

CITY OF LAFAYETTE
WORK SESSION
AND
COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
JULY 13, 2020

The LaFayette City Council held a Work Session regarding Street Improvements on Monday July 13, 2020 beginning at 5:09p.m. at the Farmers Federation (ALFA) Building located at 1006 Avenue A S.E. LaFayette, AL 36862 with Mayor Barry D. Moody presiding. Councilmembers present: Michael C. Ellis and Charlotte B. Blasingame.

Absent: Neal McCurdy, Toney B. Thomas, and Tammie B. Williams (arrived at 5:45p.m.).

City Attorney Joseph M. Tucker was also present.

Work Session Mayor Moody turned the Work Session over to Mr. Allen Tucker and Mr. Thomas Harmon of Harmon Engineering and Street Superintendent George Green. They introduced each Street to the Council individually. Those streets were the following:

- 1st Avenue Northwest
- 1st Street N. W. and SW
- Court Way
- Court Drive SW and SE
- 1st Place SE
- 2nd Street SE
- 2nd Street SE
- 1st Place NE

Mr. Allen Tucker stated that the plan was to not simply pave over the existing street, but instead mill the streets down so when paved back, some curb would be left for water runoff control. After discussing the various streets, Water Superintendent Richard Chapman stated that he had met with Superintendent Green, and he planned on replacing water lines and connections before the paving would begin. In addition to the streets listed above, Superintendent Green also reminded the Mayor and Council that it was his recommendation to also include the section of Hospital Street beginning at the 2nd Avenue SW intersection.

In response to Councilmember Blasingame's question regarding funds that were available, Mayor Moody stated that there were restricted funds available estimated around \$ 170,000.00 and other revenue projected to be around an additional \$ 12,000.00 – \$ 15,000.00.00 per quarter. Mayor Moody stated that after reviewing the financial situation with City Clerk Davidson, it was his opinion that the City move forward with receiving bids for all of the street improvements that were discussed, while utilizing the restricted funds on hand to pay part of the cost, and then utilizing the anticipated restricted fund revenue to pay the remaining costs. After further discussion, a motion was made by Councilmember Blasingame and seconded by Councilmember Ellis to adjourn the Work Session at 5:48p.m. Mayor Moody called for a vote: All voted aye. Motion carried.

Mayor Moody called the Regular Council Meeting to order at 6:00p.m. Councilmembers present: Neal McCurdy, Michael C. Ellis, Tammie B. Williams, and Charlotte B. Blasingame.

Absent: Toney B. Thomas

City Attorney Joseph M. Tucker was also present.

Minutes A motion was made by Councilmember Blasingame and seconded by Councilmember McCurdy to approve the Minutes of the June 22, 2020 Regular Council Proceedings. Mayor Moody called for a vote: All voted aye. Motion carried.

New Police
Officers

Chief Rampey introduced the following new hires:

- Dana Howell (Part-time)
- Justin Moody (Full time)
- Devante Allen (Full time)
- Chris Waldrep (returned from a car accident)
- Kobe Handcock (Full time)
- Zachery Peacock (not in attendance. Currently in the Police Academy)

Each officer individually introduced themselves to the Mayor and Council.

Mr. Chris
Busby
CCDA

Mr. Chris Busby from the Chambers County Development Authority provided a quarterly update to the Mayor and Council. Mr. Busby stated that due to the pandemic, the development authority had shifted from recruitment to assisting existing industry and companies to make sure they were sound. With regards to LaFayette, Mr. Busby stated that a new company (Environmental Recycling Solutions) had located in the LaFayette Industrial Park. He also added that due to the pandemic, the push towards making LaFayette a fully designated Mainstreet City had been delayed, but the group would be going for a full designation for Mainstreet next year. Mr. Busby also stated that the Development Authority was working hard on getting someone into the Hexpol building. Mr. Busby stated that someone had expressed interest, and that the key was speaking with representatives from Hexpol to know the status of the building, if they wanted to sell it, and how much they wanted to sell it for. Mr. Busby added that other initiatives included working on expanding broadband, and a new retail initiative entitled Shop Where I Live Chambers County. Lastly, Councilmember Ellis asked about recruiting a hotel to LaFayette. Mr. Busby noted his request, but mentioned that during the pandemic, the hotel industry had been one of the hardest hit.

Ms. Carrie
Royster
Chamber
of
Commerce

Ms. Carrie Royster, Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce, provided the third quarter report (April – June 2020). Ms. Royster stated that due to the pandemic, the Chamber was closed for about three and a half weeks, but they kept in contact with Chamber members during that time period. Ms. Royster also mentioned that the Chamber provided food for all of the first responders in Chambers County. Ms. Royster also mentioned that Maci Harmon from Chambers Academy was awarded a Junior Ambassador Scholarship in the amount of \$ 2,000. Ms. Royster also stated that the upcoming Annual Chamber Dinner would be held on September 17th at the Valley Community Center for more spacing.

Surplus
Bids
Vehicles
1-8

A motion was made by Councilmember Williams and seconded by Councilmember Ellis to accept the high bids for surplus vehicles numbered 1-8. Mayor Moody called for a vote: All voted aye. Motion carried. (See attached Surplus list)

Surplus
Vehicle
9

Because there was a tie regarding the bid for Surplus Vehicle # 9, a motion was made by Councilmember Blasingame and seconded by Councilmember Ellis to allow Clerk Davidson to contact the two bidders and have them submit sealed bids again with a required minimum bid of \$ 500.00. Councilmember Williams asked what would be the process if there was another tie. After further discussion, Councilmember Blasingame amended her motion and Councilmember Ellis his second to authorize Clerk Davidson in event of another tie to do successive sealed bids until a winner is determined. Mayor Moody called for a vote: All voted aye. Motion carried.

Hexpol

A motion was made by Councilmember McCurdy and seconded by Councilmember Ellis to change Hexpol from the Large Industrial utility rate category to the (regular) Industrial utility rate category (to simply keep lights on in order to market the building) effective with the utility bill mailed on May 1, 2020 (since their request came in April). Mayor Moody called for a vote: All voted aye. Motion carried.

Farmers Federation Building Cleanup	City Clerk Louis T. Davidson stated that he had spoken with representative from ALFA that stated the City could continue to use the building for Council meetings but they would like for the City to clean the building after each use. Clerk Davidson stated that if the Mayor and Council did not have an issue with that, he would speak with Superintendent Green about getting inmates to assist with the cleanup. The Mayor and Council agreed to have the building cleaned after use.
AMEA Scholarship Winners	After discussion, the Mayor and Council agreed to recognize the 2020 AMEA Scholarship winners at the July 27, 2020 Council meeting with limit of two guests accompanying each winner.
Street Improvements	A motion was made by Councilmember Blasingame and seconded by Councilmember McCurdy to authorize City Clerk Louis T. Davidson and Street Superintendent George Green to work with Mr. Allen Tucker from Harmon Engineering on moving forward with beginning the bidding process of the Street Improvements discussed in the Work Session (eight streets) including working on a drainage issue near the high school. Mayor Moody called for a vote: All voted aye. Motion carried.
Audit Accounts	A motion was made by Councilmember Blasingame and seconded by Councilmember McCurdy to pay claims in the amount \$ 204,383.47. Mayor Moody called for a vote: All voted aye. Motion carried.
Ordinance No. 459 New Utility Process	Upon the second reading of Ordinance No. 459 (New Utility late fee and Cut Off Day), a motion was made by Councilmember Ellis and seconded by Councilmember McCurdy to adopt Ordinance No. 459. Mayor Moody called for a roll call vote. Ayes: McCurdy, Ellis, Williams, Blasingame, and Mayor Moody. Nays: None. Motion carried.
Publish Ordinance No. 459	A motion was made by Councilmember Williams and seconded by Councilmember Ellis to authorize the Clerk to publish Ordinance No. 459 in a manner that will make it effective beginning September 1, 2020. Mayor Moody called for a roll call vote. Ayes: McCurdy, Ellis, Williams, Blasingame, and Mayor Moody. Nays: None. Motion carried.
Council Comments	<p>Councilmember Williams stated that in the past, the Mayor and Council had talked about making signs that contained address numbers for each residence. However, for some reason that never happened. Ms. Williams stated that she wanted to move forward with making the signs. After further discussion, a motion was made by Councilmember Williams and seconded by Councilmember McCurdy to authorize the Clerk to meet with the County (who previously had the equipment to make the signs) and move forward with manufacturing the signs. Mayor Moody called for a vote: All voted aye. Motion carried.</p> <p>Councilmember Williams also asked why Superintendent Gleaton was not in attendance. Councilmember Williams stated that there were issues with dirty water last Thursday and Friday and in her opinion it would be important for Superintendent Gleaton to have attended the Council meeting to discuss those issues. Ms. Williams stated that the water was extremely dirty. After further discussion, Councilmember Williams requested that Superintendent Gleaton attend the next council meetings.</p> <p>Councilmember Blasingame stated that she was upset with the markings on the street on the eastside of the Courthouse. Councilmember Blasingame asked if Chief Rampey was conducting an investigation. Chief Rampey stated that an investigation was underway, and there had been video footage provided.</p>

