

The City Council of the City of Monticello, Florida, met in regular session on January 7, 2020 at 7:00 PM at City Hall. The following members were present:

John Jones, Mayor
Troy Avera
Gloria Cox
Julie Conley
George Evans

Others present were:

Raymond Clark, City Manager
Fred Mosley, Monticello Police Chief
Emily Anderson, City Clerk
Bruce Leinback, City Attorney

Mayor John Jones called the meeting to order, offered an invocation, and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA

***Approval of Minutes of 12/3/2019**

***Approval of Application for Parade – MLK Parade on January 20, 2020
Resolution 2020-01 Assuming Liability for Highway Closure**

***Arbor Day Proclamation**

On motion of Troy Avera, seconded by George Evans, the Council voted unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda items.

PUBLIC HEARING:

ADOPTION OF A FACILITIES PLAN FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A PV SOLAR ARRAY PROJECT TO POWER THE ICTY'S WASTEWATER PLANT

Joe Mittauer and Greg Lang of Mittauer and Associates presented the proposed solar array facilities plan. Mr. Mittauer reported he has met extensively with staff to review the plan. The DEP/SRF program is a 50/50 grant/loan project for the planning phase. The project will consist of three phases – planning/design/construction.

Mr. Mittauer discussed the three alternatives for solar array panels, costing for various proposals, and noted the recommendation that the city choose Alternative #3, which would consist of fixed panels, due to lower maintenance costs to the city. Current and future electrical needs and costs of plant operation were discussed, along with anticipated savings. It was noted that extra power generated would be sold to the power company at wholesale rates, although that revenue is not expected to be over \$2,000 per year. Anticipated annual general maintenance costs of the equipment were also discussed, as well as expected life of the panels and general warranties. The Council discussed project timelines, the state approval process, and the proposed layout of the facilities, which allows for future expansion, if desired.

Mayor Jones opened the public hearing. Citizen Byron Arceneaux, a member of the County Planning Commission, noted he would like to update the Council on County discussions regarding consideration of regulations for solar farms located outside the city limits. The Council suggested he discuss that matter later in the meeting under New Business, since he had no comment on this particular project.

With no further public comments or Council questions, the Mayor closed the public hearing. On motion of Council Member Troy Avera, seconded by Julie Conley, the City Council voted unanimously to adopt Resolution 2020-02 adopting the Solar Array Facility Plan and designating the Mayor as authorized representative for the City and authorizing the Mayor to delegate responsibility to appropriate staff to carry out the administrative activities associated with the Plan.

SUNCOAST CONNECTOR TOLL ROAD UPDATE JoAnna Hand of FDOT reported on the last task force held December 17th and the variety of discussions and comment received at that meeting. There are three meetings in January. The March 12th meeting will be held in Monticello, and at that time, there should be more information regarding path possibilities. A report to the Governor is due in October.

N. CHERRY STREET IMPROVEMENTS – UPDATE ON CONSTRUCTION BIDDING SCHEDULE Engineer Josh Baxley noted that the Notice for Bid has been issued. Several contractors have responded. The bid opening date is January 28th. He is also talking with Duke Energy about the lighting installation.

ECOLOGICAL PARK PROJECT – APPROVAL OF ALTERNATE RESTROOM FACILITY / AUTHORIZATION TO PROCEED Engineer Josh Baxley noted the alternate bathroom unit for the park is priced at \$31,000. Council Member Avera noted he believed the Council had already approved the contractor going ahead with adding that to the project. Mr. Baxley noted he will prepare the change order. He is also talking with Duke Energy about beginning the electrical connections.

SCHEDULING OF PHASE II APPLICATIONS FOR CITY GRANT PROGRAM
The Council set the phase II application cycle for February.

NEW BUSINESS

***Byron Arceneaux of the County Planning Commission** reported that the county is looking at regulation of large-scale solar facilities to ensure protection of the rural character of the area. He noted that the Local Planning Agency may want to also look at possible regulations, including buffer requirements along road frontages and decommissioning requirements.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND DEPARTMENTS

***City Clerk/Treasurer Emily Anderson** reported on plans for Arbor Day. She also noted that the CDBG applications are in and being processed, and the list should be approved at the next City Council meeting. She also noted she will advertise Council

Member attendance at the Suncoast Connector meetings. Council Member Avera asked the representatives to present the proposed paths when available.

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

***Council Member Troy Avera** reported on the recent Suncoast Connector Task Force meeting and expressed his concerns. He also mentioned the Boots Thomas 75th anniversary event on February 21st.

***Council Member Julie Conley** gave an update on the request for legislative funding for the city's water main replacement project. She also asked for enforcement of abandoned cars around town.

***Council Member Gloria Cox** noted she has reported road issues to the City Manager, and those items are being addressed.

***Council Member George Evans** thanked the Chief and City Manager for assistance with farm share food distribution.

ADMINISTRATION OF OATHS OF OFFICE TO ELECTED OFFICIALS

County Judge Robert Plaines administered the Oaths of Office to Group 3 City Council Member Julie Conley, Group 4 City Council Member John Jones, Group 5 City Council Member Troy Avera, Police Chief Fred Mosley, and City Clerk/Treasurer Emily Anderson.

ELECTION OF MAYOR AND VICE MAYOR

Council Member Troy Avera nominated John Jones for Mayor. With no further nominations, the Council voted unanimously to appoint John Jones as Mayor. Mayor Jones asked for nominations for Vice-Mayor. With no nominations, Council Member Troy Avera volunteered to serve, and the Council voted to approve his appointment as Vice-Mayor.

MEETING/WORKSHOP DATES AND TOPICS

The Council set a workshop for January 21st at 6:00 p.m. A report on transportation priorities will be reviewed. Council Member Julie Conley asked that the recycling program also be discussed.

The budget committee also set a meeting for February 4th at 11:00 a.m.

With no further business, upon motion, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Anderson
City Clerk/Treasurer

Mayor

NOTE: These proceedings were digitally recorded.