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**MINUTES – COUNCIL MEETING – MONDAY, JULY 19, 2021 – 6:00 P.M.**

**LOCATION: ALAMO COMMUNITY CENTER**

**IN ATTENDANCE: Mayor Pamela Lee, Bobby Cox (Zoom), Dondrea Geter, Steve Jones, Patricia Woodard, and Thomas Lott**

**ABSENT: Harry Lewis**

**Called to order by Mayor Lee at 6:04 pm.**

- 1. Invocation – Jeffrey Floyd**
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance**
- 3. Approve Minutes from June 21, 2021, Regular meeting – Woodard made the motion to approve the minutes, Geter 2<sup>nd</sup>, unanimously approved.**
- 4. Approve Agenda – Woodard discussed talking about #6 – Hazard Pay during Executive Session. R. Clark verified it could be done during that time. Lott would like to add condemned houses in that place. Lott to approved agenda with change and addition, Geter 2<sup>nd</sup>, unanimously approved.**

**OLD BUSINESS**

- 5. American Rescue Plan – CM Floyd stated that the city has received the 1<sup>st</sup> allocation of the funds in the amount of \$619,000. A couple of topics that the council has been discussing is Water/Sewer and Broadband upgrades and these can be used as part of the allocations. Have discussed replacing all brass meters in town with digital meters that have a radio read system. Floyd got a quote from Fortiline and for them to do everything including training, computer software and all supplies that will be needed, will be roughly around \$72,376. For them to be installed by a company off from Tindall will be around \$14,800. CM Floyd will be reaching out to another company to have another quote on hand. Floyd also addressed that there are several lift stations that need some major repairs including LS#3 at prison, LS #4 which controls everything for the city before going to WWTP, LS #1 which is behind the Middle/High School and some updates at the WWTP which could be around \$60,000.**
  - Geter also addressed maybe doing some curb side drainage update on Main St. With the new store getting built at the end of Snowhill, there could be more water coming from that direction and thinks the drainage on Main St. could be nicer.
  - Woodard asked if the digital meters could come out of the Water/Sewer checking account? CM Floyd stated yes but it will come out of the budget that way and he was trying not to use the taxpayers' monies on the meters. That's why he was looking into taking it out of the ARP funds. Woodard would like to see if any of the ARP funds could be used to give back to some of the citizens. Like maybe \$100 towards their water bill or just something to give back to them.
  - All in the agreement that some work sessions will need to take place to have more of a clear picture on what the funds can be used for. Mayor Lee will reach out to Artiffany with GMA to arrange a meeting with them.
  - Lott would like to know if any of the ARP Funds could be used for a new City Hall and could council receive hazard pay? The current City Hall now is too small and there is no

room big enough to even have the council meetings. Floyd stated that the questions will be asked to GMA. On the council members receiving hazard pay, R. Clark stated that he will have to look into it and let everyone know what he finds.

6. **Condemned houses** – Lott has been helping someone to tear down a condemned house but had to stop due to asbestos. Has found out that it could be expensive for the homeowners and if the city pushes for the family to tear down the houses, the city might have to help with some of the expenses.
7. **New City Hall** – CM Floyd has met with Fred Dean from Vidalia which is an architect. He said that he could do a set of drawings for a building for \$1/sq foot. Floyd has talked with the Planning Committee, and they are good to go with Mr. Dean. **Cox made the motion to use Fred Dean to do the drawings but do not go over \$7,000, Woodard 2<sup>nd</sup>, unanimously approved.** Planning Committee needs to get together to come up with the new City Hall location and layout.
8. **Veteran Monument** – Floyd and Lott have been working on this some. Mrs. Deborah Clark is doing a write up in the paper about the monument and the possibilities of adding names to the monument. Would like add names of the veterans from Wheeler that served in war after the Persian War which are the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars. Have had others to say that they have had family serve in war but not sure of the criteria to get added. There are still questions how it's going to be funded and where the names will be placed possible on the back. Will get with American Legion to see if there are any rules on who can be added.
  - There are 2 Bradford pear trees that are taking over the flag poles and not sure how they can be trimmed to look right. They might have to be removed because they are messing up the marble on the monument but are not sure what they can be replaced with. School FFA is looking to donate some trees to plant through the city.
9. **Old Rec. Dept. Update** – Still set to receive the grant in September. Will need to start getting with vendors to get prices on the other items to be added to the rec. dept. (Splash pad, group shelters, nature trail, security, etc.) Citizens are asking about when the city is going to open the basketball court? Floyd will get with the construction to see when they are scheduled to work. Also, there needs to be something in place on who will be accountable for the key and held responsible to take care of the place when they have it. Needs a document for the renter to read and sign accepting responsibility for anything that happens during their time there and turning the key in. Will remain closed until the city can get something in place for the upkeep of the court.
  - **Woodard asked Fire Chief Chaney if anyone can setup a booth for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration? There were concerns from a few citizens about the Republican Party tent that was set up during the festivities. Chaney replied that anyone is able to have a booth as long as they sign up and pay the fee, but if they start demonstrating or causing problems, they will be asked to leave.**
10. **Event Planning Committee** – received applications from Reannah Rickes, Riley Campbell, Tammy Hammond, Lyndsie Hall, Kennadi McRae, Tyquez Smith, Sandra Brown, and Laura Brownley. Will include Mayor, Pam Lee, City Clerk, Marie Carrillo and Utility Clerk, Dana Burkhalter. **Woodard made a motion to accept the applicants for 1 yr. (July 2021 – July 2022), Geter 2<sup>nd</sup>, unanimously approved.** They will help come up with some more events throughout the year.

11. **Meeting order** – was discussed last month but would like to have Executive Session first so the citizens will be around to know what is discussed during that time. Will start meeting a 6:00 pm and once executive session is over, the citizens will be let in. **Jones made a motion to try it next month and see how it is liked, Woodard 2<sup>nd</sup>, unanimously approved.**
12. **Adopt Council/Mayor salary increase Ordinance** – Lott made a motion to adopt ordinance, **Geter 2<sup>nd</sup>, Woodard and Cox approved, Jones opposed.** Adopted due to majority.

**NEW BUSINESS**

13. **Sound Equipment** – Cox made a motion to accept the price from Harrelson's Audio and Video of \$1300, **Jones 2<sup>nd</sup>, unanimously approved.**
14. **New Rotary mower for tractor** – Cox made a motion to accept the 6 ft rotary cutter from John Deere for \$3,250, **Jones 2<sup>nd</sup>, unanimously approved.**
15. **City Manager Report** – report is attached. Also, Lott made a motion for Floyd to get the land at the WWTP surveyed so can look at cutting trees because it will prevent them falling on power lines, **Jones 2<sup>nd</sup>, unanimously approved.**
16. **Fire Report** – report is attached.
17. **Police Report** – Report attached for the month of June.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

Johnny Moore – asked about a grocery store? Lott responded that the city could not open up a store.

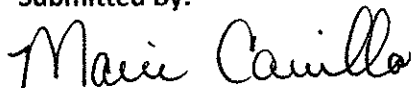
**EXECUTIVE SESSION (employee matters)** – went into executive session 7:42 pm with Lott making the motion, **Woodard 2<sup>nd</sup>, unanimously approved.** Woodard would take minutes from Executive session.

Following executive session, the following was voted:

- All part-time Police officers will get same rate as FT Officers of 17.00/hr. **Woodard made the motion, Lott 2<sup>nd</sup>, unanimously approved.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM with Geter making the motion, **Lott 2<sup>nd</sup>, unanimously approved.**

Submitted By:



Marie Carrillo, City Clerk

8/16/21