

Work Session
City Hall
Fayette, Alabama
January 7, 2020

The City Council of the City of Fayette held a work session at 5:00 o'clock, p.m. on January 7, 2020, in the office of the City Engineer at City Hall.

Upon roll call the following were found to be present: Mayor Ray Nelson, Council members Linda McCraw, Eddy Campbell, Jason Cowart, Cedric Wilson and Jerry Nichols. Also present was City Clerk Dawn Clapp. City Attorney Dale Lawrence was absent except for that portion of the meeting where the Mayor and Council's salary was discussed and the ordinance concerning Sunday alcohol sales was discussed.

The opening prayer was given by Councilmember Eddy Campbell.

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

SALARIES

Councilmember Wilson discussed the salaries to be paid to the 2020 incoming council members and mayor. He stated the mayor should be paid more than the highest paid employee in the City. He also stated the mayor deserves benefits and an annual cost of living adjustment. Councilmember Wilson suggested raising the mayor's salary to \$62,000.00 per year, with benefits and an annual cost of living adjustment. He also suggested raising the council's salary from \$600.00 per month to \$700.00 per month, with the mayor pro tempore receiving an additional \$100.00 per month.

Councilmember Cowart stated he did not think the salaries of the council members should be raised. He also stated there could be some issues with the number of hours that a mayor could work.

Councilmember Nichols stated the City needed to put money into areas other than the mayor's salary but would support raising the mayor's salary to \$52,000.00 per year. Councilmember Campbell stated the mayor's salary should be raised to \$61,000.00 - \$62,000.00 per year, with the salaries of the council members remaining the same but with the mayor pro tempore receiving an additional \$100.00 per month.

Councilmember McCraw stated she would support raising the mayor's salary to 62,000.00, but the salaries of the council members and mayor pro tempore should remain the same.

After further discussion, it was the consensus of the Council to raise the mayor's salary to \$62,000.00 per year with no benefits or cost of living adjustment. It was the consensus of the Council that the salary for council members would not be increased.

The City Attorney was directed to prepare an ordinance to increase the mayor's annual salary to \$62,000.00.

SUNDAY ALCOHOL SALES

Councilmember Cowart requested the Sunday alcohol sales ordinance be placed on the agenda at the next meeting. The ordinance would schedule a referendum for the citizens to vote on whether to legalize Sunday alcohol sales within the City. The referendum would occur at the same time as the municipal election.

Mayor Nelson stated Sunday is a sacred day and he was opposed to the proposed ordinance. Councilmember McCraw stated she was also opposed to the ordinance. Councilmember Nichols stated the people of Fayette deserved to vote on the matter.

FIREFIGHTER INSURANCE

Beginning January 2020, a new law requires municipalities to provide a supplemental cancer policy to its firefighters and first responders. This coverage is mandatory and provides benefits during and after employment or retirement.

PAVING PROJECTS

Mayor Nelson stated the City should know soon if it will receive a grant to help pave Martin Luther King Drive and 10th Street.

Mayor Nelson presented a proposal in the amount of \$6,800.00 received from Dixie Paving and Sealing concerning 4th Avenue patching, ditch work by Brookside Apartments and the culvert on 16th Street NE near the DHR Building. Councilmember Campbell moved to accept the bid from Dixie Paving and Sealing in the amount of \$6,800.00. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember McCraw, the same was unanimously approved.

STRIPING DOWNTOWN

Mayor Nelson presented the bid received from WB Construction & Traffic Markings in the amount of \$26,052.00, to stripe certain City streets and parking places, with the exception of 10th Street. Councilmember Campbell moved the Council adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Fayette that it hereby awards the bid for the striping of certain streets and parking places to the lowest responsible bidder, WB Construction & Traffic Markings, in the amount of \$26,052.00.

Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Wilson, it was unanimously approved.

STREET LIGHTING PROPOSAL

Mayor Nelson stated he had requested Alabama Power Company to do a cost estimate for placing additional street lighting near Walmart.

CITY AUDIT

City Auditor Rick McCabe presented the annual audit report to the Council. He stated the City experienced significant growth during 2019, with a net worth increase of approximately \$900,000.00 to a total net worth of \$25.1 million as of September 20, 2019. He stated the sales tax collection within the City increased approximately \$20,000.00 during the past fiscal year. He also stated the City had approximately \$4.75 million in cash and investments at the close of fiscal year 2019.

COUNCIL MEETING

Due to scheduling conflicts, Mayor Nelson stated the next Council meeting will be held at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, January 27, 2020.

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 adopted.

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk