

The City Council of the City of Monticello, Florida, met in regular session on March 5, 2019 at 7:00 PM at City Hall. The following members were present:

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

Others present were:

Fred Mosley, Chief of Police
Emily Anderson, City Clerk
Bruce Leinback, City Attorney

Mayor John Jones called the meeting to order. City Manager Steve Wingate offered the invocation and Mayor Jones led the Pledge of Allegiance.

HONORING RETIRING EMPLOYEE FRANKLIN HIGHTOWER FOR 32 YEARS OF SERVICE City Manager Steve Wingate presented Franklin Hightower with a plaque honoring his years of service as a dedicated city employee.

PUBLIC COMMENT

***Vivian Royster** discussed she is beginning to develop a committee for strategic planning.

CONSENT AGENDA

***Approval of Minutes of 2/5/2019**

***Recommendation for Approval of Distribution of \$2,500 Budgeted Donation to Jefferson County Humane Society**

***Updated Appointment of Citizens Advisory Task Force for CDBG Program To Add Alternate Member**

On motion of Julie Conley, seconded by Troy Avera, and Council voted unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

***Fair Housing Public information Meeting – Dennis Dingman, Summit Professional Services**

***First Public Hearing – 2018 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Application – Dennis Dingman, Summit Professional Services, Inc.**

Mr. Dingman of Summit Professional Services reported on the Citizens Advisory Task Force meeting. He also conducted a Fair Housing Public Information Meeting offering information on laws which protect fair housing and ways to make a complaint.

The Council also conducted the first public hearing to discuss grant objectives and various programs available in the regular and economic development grant categories.

At the conclusion of the public hearing, on motion of Troy Avera, seconded by Julie Conley, the Council voted unanimously to proceed with a 2018 CDBG regular category grant application. On motion of Troy Avera, seconded by Gloria Cox, the Council voted unanimously to proceed with a 2018 CDBG application in the economic development category should an eligible project be identified.

Mr. Dingman mentioned the city may want to reach out to the County to request assistance under the County SHIP program which would add to assistance the city could provide under the housing rehabilitation program.

GRETCHEN AVERA of 580 W. Washington Street, requested that the city approve a sidewalk sale in conjunction with the Jefferson County Historical Association Tour of Homes on March 23rd. On motion of Julie Conley, seconded by Troy Avera, the Council voted unanimously to approve a sidewalk sale on March 23rd.

RESOLUTION 2019-02 DECLARING NUISANCE PROEPRTY AT 1160 MAYS STREET City Attorney directed testimony from City Manager Wingate regarding a nuisance inspection and existing conditions at 1160 Mays Street. Upon request by the City Manager for a resolution for declaration of the property as a nuisance property, on motion of Troy Avera, seconded by Gloria Cox, the Council voted unanimously to adopt Resolution 2019-02.

UPDATE ON SIDEWALK PERMIT PROGRAM Council Member Conley discussed compliance and enforcement challenges associated with the sidewalk permit program. After meeting with representatives of the business community, she suggested that the Council eliminate the permit process, restructure the current sidewalk ordinance to include safety and ADA requirements and adopt parameters for sidewalk displays and furniture. Regarding alcohol use on public sidewalks, Ms. Conley noted there may have to be some sort of permit process for businesses to allow outdoor alcohol possession and consumption to comply with state liquor license laws. Council Member Avera suggested that sandwich signs should also be allowed. Attorney Leinback will work on the ordinance amendment.

UPDATE ON BUSINESS DIRECTIONAL SIGNAGE Council Member Conley suggested that the city consider signage to be placed on the old Courtyard Building to assist with promotion of businesses in the E. Dogwood area. Council Member Avera also asked that signage be installed on U.S. 90 and U.S. 19 to point to the ecological park and also that a parking sign be installed on the Courthouse parking lot on a light post. He also noted that the proposal should be presented to the Historic Design Review Board for approval.

PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS – KING STREET City Manager Wingate discussed a plan for pedestrian improvements on King Street consisting of one block of sidewalk installation east of S. Railroad Street and a striped pedestrian area eastward along King Street. On motion of Troy Avera, seconded by George Evans, the Council voted unanimously to approve the project.

UPCOMING CITY MANAGER VACANCY The Council discussed the timeline for filling the City Manager position after City Manager Wingate retires on June 30th. It was determined to review the notice, position requirements and timelines at a workshop.

UPDATED JOB DESCRIPTION – PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR AND ASSISTANT PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR City Manager Wingate presented updated position descriptions as an informational item.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND DEPARTMENTS

***City Manager Steve Wingate** reported that the ecological park is moving forward. There is also grant being developed to rehabilitate a pumping station.

***City Clerk Emily Anderson** reported on noted a vacancy on the Local Planning Agency. The position will be advertised.

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

***Council Member Troy Avera** reported he is representing the city and Tourist Development Council at Visit Florida Day at the Capitol. He will also try to attend the Florida Legislative Day on March 25th and 26th.

***Council Member Gloria Cox** noted she has had several concerns voiced to her from the community and has passed those items to the appropriate departments.

***Mayor John Jones** noted upcoming Ethics Training opportunities. He also noted the importance of stressing home rule to the Legislature.

MARCH WORKSHOP DATE The Council will meet in a workshop session on March 19th at 6:00 p.m.

With no additional meetings or workshops scheduled, and with no further business, upon motion, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Anderson
City Clerk/Treasurer

Mayor