

The City Council of the City of Monticello, Florida, met in regular session on November 5, 2019 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, Council Member Julie Conley offered an invocation, and the Mayor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

RECOGNITION OF MIKE LONG – WINNER OF 2019 GLENN J. WINUK AWARD Vice-Mayor Troy Avera presented Mike Long and thanked him for his continuous service to the volunteer firefighter program.

PUBLIC COMMENT

***Resident Jack Carswell** discussed his concerns about negative local impact of the proposed Suncoast Connector toll road, and he asked the City Council to become active in the process. He noted that the public voted overwhelming against the toll road in a recent newspaper poll. The Mayor noted the item can be discussed further at the workshop.

***Resident Floyd Faglie** asked the Council to show leadership and develop an opinion based on constituents' desires regarding the Suncoast Connector toll road. He also noted the fallacy of believing that new roads create economic development.

***Business Owner Justin Johnson** noted the devastating effects of the Bainbridge bypass on local business and expressed concern about similar effects on Monticello's downtown growth and development.

CONSENT AGENDA

***Approval of Minutes of 10/1/2019**

***Approval of Application for Street closing for BBQ Festival on November 8 and 9**

***Approval for Gloria Cox to Join the Florida Black Caucus of Florida Elected Officials and Attend the Legislative Conference November 13-15**

Council Member George Evans discussed budgeted money for Council travel since no travel amount was included. Members discussed pulling the item from the agenda, but,

after discussion, on motion of Troy Avera, seconded by Julie Conley, the Council voted unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda.

ORDINANCE PUBLIC HEARINGS / COUNCIL ACTION:

ORDINANCE 2019-06 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MONTICELLO, FLORIDA, AMENDING SECTION 90, ARTICLE III, DIVISION 2 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF MONTICELLO, FLORIDA TO REFLECT A MODIFICATION IN WATER SYSTEM SERVICE RATES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; REPEALING CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE The Clerk read the title of the Ordinance. Mayor Jones opened the public hearing. With no public comment, on motion of Troy Avera, seconded by Gloria Cox, the Council voted unanimously to adopt Ordinance 2019-06.

ORDINANCE 2019-07 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MONTICELLO, FLORIDA, AMENDING SECTION 90, ARTICLE II, DIVISION 2 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF MONTICELLO, FLORIDA TO REFLECT A MODIFICATION IN SEWER SYSTEM SERVICE RATES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; REPEALING CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE The Clerk read the title of the ordinance. Mayor Jones opened the public hearing. With no public comment, on motion of Troy Avera, seconded by Julie Conley, the Council voted unanimously to adopt Ordinance 2019-07.

ORDINANCE PUBLIC HEARING / COUNCIL ACTION:

ORDINANCE 2019-08 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE DEFINITION OF THE INDUSTRIAL, LIGHT INDUSTRY LIMITED USE DISTRICT FOR THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 705 SOUTH WATER STREET, COMPRISING 2.50 ACRES WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS OF THE CITY OF MONTICELLO, FLORIDA, TO INCLUDE AN INDOOR SHOOTING RANGE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE Clerk Anderson read the title of the ordinance. On motion of Troy Avera, seconded by George Evans, the Council voted unanimously to adopt Ordinance 2019-08.

AWARD OF PHASE 1 CITY FUNDING ASSISTANCE GRANTS After review of the workshop discussion of awarding two grants for \$1,500 and rolling the rest of the grant money and applications to the next cycle, on motion of Troy Avera, seconded by George Evans, the Council voted unanimously to award \$1,500 to the Jefferson County Senior Citizens Center and \$1,500 to the Jefferson County Historical Association.

DISCUSSION OF N. CHERRY STREET IMPROVEMENTS CONCEPTUAL PLANS/COST ESTIMATES Engineer Josh Dewberry presented a modified conceptual plan for N. Cherry Street, showing sidewalk configurations using the existing sidewalk so that the street travel lane will not be narrowed. The Council discussed improving the north end of the sidewalk to ensure ADA accessibility. Mr. Baxley reported that a crosswalk inclusion at the end of the sidewalk may be able to be incorporated into the

SCOP E. Pearl Street paving project by adding a crosswalk. Improvements also include cleaning up the driveway portion of the block. Council Member Avera suggested getting the sidewalk finished relatively rapidly since Rancho Grande will be opening soon and then completing other elements later if needed.

Attorney Leinback suggested that a motion would be appropriate for agreement on the conceptual plan. Council Member George Evans noted he would abstain on any vote on this issue. Council Member Troy Avera moved to amend the agenda to add an action item for approval of the conceptual plan. The motion was seconded by Julie Conley. Council Member Evans noted he was abstaining on voting on the issue. With Council Member Evans abstaining, the motion was unanimously approved by Council.

Council Member Avera, noting that consideration of the N. Cherry Street improvements is now an action item, made a motion to move forward with the N. Cherry Street conceptual plan as presented. The motion was seconded by Julie Conley. With Council Member Evans abstaining, the Council voted unanimously to approve the motion. Council Member Avera suggested that the updated costing for the conceptual plan be prepared for the next meeting, suggesting that some of the items which are not structural can be put off until later.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION / AGREEMENT WITH FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR UTILITY WORK BY FDOT CONTRACTOR AS PART OF S.R. 10/U.S. 90 PAVING PROJECT Clerk Anderson and Attorney Leinback explained the purpose of the resolution and agreement. Council Member Avera noted that the pipes under the highway are old, and, under this project, new water lines will be added. On motion of Troy Avera, seconded by George Evans, the Council voted unanimously to approve the Resolution/Agreement.

[LETTER FROM RAMESH CHAUDHARI PRESENTED TO COUNCIL BEFORE THE MEETING CONSIDERED BY MAYOR JONES AT THIS TIME] Mayor Jones noted that a ditch complained about by Mr. Chaudhari is possibly part of DOT drainage along U.S. 90. City Manager Clark noted he believes the complaint is regarding a 60” culvert which runs along the east side of MLK. He believes the request is for a pipe extension to fill a hole.

Mr. Chaudhari noted he has been requesting a fix for this problem for years. Council Member Evans noted the City Manager should look at the problem and report back to the Council.

ROAD PAVING AND IMPROVEMENT PRIORITIES – CITY MANAGER UPDATE City Manager Clark noted he is looking at dirt streets, getting measurements, and looking at culvert pipes to update priorities for dirt streets.

LOCAL OPTION AND NINTH CENT GAS TAX

[Resident Clayton Tolbert noted that the issue of Jackson Street was not discussed at the workshop and not on the current agenda.] Mr. Tolbert reported on the city’s share of

11.09% of the local option gas. Mr. Tolbert and noted that the city attorney could write a letter to the county attorney requesting more of the gas tax money. Mr. Tolbert relayed prior history of the county/city discussions and discussions. He also discussed Attorney General opinions on the local option tax. Mr. Tolbert also noted the history of the 9th cent tax and negotiations available to the city. Mr. Tolbert noted the city should formally request the city seek a portion of the county 9th cent tax. He noted he has spoken with the County Commission, and the county is waiting for such a formal request.

Mr. Tolbert noted Mr. Avera's statement that no city streets have been paved. He reported the local option tax received by the city of three million dollars through 2018, as reported by County Clerk Reams, has not been used for paving or resurfacing roads. He referenced the statute regulating county use of local option gas tax and is implied to the city. Mr. Tolbert then referenced Jackson Street, with the seven homes and commercial businesses and a new church, being a 600 foot dirt road and not paved, yet \$149,000 being considered on N. Cherry Street amenities. He also pointed out Rocky Branch Road was the only city street paved by the county. He also encouraged use of inmate labor on N. Cherry Street improvements.

JACKSON STREET – CLAYTON TOLBERT Mr. Tolbert again pointed that the Jackson Street project is still not being discussed. He also complained that Restored Glory Church had to pay a \$400 fee. Mr. Tolbert also emphasized that Jackson Street is the only street that is not paved that serves residences and businesses and a new church coming. He reported problems of continued city repairs necessary after rain, continued drainage problems by Dollar Tree, having to use Cherokee Street because of ditching at the other end of the street, and other accessibility issues by residences.

Mr. Tolbert suggested that Restored Glory Church should not be made to pay any money for Jackson Street improvements since they are a church and the city has plenty of money, according to his audit. He asked the Council Members, as long-time re-elected officials, to answer the question of when Jackson Street would be paved. He offered assistance to the city at saving money on the N. Cherry Street project by using inmate labor, which could be used to pave Jackson Street. Mayor Jones noted the suggested savings can be brought to the workshop.

SOLVING THE INTERNET DIGITAL DIVIDE – COUNCIL MEMBER TROY AVERA Council Member Avera reported he asked the CenturyLink representative to be present and reported on some high-speed upgrades being placed in the south part of the county. He would like to see improvement in the city since it is very much needed. He also noted that high-speed being charged in the city is not really high-speed. He would like to compile a resolution to take to the Legislature and give to CenturyLink to ask for city high-speed internet improvements. After discussion, Council Member Avera will draft a resolution which refers to local needs and the League of Cities' legislative priority of high-speed to rural area.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND DEPARTMENTS

***City Clerk/Treasurer Emily Anderson** announced the welcome event for a new property in the City Historic District at 1155 E. Pearl Street on Sunday, November 10th from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. She also reported that City Hall painting will begin next week. She also mentioned that seven permits have been approved for single-family residences in the last few months, with four more in process. She also mentioned the Veterans Day Parade on November 11th.

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

***Council Member Troy Avera** noted an upcoming celebration of the 75th anniversary of the raising the flag at Iwo Jima and a recognition of veterans.

***Council Member Julie Conley** noted a meeting with Legislative representatives regarding requested city projects.

MEETING/WORKSHOP DATES AND TOPICS

The Council will meet in workshop session on transportation planning and Jackson Street. Mr. Tolbert noted a transportation plan showing Jackson Street as part of a street paving priority list. Because the City Manager is still developing the transportation plan and priorities and gathering information is not expected to be finished until late December, the Council will schedule a workshop for that discussion in January.

A workshop on the connector toll road will be scheduled at the December regular Council meeting.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Anderson
City Clerk/Treasurer

Mayor

NOTE: These proceedings were digitally recorded.