

**City of New Ellenton
Regular Meeting of City Council
New Ellenton Community Center
MINUTES**

Monday, July 20, 2020

7:06 PM

WELCOME: Vernon Dunbar

INVOCATION: David Dunbar

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: All Stood

ROLL CALL FOR THE RECORD:

Council present – Vernon Dunbar, David Dunbar, Sr., Ron Reynolds, Crystal Bing-Smith, Eartha Rogers, Sammie McDuffie III, Terence Williams (after roll-call)

Others present – Zorayda El, Alesia Parks(Chief of Police), Faye Durham, Sergeant James Mitchell, Deanna Braswell, Geraldine Bradham, Tracy Terberville, Senator Tom Young, Ashley Morgan, Aiden Morgan, Ryan McDuffie, Marion Parks, Craig Drayton, Mike Kellems, Maria Tamimi-Bush, Timothy Wright, Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Myers, Jr. & Roger Leduc(City Administrator), Jason Morgan, Carl Culpepper, III, Mike Kellems, Trey Stephens, Clyde Myers, Dyanne Myers, Geneva Jackson, Curt Duhlmana*, Joshua Duval, Elvira Johnson-Holley, Mr. Turner(first name inaudible), Coach David Alexander

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

1. Swearing in of New City Council Members-Senator Young

*Faye Durham; Jason Morgan; Carl Culpepper, III-Sworn-in for City Council

*Mike Kellems; Clyde Stephens-Sworn-in for Commission of Public Works

2. Commission of Public Works- Discuss Financial Matter-

*Donnie Cooper-Commissioner (CPW) - Asking for approval to incur the debt for 2500 meters to be replaced and the cost will be a little over \$400,000. The well off Darlington will be self-funded. Mayor Dunbar asked that the CPW (Commission of Public Works) attend the Council Retreat to discuss the matter. Roger, City Admin., advised that meeting would be a good idea to discuss commonalities and issues and he will be in touch with Mike/Donnie about scheduling for the meeting.

*Mike Kellems-Fire Chief/Commissioner (CPW)-Financing is easily attainable for replacements of older infrastructure. 400 meters have been replaced through operating budget. The replacement of meters will not be an overnight process and will take an estimated 12-15 months to complete.

*Mr. Turner- Federal loans/grants may help. Mike answered that USDA loans have very strict criteria and may take up to 2-3 years to complete application process, so getting a low interest loan is the better option.

*Geneva Jackson-Zoom meeting held with DOT concerning Eagle Rd. and new design shows that the project is on board for the 4th quarter of 2021. There is a current review in place for proposal of new feasibility funding of \$600,000. The community is encouraged to review plans at www.futuremobility2050.com

*Faye Durham- Planning Commission has completed the Comprehensive Plan and will present to council soon.

*Coach David Alexander-Aiken County Youth Football League is following the Board of Education's plan to have 1 coach for every 9 players. Temperatures will be checked every day, everyone will have their own beverages, and there will be social distancing practiced. Football set to begin August 17, 2020 and may be pushed back to January.

Asked that council please consider a 12 month youth program at council retreat

*Elvira Holley-Johnson-Agrees with Coach David that our children are the heart of the community and should be.

APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES:

June 15, 2020- Regular Meeting

Motion to approve: Sammie McDuffie, III

2nd to the motion: David Dunbar

There was a unanimous vote in favor of approval

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Discuss 2020 Atomic City Festival

*Public Safety is a big concern

Cancellation of this year's festival may allow time to plan a bigger festival or a July 4th fireworks show.

*Elvira Johnson-Holley-there should be a strategic plan for next year's events/fundraisers.

*Craig Drayton & Curt Duhlmana-volunteered to be on Atomic City Festival Committee

*Geneva Jackson-best to get suggestions together and present to council at a later time.

2. Crowning Lupus Back to School Bash-Aug.15th, 2020

*Fire Department is partnering with local Church for back to school donations, but there must be appointments made to receive.

3. Introduction of New Police Officer

*Christopher Owens-Certified Police Officer

Motion to approve: Ron Reynolds

2nd to the motion: Terence Williams

There was a unanimous vote in favor of approval

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Approval of Emergency Ordinance Requiring Individuals to Wear Face Coverings

Motion to approve: Ron Reynolds

2nd to the motion: Terence Williams

There was a unanimous vote in favor of approval

*Ron Reynolds-working in healthcare, masks are required in the doctor's office where he works and issue is a matter of public health. Many in community are immunocompromised and many are elderly.

*Craig Drayton-how will new ordinance be enforced? In full ordinance police there are details of ticket amounts and police will enforce ordinance throughout city.

*Letter will be drafted for businesses to make them aware and issued throughout city by 12pm July 24, 2020. Ron Reynolds will contact media outlets and post on city Facebook page to get information to residents and business owners throughout the city.

2. Discussion on Recycling - Waste Mgmt. has a Hold on Recycling Area Due to COVID Safety

*Mayor has been in conversation to have recycle collection point as an option for residents because recycling is not an option under the new contract. There must be a person designated to man an area and pandemic has slowed down everything. 278 County dump site doesn't take glass. Mayor and council would like to see more people participate in the recycling program.

3. Tentative Council Retreat

*Many new projects for the future and where would council like to see the city move forward should be part of discussions for the council retreat. Tentative date set for July 28th @ 6pm at Community Center.

*Roger-will meet with 3 new council members to assist in preparation for retreat July 28th @ 10am.

4. Approval of Employees Raises-

*Tabled for further discussion at council retreat

COMMENTS FROM MAYOR & COUNCIL:

*Mayor-Future projects for the area that may be of concern to residents should be presented now with comments. Thank you to the Planning Commission for the 6-8 months of assistance

*Roger Leduc-Senator Young advised that PARD will be combined for 2 years and will need to be resubmitted for consideration.

*Mike Kellems-Station 4 is coming along and site work started 5-6 weeks prior. May move into new station and plan something to commemorate later.

*Chief Parks-Radios and updates to the server need to be done. Money will come from LOST funds that have been allocated for the cost. Radios cost of \$26,629.77 and estimate for server upgrade \$3,795.00.

Motion to approve Radios cost of \$26,629.77: Terence Williams

2nd to the motion: Ron Reynolds

There was a unanimous vote in favor of approval

Motion to approve server upgrade \$3,795.00 : Terence Williams

2nd to the motion: Crystal Bing-Smith

There was a unanimous vote in favor of approval

**Ron Reynolds-Working on camera to be put at City Hall. Surveillance cost is \$13,971 and 8 cameras in motion are between \$1500-1800. Will continue looking for best options.*

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to approve: Ron Reynolds

2nd to the motion: Faye Durham

There was a unanimous vote in favor of approval

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

INFORMATION:

Supporting materials attached:

Ordinance- Face Coverings

Back to School Bash Flyer

City Clerk Signature/Date

Mayor/Date