

City Hall
Fayette, Alabama
July 28, 2020

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Fayette met at 5:00 o'clock, p.m. on July 28, 2020, in the Council Chambers of the City Hall.

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

The opening prayer was given by Mayor Ray Nelson.

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

GUESTS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL

1. TONI ROBERTSON – Fayette Area CDC

Ms. Toni Robertson, Chairman of the Hotel Committee of the Fayette Area Community Development Corporation, spoke to the Council concerning amending the City's alcohol ordinance to allow for alcohol to be served at hotels. She said the CDC is seeking to renovate the old Turner Hotel with the help of investors. She said the hotel's ability to serve alcohol would be vital to its success.

City Attorney Dale Lawrence stated he had spoken with Mr. Joey May of the Alabama Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) Board about the licenses that hotels typically acquire in order to sell alcohol. Mr. May said there was not a specific license for hotels and so hotels usually obtained a standard alcohol license in order to serve it. The four types of licenses used by hotels to serve alcohol were: (1) restaurant license; (2) lounge license; (3) on and off premises beer and wine license; and (4) special events license – more than 30 days. Mr. Lawrence stated an alcohol license for a hotel under the City's current alcohol ordinance was not contemplated. He said the City's alcohol ordinance would have to be amended in order to allow alcohol sales at a hotel. He suggested the special event license section of the alcohol ordinance be amended to allow alcohol sales at a hotel. The City Attorney was asked to draft an amendment to the alcohol ordinance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilmember Wilson moved the minutes of the regular meeting held on July 14, 2020, be approved. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Nichols, it was unanimously approved.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Mr. Terry Acuff of Community Consultants spoke to the Council concerning grant opportunities. The grant opportunities are as follows:

Rails to Trails: Mr. Acuff stated a grant was available for the construction of the City's Rails to Trails project. He asked whether the Council wanted to apply for this grant. He said the grant application would probably be due sometime between September and November. Mayor Nelson thought the trail should be constructed in two phases. Councilmember Cowart expressed concern about the current Council moving forward with the project and leaving the next Council to have to find ways to fund it. Mr. Acuff said the new Council could always return the grant funds instead of moving forward with the project. Councilmember Cowart said several of the citizens of his ward were not interested in the project. Councilmember Campbell and Councilmember McCraw said they were in favor of applying for the grant and letting the next Council decide whether to proceed with the project. Councilmember Campbell moved the City apply for the grant for the Rails to Trails project. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember McCraw, the following vote was taken.

AYES: Mayor Nelson and Councilmembers Campbell, McCraw and Wilson.
NAYS: Councilmembers Cowart and Nichols

Mayor Nelson stated the motion passed.

Showa Glove Plant: Mr. Acuff said the Showa Glove Plant site preparation grant was ready to be closed out. He stated the Glove Plant was initially only constructing one new line, now they are looking to add an additional four lines. He stated each line would add 40 additional employees.

FAYETTE AQUATIC CENTER REPORT

Mr. Chris Champion reported on the operations of the Fayette Aquatic Center. He stated the daily average attendance was 223. He said the total attendance so far this season was 9,574 and the highest day for attendance was on July 18th with 511. He stated 51 parties have been held and they are completely booked through the season.

Councilmember Cowart discussed the Aquatic Center financial report. He said it reflected the Aquatic Center had a \$14,000.00 deficit. Mr. Champion said if the Aquatic Center had not purchased the new umbrellas, then they would be breaking even or have a surplus.

OLD BUSINESS

Councilmember Nichols asked about the acreage owned by the City at the old Industrial Park. He suggested selling the timber and investing the funds back into the property. After a general discussion, Councilmember Cowart moved that the Council sell the property at the old industrial park solely owned by the City. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Nichols, the same was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENT

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

APPROVAL OF MUNICIPAL COURT FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Councilmember McCraw moved the Municipal Court financial statement be approved. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Nichols, the same was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF PARK & RECREATION FINANCIAL STATEMENT

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

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk

Mr. Acuff stated the Glove Plant was seeking grants through ADECA to help the company expand and improve the street that runs north of the plant.

Questions were raised about the ability of the City's wastewater facility to handle the additional wastewater volume and whether the facility needed to be upgraded.

PUMPING STATION AT OLD INDUSTRIAL PARK

Wastewater Superintendent John Dill spoke to the Council concerning an emergency situation at the pumping station at the old industrial park. The two new pumps will cost \$15,000.00 each. The pumps would be 30 horsepower pumps and they would replace the 60 horsepower pump. He said the pumps could go down at any moment. The following resolution was considered:

RESOLUTION 2020-06 A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE EXISTENCE OF AN EMERGENCY DUE TO THERE BEING A GREAT POSSIBILITY THAT THE ONE PUMP AT THE PUMPING STATION WILL BREAKDOWN SOON

WHEREAS, the pumping station and located at the old industrial park is an integral part of the City's waste water treatment system and normally has two pumps operating at the station; and,

WHEREAS, this pumping station currently has only one pump and it is in danger of breaking down again and this said pumping station serves the water treatment facility of the Water Works Board of the City of Fayette; and,

WHEREAS, without two pumps the City's wastewater treatment system is unable to properly perform its functions; and,

WHEREAS, the breakdown of the pumps effects public health and safety and any delay in repairing or replacing them is a danger to public health and safety; and,

WHEREAS, an emergency exists due to the real threat of a breakdown by the only pump at the pumping station located in the old industrial park.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Fayette, as follows:

1. That an emergency exists which affects public health and safety due to the substantial threat of breakdown of the only pump at the pumping station located in the old industrial park.
 2. That a breakdown of the pump at the pumping station jeopardizes the proper functioning of the wastewater treatment system and therefore, creates a danger to public health and safety.
 3. That securing two pumps is paramount and any delay in obtaining them would create further danger to the public health and safety.
 4. That the two pumps should be purchased immediately and the Council hereby authorizes the purchase of the two pumps for the pumping station.
- DONE this the 28th day of July, 2020.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Councilmember Nichols moved the Council adopt the resolution declaring an emergency and authorizing the purchase of the two new pumps. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Campbell, it was unanimously approved.

POLICE DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Police Chief Jenkins recommended a promotion and raise for Officer Mark Allison to Sergeant and Officer Jessie Finch to Corporal. In addition to the promotions, Chief Jenkins requested each of these officers receive a 25¢ per hour raise. Councilmember Cowart moved that Officer Allison and Officer Finch each receive a 25¢ per hour raise beginning the payroll period following the next scheduled Council meeting. Upon the motion being seconded by Councilmember Nichols, it was unanimously approved.

FAYETTE MEDICAL CENTER HOME CARE LEASE

Mayor Nelson stated the lease with Fayette Medical Center Home Care is up for renewal. Councilmember Campbell moved the lease with Fayette Medical Center Home Care be renewed. Upon the motion be seconded by Councilmember McCraw, the same was unanimously approved.