

October 13, 2015
St. James Municipal Center
City Council Meeting

AGENDA ITEM: Call To Order

Mayor White called the meeting to order. The following councilmembers were present: Councilman Sachs, Councilman Huster, Councilman Smith, Councilman Edwards and Councilman Watkins. City Administrator Harold Selby and City Clerk Sarah Wheeler were also in attendance. Councilman Anselm and Councilwoman Weatherly were absent.

AGENDA ITEM: Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor White led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA ITEM: Approve Minutes

Vote or To Do: New Vote Item

Councilman Watkins made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 14, 2015 regular & closed meeting. Councilman Sachs seconded the motion. All Councilmembers voted "aye".

AGENDA ITEM: Approve Bills

Vote or To Do: New Vote Item

Councilman Watkins made a motion to approve the September bills to be paid. Councilman Sachs seconded the motion. All councilmembers voted "aye".

Councilman Watkins asked when the backhoe for the street department would be brought back up again because it had been several months since they had last discussed getting a bid on it. Councilman Huster reminded the council that the vote was to find a backhoe for \$50,000 or less.

AGENDA ITEM: Citizen Comments

There were no citizen comments.

AGENDA ITEM: Committee Reports

Discussion: Committee Reports

- POLICE

Councilman Sachs stated that the police board had met a couple of times to interview and hire a new officer for the police department. The final decision was to hire Isaiah Wills. Councilman Huster also mentioned the discussion to increase the salaries for the police officers. He said that several good officers were leaving the city for better pay somewhere else. The Board would like to begin looking at the budget and see if there is a way to bring their salaries closer to what other towns are paying.

- IDA

Next meeting will be Monday, October 19th.

- SANITATION

Councilman Watkins mentioned that the sanitation department is spending lots of money on fixing vehicles and he would like to move forward with a plan to purchase a new truck for the department.

AGENDA ITEM: GAC - Ramona Rhinehart

Discussion: Caring Center/Golden Age Center

Keith McCarthy & Ramona Rhinehart asked to speak with the Council about the Caring Center & Golden Age Center. Ramona stated that December 1st the Caring Center will take over the Golden Age Center. They would like to continue their lease agreement with the city until they can get the grant funds to build on at the Caring Center and move the Golden Age Center over there. If they do not get the grant they will then come back to the city for a new contract on the current building.

Councilman Smith made a motion to extend the current lease agreement for one year until May 2016 and that the rent collected will go specifically to utilities. Councilman Huster seconded the motion. All councilman voted “aye”.

AGENDA ITEM: Lease Agreement Discussion

Discussion: Tourist Information Center Lease Agreement

Councilman Edwards made a motion to extend the lease agreement on the Tourist Information Center for one year and all rent money will now go towards utilities. Councilman Huster seconded the motion. All councilmembers voted “aye”.

Councilman Sachs stated that between now and April when the new lease agreement is up he would like the board to look closer at utility rates and the lease and discuss again.

AGENDA ITEM: Mark Kean - Audit Report

Discussion: Continued Bookkeeping

Clerk Wheeler asked the council if she could continue to work with Kean and Company to look at her monthly books and make any adjustments as needed.

Councilman Smith made a motion to continue to work with Kean & Company as needed, with a minimum of quarterly review for the next year. Councilman Huster seconded the motion. Councilman Edwards and Watkins voted “no”; Councilman Weatherly, Huster, Smith, Anselm and Sachs voted “aye”. The motion was passed.

Discussion: Audit

Mark Kean with Kean and Company presented the council with an audit report and answered any questions the council had concerning the audit.

AGENDA ITEM: Insurance Renewal - Sheran Ashby

Discussion: New Discussion Item

Sheran presented the council with a written statement on her concerns with the city pursuing the MIRMA insurance policy. The statement is attached and has been made part of these minutes.

Councilman Watkins stated his concerns to Sheran that he would rather have heard from her on previous plans that had been offered rather than going against MIRMA since they were not present at the meeting to defend themselves.

AGENDA ITEM: Ordinance No. 15-1068

Nuisance Ordinance

Discussion: Bill No. 15-1068

Councilman Watkins mentioned on page 4 – Section 17.5B he would like to see the notification go to the property owner and the person dwelling on the property. Also on Section A 17.11 change the word “or” to “and”.

Vote or To Do: Bill No. 15-1068

Clerk Wheeler read Ordinance No. 15-1068 for the first reading. Councilman Huster made a motion to approve the first reading with the amendments. Councilman Sachs seconded the motion. All Councilmembers voted “aye”.

AGENDA ITEM: Ordinance No. 15-1069

Lead Ban

Discussion: Ordinance No. 15-1069

Harold stated that DNR recommends passing the Lead Ban Ordinance within 60 days, they would like to see us have a policy in place. He also stated that the utility department already follows these rules, however, we do not have an ordinance in place to back it up.

Vote or To Do: 15-1069

Clerk Wheeler read the Ordinance for the first reading. Councilman Edwards made a motion to approve the first reading. Councilman Watkins seconded the motion. All Councilmembers voted “aye”.

Clerk Wheeler read the Ordinance for the second and final reading. Councilman Edwards made a motion to approve the second reading. Councilman Sachs seconded the motion. All Councilmembers voted “aye”.

AGENDA ITEM: Ordinance No. 15-1070

Cross Connection Control

Discussion: Ordinance No. 15-1070

Harold mentioned that this was another ordinance that DNR was requesting we pass.

Vote or To Do: New Vote Item

Clerk Wheeler read Ordinance No. 15-1070 for the first reading. Councilman Smith made a motion to approve the first reading. Councilman Huster seconded the motion. All Councilmembers voted “aye”.

Clerk Wheeler read Ordinance No. 15-1070 for the second and final reading. Councilman Smith made a motion to approve. Councilman Huster seconded the motion. All Councilmembers voted “aye”.

AGENDA ITEM: Mayor's Appointments

Discussion: New Discussion Item

Mayor White asked the council to approve his appointments of Councilwoman Weatherly as the new liaison for the Chamber and also Nathaniel Mitchell to serve on the council in the open Ward 1 position until the next election.

Vote or To Do: New Vote Item

Councilman Sachs made a motion to approve the Mayor's appointments. Councilman Watkins seconded the motion. All Councilmembers voted "aye".

AGENDA ITEM: City Administrator Comments

Discussion: New Discussion Item

Administrator Selby mentioned that the utility department has two unfilled positions, one in sewer/water and one in gas. They have hired a veteran to fill the spot in the gas department who does have previous experience. The Career Center will pay 50% of his wages until he is fully trained since he is a veteran.

He also mentioned that MIRMA would be here next month to discuss their insurance plan again with the city. He told the council that it was very important to learn all we can about the employee health insurance and to get it right because this may be a spot in the budget where we are able to save money and give our police officers raises.

AGENDA ITEM: Mayor's Comments

Discussion: New Discussion Item

Mayor White mentioned that Councilman Huster had spent some time with the school on a program based on government facilities to help with employee morale. Councilman Huster explained some more about the program and how it has worked so great for the school district and that it was something he thought the city should look into as well.

Next Mayor White mentioned the change in supervisors at the sanitation department and that he would like to give a raise to the new supervisor but would first like to have a policy in place that would treat all employees in each department fairly as they get promoted.

Finally he mentioned Mark Davis' insurance and asked if the city would like to reimburse him the amount we pay for an individual employee each month since he is taking insurance elsewhere. The council stated that they did not want to reimburse this cost.

AGENDA ITEM: Adjournment

Vote or To Do: Adjourn

With no further business to discuss, Councilman Sachs made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Watkins seconded the motion. All councilmembers voted "aye".