when a person is behind three months, she will send them a letter giving them a certain time to pay. If they don't, then the warrant process is used for failure to subscribe to garbage service. The past due accounts have gotten better over the past two years.

She also recommended those who qualify for the exemption be required to reapply each year. The county currently requires this.

#### BUSINESS LICENSE RENEWAL CONCERNS

Mr. Pete Yonce and Mr. Ashley Hancock of Revenue Discovery Systems (RDS), appeared before the Council. RDS collects sales tax and business license fees for the City along with providing a business license discovery service.

Councilmember Hardin expressed concerns about the application process for the annual business license. He asked they explain why the application process requires so much paperwork. Mr. Peter Yonce stated the law requires documentation to be presented as to the individual being properly credentialed in the field for which they are requesting a license.

Mr. Yonce stated merchants who have questions or need a form could log on to the RDS website. Mrs. Beth Wallace stated that some of the local businesses do not have access to the RDS website or have problems logging on to the RDS website.

Councilmember Hardin stated the main problem was with the renewals. Councilmember Hardin and Councilmember Cowart recommended having a public forum to discuss the matter of business license renewals.

#### FRANCHISE FEES

Mr. Tim McCraw, with Local Government Services (LGS) spoke to the Council concerning franchise fees. He stated his company has been in business for thirteen years and operates in six states.

Mr. McCraw stated they usually deal with towns with populations between 1,000 and 10,000 people. He reported a franchise fee can be collected from Centurytel. He stated his company assists with negotiating the franchise fees. He stated the process usually takes two to three months.

He projected the City could receive from \$9,000.00 to \$23,000.00 per year. He stated his fee is based on the City's population at a rate of \$0.50 per capita. For Fayette, that would translate into a \$2,300.00 fee. This would be a one-time fee.

#### AIR EVAC PROPOSAL

Mr. LaTere Jones of Air Evac spoke to the Council concerning a Municipality Site Plan (MSP). It would cover every person in the city limits. Also, if any person covered under the City's plan is airlifted from somewhere within Fayette County they are still covered by the plan. If they are flown from anywhere outside of Fayette County they would not be covered by the City's plan. The cost for the MSP is \$18,970.00.

For coverage outside of Fayette County, a person could continue to purchase a full membership at the reduced cost of \$35.00.

#### ANIMAL CONTROL

Councilmember Cowart stated that a Fayette County Commissioner had asked him about the City partnering with the County at the County Animal Shelter.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

The City Attorney recommended the Council go into executive session to discuss matters concerning preliminary negotiations with a manufacturing prospect who the City is in competition with other private entities or other governmental bodies within the State of Alabama. He stated it could have a detrimental effect upon the competitive position of the City if disclosed outside of the executive session.

Councilmember Wilson moved that the Council go into executive session. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember McCraw, the same was unanimously approved.

Councilmember Cowart moved that the Council come out of executive session. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Wilson, the same was unanimously approved.

#### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, upon the motion to adjourn being made by Councilmember McCraw and seconded by Councilmember Wilson, the same was unanimously adopted.

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Mayor

Attest:

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City Clerk