

Public Notices



CITY OF DONALSONVILLE COUNCIL MEETING- JANUARY 5, 2021 UNOFFICIAL MINUTES/ AGENDA SUMMARY

Mayor Ron Johnson, Jr. called the Council Meeting to order at 6:00 PM in the Council Chambers at City Hall. After which Mayor Ron Johnson, Jr., gave the invocation, then all joined in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America. Councilmembers present for the meeting included, Mayor Ron Johnson, Jr., Mayor Pro Tem Ed Bond, CP Mitch Blanks, CP Travis Brooks, CP Moses James, Jr., and CP Lindsay Register. Councilmember Flossie Smith was absent. Staff present were City Manager Steve Hicks, City Clerk Christina Corvers, Fire Chief Dean King, Police Chief Woodrow Blue, Communications Director Jeffrey Hatcher, Public Works Superintendent Bert Adams, and City Attorney Billy Grantham.

Approval of the Agenda: Mayor Pro Tem Bond made a motion to approve the Agenda, with CP Brooks seconding. Motion passed. Next, the approval of the minutes from the December 1, 2020 Council Meeting. CP Blanks made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 1, 2020 Council Meeting with CP James seconding. Motion carried.

APPEARANCES: Director Virginia Harrison gave an update on the Downtown Development Authority and stated that the authority is currently working on a beautification project called "Project Beautification 2023". The beautification project will be county-wide and will allow the authority to assist with the clean-up of properties over the next three years. Director Harrison also asked for direction on the placement of the food trucks, as the property on HWY 84 where the Diablo's Food Truck parks has recently sold. After some discussion, Director Harrison stated she would first speak with the new owners of the property to see if they would still allow the food truck use of the property. Lastly, Director Harrison stated that the DDA is planning on assisting some of the downtown merchants with the paint/façade of the buildings.

Mayor Pro Tem Bond then expressed concern regarding the amount of blighted properties around town that need dire attention. After some discussion related to the City's ordinance on blighted property, CP Blanks made a motion for City Manager Hicks and City Attorney Grantham to explore options that would allow the City to better enforce the Code of Ordinances regarding blighted property. Mayor Pro Tem Bond seconded; motion passed.

Next, Sarah Avery gave an update on the Chamber of Commerce, as well as reminded the Council that with the recently awarded Rural Zone Designation, the Chamber offers incentives to owners of property inside the rural zone. This might be an option for some of the blighted properties inside the zoned area. Sarah Avery stated that there was a miscommunication with the lights on the trees on downtown 2nd Street, but that they would be placed back up as soon as possible. Sarah Avery also gave an update on the music equipment for the downtown area stating that she and Communications Director Hatcher have been working on quotes for the project. Sarah Avery gave an update on the pole mounted Christmas Decorations, stating that she would be ordering those within the next month to get the quoted discount. Lastly, Sarah Avery stated that the Chamber was looking into applying for a Rural Business Development Grant through USDA.

INTERNAL BUSINESS: INTERNAL BUSINESS: The Financial Statements for November 2020 were presented and reviewed with comments made by City Manager Hicks on the current status, along with discussion on the three-month analysis.

OLD BUSINESS

OLD BUSINESS: City Manager Hicks recommended to approve the City's FY 2019-2020 financial statements as presented by Kayla Calhoun of Burke Worsham & Harrell at the meeting on December 1, 2020. After some discussion, CP Blanks made a motion to approve the FY 19-20 Audited Financial Reports, with Mayor Pro Tem Bond seconding. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS: City Manager Hicks made a recommendation to reappoint Councilmembers Lindsey Register and Travis Brooks to the Golden Triangle RC&D Council for 2021. Mayor Pro Tem Bond made a motion to approve the reappointment of Councilmembers Lindsey Register and Travis Brooks to the Golden Triangle RC&D Council for 2021, with CP James seconding. Motion passed unanimously.

Next, City Manager Hicks recommended to renew the Workers Compensation Insurance with Bitco General Insurance Companies based upon a premium quote of \$78,413.00. City Manager Hicks stated that pending the final audit of the payroll data, there is a reduction of \$3,124.00 from last year. After some discussion, Mayor Pro Tem Bond made a motion to renew the Workers Compensation Insurance with Bitco General Insurance Companies based

upon a premium quote of \$78,413.00. CP Brooks seconded; motion passed.

City Manager Hicks then stated that in the process of doing research related to utility billing management with Muni-Link, the City found an opportunity to acquire Web Presence that would enhance the City's website and provide educational resources and personalized information for the community, to include a public notification wizard, with access to IOS and Android mobile apps. The City would be able to inform customers of service interruptions, hydrant flushing, announcements, and projects, etc. through the website, social media, e-mails and text messages. City Manager Hicks stated that the monthly cost is \$225.00 a month with a one-time \$500.00 installation fee. The City is currently paying \$545.90 per month to have access to the website management service provided by VC3 Inc. (IT In A Box). City Manager Hicks stated that based upon the benefits provided by the service to the City and its customers, he recommends the implementation of this service. After some discussion, Mayor Pro Tem Bond made a motion to change the City of Donalsonville's website provider from VC3 to Muni-Link. CP Register seconded; motion carried.

Next, CP Register expressed concerns on COVID-19 protocols and encouraged everyone to be diligent in following the CDC guidelines to help lessen the spread of the virus.

Communications Director Hatcher then gave an update on the eDonalsonville activities, along with the system's continued growth. Communications Director Hatcher stated that due to the holidays, Georgia Pacific ran into some delays and is still working on completing the power connections for a permanent power solution. Once this is completed, eDonalsonville will be able to connect the radio at the Cedar Springs plant and begin providing full service to them. Communications Director Hatcher gave an update on the City-Wide Camera System and stated that additional cameras have been ordered for install at the Public Works Department, which will allow additional coverage to their equipment. Communications Director Hatcher stated that the department was still awaiting the license from the FCC for the new CBRS frequencies. Once paperwork with the FCC is finalized, planning for expansion and upgrade for City customers will begin. Lastly, Communication Director Hatcher stated that there is still talk regarding possible funding sources for new equipment/expansion. It appears there will be

additional funds provided, with some tied to the stimulus bill that was passed and some funding being part of the new administration's plan for infrastructure expansion.

Next, Fire Chief King gave an update on the Fire Department, with review of the run summary from last year. Chief King stated that the Breathing Air Compressor has been installed and should be operating within the coming week. Lastly, Chief King also stated that the department is implementing some new hydrant hose maintenance this year. Police Chief Blue then gave a brief update on the Police Department and stated that three new officers will be starting the Academy on Thursday with graduation set for March 2021. Lastly, Chief Blue gave an update on New Year's Eve activity with comments made on the City's Firework Ordinance. Next, Public Works Superintendent Adams stated that he had nothing new to report at this time.

City Manager Hicks then gave an update on the following:

(1) Annexation of Industrial Park Property: Based upon legal advice received from City Attorney Billy Grantham, who is working to gather the information concerning the annexation of property recently purchased by the Development Authority, in consultation with the law firm of Perry & Walters LLP and GMA attorneys, recommendation is made to annex the property by Act of the State Assembly since the Development Authority is a quasi-governmental agency. The process will require a Resolution to be passed by the Council requesting a Bill be drafted and introduced by our legislative delegation. City Manager Hicks recommended that a request be made to have the Resolution prepared and considered by the Council at the next City Council meeting. CP Register made a motion to authorize City Manager Hicks to prepare a Resolution to be passed by the Council at the next Council Meeting requesting a Bill be drafted and introduced by our legislative delegation. CP Blanks seconded; motion carried.

(2) Street Light Upgrades: As the result of the inquiry to upgrading the streetlights on 1st Street, it was discovered that other lights are eligible for upgrades in this area. Per discussion with Georgia Power, the City has many roadway lights and the goal is to bring more light with an upgraded fixture. In effect, there will be no significant change in the cost to the City for the upgrades. The City currently pays \$32.00 for 400 w Floods, which will be replaced with 161w LED lights at \$31.00. The current 250w High-

Pressure sodium Floodlight will be replaced with unregulated 122w LED lights with Archeon fixtures at \$17.00 per light, the same as the 250w flood. The order for the upgrades will be placed within the coming week.

The locations are:

Court Street (Court-house)-3 lights @ \$17.00 \$51.00 (120 LED)
Morris Avenue-2 lights @ \$13.00 \$26.00 (80 LED)
1st Street-3 lights @ \$31.00/1 light @ \$17.00 (160 LED/120 LED)
Cherry Street-1 light @ \$17.00 (120 LED)
East 1st Street-4 lights @ \$13.00/1 light @ \$17.00 (80 LED/120 LED)
Railroad Street-1 light @ \$31.00 (160 LED)
Joseph Avenue-1 light @ \$29.00 (160 LED)

(3) Welcome Signs: Four "Welcome to Donalsonville" signs have been ordered at \$1,687.00 a piece, to be placed at Hwy 84 and Hwy 91 locations. The existing signs will be refurbished and put at other locations.

(4) Request for Traffic Signal Modifications-GDOT: This is the content of the letter received from GDOT related to the request for traffic signal improvements at Hwy 91 and N. Dowling Avenue on Hwy 84. Additional information regarding the numbers and suggestions for reconsideration have been requested. "This office has recently performed traffic studies for the subject intersections, at your request, to see if Protected-Permissive Left Turn (PPLT) Phases were warranted for the existing signals at SR 38/US 84 @ SR 91/Tennille Avenue

and for SR 38/US 84 @ SR 91 Alt/Wiley Avenue, and also to see if a Traffic Signal was warranted at the intersection of SR 38/US 84 @ Dowling Avenue. After completion of the Traffic Studies, this office found that the PPLT Phases were not warranted at the existing signals and that a traffic signal was not warranted at SR 38/US 84 @ Dowling Avenue. Therefore, these intersections will remain as they are. GDOT will be refurbishing the existing faded striping at the Tennille Avenue and Wiley Avenue intersections.

Lastly, City Manager Hicks reminded the Council of the following upcoming events:

- Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday-January 18, 2021
- Cities United Virtual Summit-January 25, 2021 8:00 AM-3:00 PM
- Council Meeting-February 2, 2021 6:00 PM

With there being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, at 7:15 PM, Mayor Pro Tem Bond made a motion to adjourn, with CP Register making a second; and the motion carried.

ADJOURNED

City of Donalsonville /s/ Ron Johnson, Jr., Mayor Attest and Certification: I, Christina Corvers, do here Attest and Certify that the above written is a true and correct representation of the business and actions conducted during the January 5, 2021

meeting of the Mayor and Council of the City of Donalsonville.

/s/ Christina Corvers, City Clerk

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