

Work Session
City Hall
Fayette, Alabama
June 29, 2021

The City Council of the City of Fayette held a work session at 4:00 o'clock, p.m. on June 29, 2021, in the Council Chambers of the City Hall.

Upon roll call the following were found to be present: Mayor Rod Northam, Councilmembers Virettia L. Whiteside, Eddy Campbell, Tommy Williams, Aliska Hughes-Monroe and Jerry Nichols. Also present were City Clerk Dawn Clapp and City Attorney Dale Lawrence.

The opening prayer was given by Councilmember Tommy Williams.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Rod Northam.

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

DISCUSSION OF RENEWAL OF 1/2¢ SALES TAX FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AT HOSPITAL

Mayor Northam stated the proposed ordinance concerning the renewal of the 1/2¢ sales tax for capital improvements at the hospital is the same as the prior ordinances. The current ordinance is set to expire on October 1, 2021. Under the proposed ordinance, the 1/2¢ sales tax will continue until October 1, 2024, and expire unless a new ordinance is adopted.

Councilmember Nichols stated the 1/2¢ sales tax is used for capital improvements at the hospital facility. The hospital is owned by the Fayette County Hospital Board and the tax funds flow through them for the capital improvements. The tax revenues do not go to DCH. The Hospital Board leases the hospital to DCH. Mayor Northam stated the tax revenues do not go toward the operational expenses for the hospital or DCH.

Councilmember Hughes-Monroe stated several citizens had expressed concern to her about the ambulance service. She stated she knew the ambulance service was not affiliated with Fayette Medical Center, DCH or the Fayette County Hospital Board, however, it was still a concern for the citizens.

Another area of concern was the staffing of the emergency room. Councilmember Nichols said he would like to see DCH as interested in Fayette as Fayette is interested in DCH.

200th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Mayor Northam asked the Council to consider whether they wanted to have a "Kids Zone," more prizes or an increase in the amount of fireworks or music at the 200th Anniversary Celebration. Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Daniel White said the bigger the musical acts, the more money that will have to be spent for them. As far as food vendors, Mr. White said food vendors typically go to the festival that they think will have the biggest crowd. The Council discussed several ideas about different activities to have at the celebration. One of the ideas was to have periodic prize drawings during the festival. One of the issues is where to shoot the fireworks from so they can be seen from downtown. Another issue is what type of activities to have for the children.

8th STREET SE – NEAR SHOWA

Mayor Northam stated SHOWA has requested at least the West half of 8th Street SE be closed. Mayor Northam recommended closing the entire street. He stated the only concern was the utilities that are located along the street.

STREETSCAPE PROJECT

Mayor Northam asked the Council if there were any streetscape projects they were interested in doing.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Mr. Daniel White submitted eight items to the Council to pursue initially under the City's Strategic Plan. The eight areas are as follow:

Business Development

- Identify properties for future industrial development and / or new spec. buildings and to ensure adequate supportive infrastructure.

Community Appearance & Aesthetics

- Increase regulation / enforcement of landlords who do not maintain properties.

Housing

- Provide diverse housing opportunities for young people and families

Infrastructure & Public Services

- Expand the network of trails for walking, hiking, and biking.
- Develop an affordable and effective regional transportation service.

Deliver Quality Government Services to Fayette Residents

- Utilize strategic annexation to expand the city's tax base.

Community Leadership

- Engage young people in community initiatives and programs.
- Reestablish and restructure the Leadership Fayette adult leadership development program. (Requirement for ACE).

SHOP PROPERTY

Councilmember Williams reported on the activities of the Shop Property Committee. He stated they had talked with Street Superintendent Marty Weeks and City Shop Superintendent Curt Moore. He stated they have identified some properties that might be considered for a new site.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, upon the motion to adjourn being made by Councilmember Campbell and seconded by Councilmember Whiteside, it was unanimously approved.

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk