

Fayette Civic Center
Fayette, Alabama
December 20, 2019

A special meeting of the City Council of the City of Fayette met at 10:30 o'clock, a.m. on December 20, 2019, at the Fayette Civic Center.

Upon roll call the following were found to be present: Mayor Ray Nelson, Councilmembers Linda McCraw, Eddy Campbell, Jason Cowart and Cedric Wilson. Also present were City Clerk Dawn Clapp, City Attorney Dale Lawrence, Police Chief Danny Jenkins and Fire Chief Shannon Taylor. Councilmember Jerry Nichols was absent.

The opening prayer was given by Mr. Bobby Avent.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilmember Campbell moved the minutes of the regular meeting held on December 10, 2019, be approved. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember McCraw, it was unanimously approved.

PARADE PERMIT

Mayor Nelson presented a request for Parade Permit for the Dr. Martin Luther King Day March to be held on January 20, 2020, beginning at 11:00 a.m. Councilmember Wilson moved the Council grant the Parade Permit. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember McCraw, the same was unanimously approved.

PARADE PERMIT

Mayor Nelson presented a request for Parade Permit for a fireworks display to be held at Southside Park on December 31, 2019, from 8:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. Councilmember Cowart moved the Council grant the Permit. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember McCraw, the same was unanimously approved.

MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS SALARY

Councilmember Wilson addressed the Council concerning the salaries of the Mayor and Council. Councilmember Wilson asked the Council to consider whether they wanted to raise the Mayor and Council members' salaries and decide on the benefits, if any, that will be provided.

WORK SESSION

Mayor Nelson stated a Work Session will be held on January 7, 2020, at 5:00 p.m. at City Hall.

ALABAMA FIRST RESPONDERS BENEFITS PROGRAM

Fire Chief Shannon Taylor reviewed with the Council the Alabama First Responders Benefits Program. Act 2019-361 goes into effect on January 1, 2020. This Act requires municipalities to provide a supplemental cancer policy to its firefighters and first responders. This coverage is mandatory and provide benefits during and after employment or retirement. Coverage is mandated for 10 years post separation with an employer or department.

Chief Taylor reported the City would incur the following cost: (1) paid firefighters - \$186.48 per year; (2) certified volunteer firefighter - \$186.48 per year; and, (3) Non-certified volunteer firefighter - \$138.48 per year. The total cost to the City per year for its paid firefighters would be 1,491.84.

VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS

Fire Chief Shannon Taylor addressed the matter of recruiting and retaining certified volunteer firefighters. He said to recruit and retain certified volunteer firefighters, the City would provide supplemental cancer coverage and access to the Alabama Firefighters Annuity and Benefit fund. In order to be eligible for these benefits a volunteer firefighter must meet the following requirements: (1) pass a NFPA physical; (2) pass a background check; (3) be an active member for 12 months; (4) successfully complete CVFF 160; (5) maintain active participation within the department; and, (6) meet the minimum continuing education requirements. Chief Taylor said the cost per volunteer meeting these requirements would be \$426.48 per year. He reported there are currently no volunteers meeting these requirements.

Chief Taylor reviewed with the Council the total compensation paid to volunteer firefighters over the past few years. He reported as follows: volunteer compensation for 2014 -- \$4,563; 2015-- \$7,255; and, 2016 -- \$3,595. This resulted in an annual average of \$5,137.67. Chief Taylor stated for the same amount the City can incentivize 12 volunteer firefighters to seek and maintain certification by providing benefits in lieu of compensation.

Chief Taylor stated adopting this proposal would work in conjunction with new training and participation procedures for the Fire Department. Volunteers would be required to attend training and incidents to maintain eligibility for the benefits instead of being compensated to attend training. He said, I n addition, maintaining certified firefighters would boost the City's ISO rating and provide for additional trained personnel.

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Councilmember Wilson moved the City's financial statement be approved. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember McCraw, the same was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF PARK & RECREATION FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Councilmember McCraw moved the Park & Recreation financial statement be approved. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Campbell, 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 Wilson and seconded by Councilmember Cowart, it was unanimously approved.

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk