

CITY OF TRUSSVILLE

CITY COUNCIL
OCTOBER 13, 2020

The City Council of the City of Trussville met for a workshop session on Tuesday, October 13, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. at Trussville City Hall. Council President Steele presiding.

Those members present were as follows:

Council President Zack Steele
Councilman Perry Cook
Councilman Jef Freeman
Councilman Brian Plant

Absent: Councilman Alan Taylor

Others present in Official Capacity: Mayor Buddy Choat

The workshop was convened and the Council received the agenda and supporting documentation for the City Council meeting to be held at 6:00 p.m. this evening. The Council reviewed the agenda and determined the order for consideration at the Council meeting.

Councilman Cook stated he had asked to discuss demolition in the Cahaba Project. He stated he learned in his research prior to this meeting, but after placing it on the agenda, that in 2017 a process was put into place on Cahaba Project homes. Applications to demolish these homes must go to the Design Review Committee and a certification that the property cannot be used due to mold, termites, or deterioration must be approved. Then the plans go to the Inspections Department, where a demolition permit is issued. This takes personal feelings out of it.

Councilman Freeman stated he thought that what is in place is fine.

Councilman Plant stated we agreed to the process in place and it seems to be working. There are legal pitfalls when you try to tell people what they can do with their property.

Councilman Steele stated we tried to come up with a feasible solution in 2017. It comes down to whether people want to protect the historical value of the homes. It is unfortunate so many have found problems since 2016 or 2017. He stated he understood property rights, but if they buy in a historical area, they should respect the history. This development is pretty neat and not found elsewhere. Now, if you get a letter the property can't be saved, speculators can come in and tear them down and build back mansions. If this is what is wanted, so be it.

Councilman Freeman stated Planning and Zoning last night found that a section of Poston Road was not completed to the end of the right-of-way.

Councilman Plant asked how war and Wayne Sullivan answered forty to fifty feet. Mr. Sullivan stated it might be possible to pay for this from the new Rebuild Alabama gasoline tax.

Mayor Choat asked Mr. Sullivan to get a cost on this.

There being no further business, the workshop was adjourned.

The City Council of the City of Trussville met in regular session on Tuesday, October 13, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. at Trussville City Hall. Council President Steele presided over the meeting and Lynn Porter, City Clerk, served as recording secretary.

Council President Steele called the meeting to order and asked Councilman Plant to lead in prayer. Councilman Cook led the pledge to the flag.

Those persons answering present to roll call were as follows:

Council President Zack Steele
Councilman Perry Cook
Councilman Freeman
Councilman Brian Plant

Absent: Councilman Alan Taylor

Others present in official capacity: Mayor Buddy Choat
Attorney Rick Stotser

Council President Steele introduced the minutes of the September 22, 2020 meeting and the October 2, 2020 special meeting for approval. Councilman Freeman moved they be approved, seconded by Councilman Plant, and the vote was unanimous.

The agenda and consent agenda were presented for approval. A proclamation for Wreaths Across America was added and a resolution authorizing a COVID-19 CARES Act agreement with Jefferson County. Councilman Plant moved the agenda be approved, seconded by Councilman Freeman and the vote was unanimous.

Dr. Eric Reid, Barclay Terrace, stated the property owners were excited to hear last time that the city is looking for a solution to their road problem. Mr. Sullivan came out and then got a quotation on the cost to restore the roadway. He stated he followed up with Mr. Kessler to see if he will do as he promised. He agreed to dig out the bad places and build it back up. Dr. Reid stated there is some urgency to get this done before the rainy season.

Mayor Choat stated we have a quote from Dunn Construction for this paving for \$79,842.30. We have a developer bond of \$27,732. Last meeting Mr. Kessler threw out a number of \$50,000. Without his commitment, we are still far apart.

Dr. Reid stated yesterday, Mr. Kessler said \$6,000.

Mr. Sullivan stated that Mr. Kessler only wants to fix the areas where the road is completely gone. Most of this money is for asphalt.

Mr. Reid stated three areas are in dire need of repair. He asked about repairing that first.

Mr. Sullivan stated it all needs to be done now. In five years there will be no road.

Councilman Plant asked was the \$79,000 quote for everything, and was told yes, to repair and seal the road.

Mayor Choat stated his concern was what the price would be to finish the road, if we only do part now.

A public hearing on an alcohol license for Cajun Steamer, 5071 Pinnacle Square was presented by Mr. Robert Reed, Manager.

Council President Steele stated this is a license transfer. He asked how long Mr. Reed had managed this store, and was told since January.

Councilman Plant asked how long he had worked at establishments that sell alcohol and was told twenty-five years.

Council President Steele asked their process for checking identification, and was told everybody must produce identification regardless of age.

Councilman Freeman asked about their training program. He stated they have a clock on the wall that gives the date necessary for legal sales. They use the Responsible Vendor Program.

Councilman Cook asked if it was normal for an individual to provide their own background check. Sgt. Chuck Bradford replied yes, applicants are required to pay for the background check done by the state.

Councilman Cook moved this application be approved, seconded by Councilman Plant, and the vote was unanimous.

Councilman Freeman moved Resolution 2020-069 accepting the streets in Ashford Ridge subdivision be approved, seconded by Councilman Plant, and the vote was unanimous.

Councilman Plant moved Resolution 2020-070 to surplus administrative office equipment be approved, seconded by Councilman Freeman, and the vote was unanimous.

Councilman Cook moved Proclamation 2020-015 on the Witches Ride to raise funds for the Maggie Bowles Scholarship Fund. This will be a costume bicycle parade. This was seconded by Councilman Freeman, and the vote was unanimous.

Library Director Emily Tish was recognized. She will be retiring January 1, 2020. Council President Steele stated he appreciated all she has done for our library.

Ms. Tish stated it has been a great honor to serve, and she thanked the Council for allowing her to be a part of it.

Councilman Plant stated Ms. Tish has modernized our library. She has hired good personnel. We were able to do an expansion and she managed the logistics well. This is a lovely part of the community.

Mayor Choat stated he appreciated her leadership. He stated he was Library liaison for four years, and she is a driving force, and has expanded many programs.

Ms. Tish said that many say that Libraries are dead. Our library has had a quarter of a million visits per year.

Ms. Peggy Polk was recognized. We appreciate her help in the time she was here. She was our first HR Director. Her resignation will be effective October 31.

Councilman Plant stated she helped us to put policies in place for a local personnel system.

Mayor Choat stated we notified the Jefferson County Personnel Board that we are separating. Ms. Polk was our first hire. He thanked her for what she has done.

Councilman Freeman stated Peggy Polk is a great citizen. She is active in Rotary Club and gives back.

Councilman Cook moved Proclamation 2020-016 on Wreaths Across America Day be approved, seconded by Councilman Freeman. Wreaths will be laid on veterans' graves on the third Saturday in December. Mayor Choat stated the City has allocated \$1500 for wreaths. The vote was unanimous.

Mayor Choat stated we had planned to dedicate the bust of a fallen soldier from this area on Veteran's Day in the area near our Veterans' Monument, but this bust will not be ready by that date.

Councilman Freeman moved Resolution 2020-071 authorizing the Mayor to sign the COVID-19 CARES Act sub-grant agreement with Jefferson County, seconded by Councilman Plant, and the vote was unanimous.

Councilman Cook reported our Parks and Recreation Department has hosted several tournaments drawing participants from many states. He stated the CityFest Pup Strut raised \$270 and we received a \$500 donation for the dog park. Other upcoming items are a lacrosse

clinic, Totally Christmas, and the Witches Ride. The Redevelopment Authority met today to consider a property swap.

Councilman Freeman called upon JR Malchus who stated inspectors have visited 250 sites in the past two weeks, and issued 18 permits for new homes and two new commercial permits, and eight additions. Councilman Freeman stated Planning and Zoning approved resurveys on Advent Circle and on Poston Road. Halcyon, First Sector and Stockton Place, Sector 10-C were given final approval. An annexation was recommended to the Council to be heard at our next meeting and two zoning matters were heard that will come to the Council in November. He reported schools are going well. Our Superintendent was selected from our district to compete for State Superintendent of the Year.

City Clerk Lynn Porter was recognized and stated two descendants of Warren Truss, who live in Oklahoma, donated a framed Truss family birth, marriage, and death record and a framed history of the family through 1912. A genealogy chart was also in the packet donated. These items will be displayed in our museum.

Wayne Sullivan stated his department is winding up grass cutting, and will begin leaf pickup in two weeks.

Mayor Choat stated based on the TRA action today, we should be able to turn over the Braden Corner to the downtown contractor Russo Corporation. ALDOT should let the bid for the Main Street widening in December. Construction will take one year or longer. Cedar Street will be done by the City at the same time.

Mayor Choat stated we hosted a gymnastics meet last weekend, and have been asked to host the State meet next year. He stated signs will be erected in the entertainment district to keep people off of the stage and to keep animals off of the artificial turf. Construction is starting on Common House.

Councilman Cook stated he was going to put the Cahaba Project on the agenda tonight, but after talking to residents, city departments, and Council members, he decided to leave it off. The next administration can address this if they wish.

No other business coming before the Council, a motion was made to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn B. Porter
City Clerk