

REGULAR SESSION OF THE LAKE CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

November 8th, 2021

Attendees: Mayor Ron Dodson, Mayor Pro-Tem Craven, Councilmember Hoover, Councilmember Kyles, Director of Community Services Eddie Robinson, Police Chief Whitmire, City Attorney Carl Christie, City Manager Chris Leighty

6:30 PM Work Session:

The city manager discussed the date and time for the annual Christmas Tree lighting. The tree lighting would take place on November 19th from 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM. Due to COVID concerns there will not be an open event for the public.

The Mayor and Council discussed the Community Center and what the rental fees should be for both residents and non-residents. The issue is that some people will rent the community center and then rent it out for a higher fee. The mayor stated he does not want to raise the fee for residents and the council directed the city manager to look into the market cost for event centers before deciding on the amount to increase the fee.

The Director of Community Services gave an update pertaining to the Reynolds Road sidewalk project. The Request for proposals is ready to be posted and the project should begin late 2021 or early 2022. This project will be funded by LMIG Grants and SPLOST funds.

The date of the employee appreciation luncheon is set for December 10th, 2021 from 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM. Because of the concern for health safety issues employees only will be in attendance.

The city manager asked the Mayor and Council to schedule a work session to review the items for the 2022 Fiscal Year budget. The Mayor and Council chose December 9th at 10:00 AM.

The city manager gave an update for the upcoming holiday season. City hall would be closed for Thanksgiving Thursday November 25th and would be open for business Monday November 29th. The Christmas and New Year holiday fall on a

Saturday and by city policy the Friday before a Saturday Holiday will be the observed day off.

7:00 PM City Council Session:

Call to order:

Mayor Dodson called the Council meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Invocation:

Mayor Dodson gave the invocation

Pledge of Allegiance:

Approval of Minutes:

Mayor Pro Tem Craven made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 2021 council meeting it was seconded by Council member Kyles and passed unanimously.

Old Business:

The Mayor and Council approved the update of the City Ordinance to establish an Architectural Review Board.

New Business:

Dr. Beasley the Superintendent of the Clayton County Public Schools gave an update to the Mayor and Council. Dr. Beasley stated that two school in Clayton County had a graduation rate of 70% and every other school was over 80%. The goal is to have every school in the county with 90% or higher graduation rate. One of the points made was that students who start school in the Clayton County school system tend to have a higher graduation rate than those who transfer in from other districts. Of the approximately 53,000 students attending Clayton County Schools, 8,500 are participating in virtual learning. Mayor Dodson asked if that would go away at some point and Dr. Beasley advised that virtual learning would continue for some time. Dr. Beasley advised the new Morrow High School would open in the fall of 2022 and the next 5-10 years would see several other construction projects. Councilmember Kyles asked Dr. Beasley when the new Forest Park Middle School would be built and he advised hopefully by 2024. Dr. Beasley stated the Elite Scholars was the top Middle School in the State of

Georgia according to U.S. News and World Report. Another important fact shared was that 52% of graduates in Clayton County go on to higher education. The Mayor and Council thanked Dr. Beasley for the work he has done with the Clayton County School System.

The second item was approval of the Ordinance for Floodplain Management and Floodplain Damage Prevention. A motion to approve was made by Mayor Pro Tem Craven and Seconded by Council member Hoover and passed unanimously.

The third item was a discussion of the Community Center's rental Fee. There is an ongoing issue with event planners renting the community center and then renting it out at a higher price. The Mayor and Council directed the City Manager to investigate the market value of venues and make a recommendation to the council in December.

Police Report:

Chief Whitmire advised that Part I crime was up for the three-month period by 13%. He also advised that Officer Feltus was recognized by the Clayton County chapter of the Knights of Columbus as the Public Safety Employee of the year.

Public Comment:

No Public Comments

Adjournment:

Adjournment of the council meeting was at 7:50 PM.