



## City Council Work Session Minutes March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Mayor Calvin Woodrey called the Council work session to order at 6:30pm. All members of Council were present. Mayor Calvin Woodrey asked that City Manager Marcos Nichols begin with reports. He asked Council Clerk, Laura Daley to start reports. She explained the motions regarding the Personnel Board and Planning Commission appointments Stating that she had received letters of recommendation from both the personnel board and from the secretary of the planning commission to fill the vacancies. She stated that if Council approved the motions, Josh Leasure, would be available this evening to sworn in as a Planning Commission member to take over the remainder of the vacated term. Diane Herbel would come to a meeting later to be sworn into the vacancy of the personnel board.

Next Planning and Zoning Administrator, Bill Jones, discussed the motion regarding Planning Commission Appointment, explaining that the vacancy was created by one member needing to resign due to health issues and he felt Mr. Leasure is available to fill the remainder of his term. He also explained that the planning commission was very busy, and the vacancy would need to be filled as quickly as possible as to keep a quorum. Next, he discussed the ordinance regarding the rezoning of the North Miami Street Property. He explained that the re-zoning request is turning 3 lots into 2 lots and re-zone the lots from R-2 to R-3 so that the owners can build two one story duplexes, one building per lot. Councilman Agee asked Mr. Jones if this re-zoning were to happen, what would keep the property owners from doing something else with the property, as Council has been trying to move zoning in the opposite direction. Mr. Jones explained that there was nothing to keep them from doing whatever the parameters of the zoning code would allow if they did not follow through with the duplexes once the property had been re-zoned.

Finance Director, Matthew Mesisklis discussed the correspondence item regarding ARPA running totals. Explaining the resolution for the CIC Corporate Match for Rural Business Development Grant USDA would be a match grant and the additional amount listed as part of the ARPA funds running totals would now include the local match that support this USDA grant. This grant would allow the CIC to be able to continue to service our small businesses with small business loans at a very low rate. The next resolution is a City Loan Fund Grant through USDA, that would be a loan for the City in the amount of \$1,000,000 with a 1% interest rate, which is a much lower than we can currently borrow at. This loan can be used for many different items such as small business loans, to needed infrastructure, with many options in between.

City Council discussed Energy (Electric/Gas) Aggregation presentation that was given at the February 16<sup>th</sup> Council meeting. The Mayor explained that a lot of municipalities will be placing this on their ballot for this November. We need to decide if we would like to offer this to our residents. Councilwoman Harris questioned the fact that it seemed almost too good as there seemed to be no contract for the resident and they could opt out at no fee to them. Councilwoman Montgomery stated she believed it was a positive as the resident's get the choice by voting at the polls whether they would like this option, and if they choose to pass it, then another level of protection is that the rates would then be presented to Council, and if the rates are lower, Council will choose to use the program before it is finalized. Mayor Woodrey stated that he feels that Mr. Abbott is a stand-up honest gentleman and feels that he is trying to offer the resident's a benefit. Councilwoman Harris asked Council Clerk Laura Daley to try to follow up again with a couple communities that are already a part of the Alliance.

City Manager, Marcos Nichols had an executive session request to consider confidential information related to marketing plans, specific business strategy, production techniques, trade secrets, or personal financial statements of an applicant for economic development assistance and for the purpose of considering the purchase of property for public purposes and finally to confer with legal counsel.

Vice Mayor Perry made a motion to go into executive session for the above stated reasons, followed by a second by Mayor Woodrey. Roll call was taken; 7 ayes, 0 nays, 0 absent. Council and the necessary members of administration went into executive session at 7:00pm.

Vice Mayor Perry made a motion to come out of executive session and adjourn the Council work session at 7:20pm, followed by a second by Mayor Woodrey. Roll call was taken; 7 ayes, 0 nays, 0 absent.

The Council work session was adjourned.