

Council Meeting
October 5, 2020

Members Present: Mayor Buddy Duke, members Terry McClain, Walter Cowart, Greg Paige, Vivian Sharpe and Jody Greene.

Others Present: John Flythe, Rhonda Rowe, Tim Tanner, Chad Castleberry and members of the public and press.

Invocation was given by Councilman McClain.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes: Councilman Paige made a motion to approve the minutes of September 21, 2020 as presented. Councilwoman Sharpe seconded. All were in favor.

Road Closing Request: Heather Green, President of the Chamber of Commerce, came before the council requesting to close N. Elm Street from its intersection with Mitchell Street north to Hwy. 41 on Saturday October 24, 2020 from 8:00-9:15 for a 5K run. Councilwoman Sharpe made a motion to approve the request. Councilman Greene seconded. The decision was unanimous.

Dr. Treva Gear (Wood Pellet Industry): Dr. Gear came before the council in reference to the Wood Pellet Company that is planning to locate in Adel. She stated that she was hearing about a monetary value but she wanted to know how much, what is the monetary benefit, since there is 10 years of no taxes? With it only offering 50-70, or 70-90 jobs, and some of those for people not even in Adel, what is the value? She noted we haven't done well with wood industries; they have not fared very well. She then asked if the property had not been annexed into the city, who would have provided the power? Mayor Duke replied that because they are a commercial customer with a load larger than 900 KW, it is a customer choice load. Regardless of whether it is located in the city or not, Adel could still bid to serve them. It is not uncommon for electric providers to place a bid. Dr. Gear then stated that the proposed wood pellet industry would use as much power as all of Valdosta. She was advised that they are projected to use 12 MW; the City of Adel is 23 MW. They will not use as much power as Valdosta. In reference to federal guidelines, she asked if any of the council members have been able to review the company's 70-page air permit. Mayor Duke stated that he didn't know that he was qualified to review the report accurately. Dr. Gear stated that she has read it and encouraged the others to review it. She then questioned if anyone had visited a wood pellet company or talked to any residents that live near one. She referenced AVIVA, a company located in North Carolina, that is planning to place 8 plants in Georgia, with one to be located in Waycross. She then asked if we would be willing to have a town hall meeting to which the Mayor replied yes.

Scott Tasker (Veteran Suicide Awareness Run): Mr. Tasker, representing 22 Until None, a veteran founded and operated non-profit, requested permission to hold a Veteran Suicide Awareness run on November 8, 2020 beginning at 9:00am. He stated the non-profit group, dedicated to suicide prevention within the veteran community, is trying to bring the suicide rate down to 0. There are 7

members per day taking their own lives as they have not found a way to enter civilian life after service. He further stated this is beginning to affect first responders as well. He stated they wanted to go from behind Wal-Mart down 4th Street to Hutchinson Avenue and then back to Wal-Mart. They would be using the sidewalks. Mayor Duke stated his concern with the sidewalks not being the safest for a run due to the width and possible obstacles. Mr. Tasker stated it would be a walk. Mayor Duke asked Mr. Tasker to prepare a packet with the sponsorship and noted that participants would be required to sign a waiver of release since they will be on the sidewalk.

John McLaggan (Fire Dept Radios): John McLaggan, with McLaggan Communications, came before the council stating that he had read the article in the local newspaper a couple weeks ago about the communication equipment for the fire department. The article stated that to repair the equipment struck by lightning it would cost \$60,000-70,000. He asked where did that number come from to which he was advised Motorola. Mr. McLaggan contended that he had looked at the equipment the last time it was hit and it could easily be replaced for \$10,000-11,000. He noted the second statement in question was that there was a federal mandate to go to a 800 MHz system. He wanted to know where this information came from? City manager John Flythe stated that we had decided a number of years ago we wanted to migrate to the 800 MHz system. The police department is already on this system which is area wide and will possibly include 5 other counties with which we will be able to have communication. We have been pleased with the Motorola system which offers a complete service, including the engineering. He stated the 800 MHz system is what everybody is going to and that's where we are going. Mr. McLaggan then questioned why there hasn't been an RFP issued for such a large purchase as there are other vendors and manufacturers that offer the same bells and whistles. He stated Kenwood does, not just Motorola. Mayor Duke asked if his equipment was compatible to Motorola to which he replied, yes. The fire department has used Kenwood. The city manager stated that we have been very satisfied with Motorola, who has a one-stop shop, and we are getting the state contract price. Mr. McLaggan added that he would like the opportunity to bid.

Lease Purchase Approval on Radio System for Fire Department: City manager John Flythe asked for the council's approval to execute the lease purchase for the Motorola system, which is being offered on state contract price, at a cost of \$256,505.40. He stated we wanted to stay with the same brand of equipment for all of our radio communications. Councilman Cowart asked if each firefighter would receive their own radio to which Mr. Flythe confirmed they would. Councilwoman Sharpe asked if there are other companies lower in price? Mr. Flythe advised the issue is support and how well it has functioned. We will receive engineering and service, plus, this is a state contract price. Motorola is offering this at 0 percent interest with the first payment being due next fiscal year, in October 2021. We have also applied for two grants that could assist with the purchase. Councilman Cowart asked how quickly this would move forward as this is an extreme emergency to him. Glynn McCrary, Motorola representative, was present and advised that the police department migrated to the 800 MHz with Motorola equipment in 2014. This new system would also provide back-up to the police department. You would also be able to talk with Tifton and Lowndes County. Councilman Cowart asked if the "dead spots" would be gone. Mr. McCrary advised the fire department will realize the same patterns the police have and that everyone is migrating to a regional radio communications concept. Eventually, all will be tied together. This purchase is a baby step toward that direction as you will be migrating from VHF (150 band width) to an 800 band width. This 800 band has been reserved for public safety

statewide. We will be heading toward a trunked system in the future and this is a step in that direction. He then presented the council with a map of the state of Georgia that shows Motorola represents 78% of the systems in Georgia. It will be a benefit today and into the future with P-25 systems. This will be an upgrade to add a channel to what the police department has now. Altheia Paige asked if this was something that was bid out or do you just want to stay with this system? The city manager advised the state had bid this out and got the best price but we do want to stay with Motorola. Mrs. Paige then stated that in the past, she thought we always sent out bids for other things. He advised that was correct, unless it's a state bid. Councilwoman Sharpe asked for verification that you are saying the state has given you the bid? Mr. Flythe stated they received the bids but this is the system we want to stay with. Mr. McClaggan added that Motorola says this is the price we would sell it for. He stated that Kenwood has the same; they have a state contract price as well. Councilwoman Sharpe asked how long we had been with the current Motorola system we have now to which she was advised we've had the current system in the police department since 2014 but we've had Motorola equipment for many years before that, as they only sell radio equipment. For continuity, we would be upgrading to make all systems Motorola, so that adding something else wouldn't affect warranties, etc. Mr. McCrary added that Motorola allows you to be able to talk with your neighboring communities. If you have Motorola, you're allowed to talk now. He reminded them that with bad weather, such as the storm that occurred in Lee County where their tower fell, Motorola was able to roll in with their trailer that is equipped to "keep them rolling" in the event of an outage. He noted that there are other mobile communications, many Mom and Pop shops. Motorola has over 800 employees. They have technicians in Valdosta, Waycross, Moultrie, and Albany, so they have the necessary support. It is important to know how soon you can get a radio back in operation and working. This would also give redundancy to the police department's system. Councilman Greene made a motion to approve the state contract price of Motorola. There was no second and the motion died.

4-H Program Certificates: Mayor Duke presented certificates to members of the local 4-H program for participating with the 2nd annual clean-up day in downtown Adel. Randy Lane, Community Development Director, stated there were 67 tons of debris collected and 177 tires.

Fire Station Addition Bids: Bids were received for an addition to fire station #2 for an enclosure to house the new fire truck. Bids were as follows:

Metal Building Bids:

R & R Construction	-	\$21,715.00
James Bass Construction		\$24,500.00

Concrete Bids:

Michael Noles Concrete		\$13,717.00
CD Construction		\$18,610.00

Tiftarea Door Systems		\$ 2,480.00
-----------------------	--	-------------

Councilman Walter Cowart made a motion to accept the low bids. Councilwoman Sharpe seconded. The decision was unanimous.

Vehicle Purchase (Sanitation Dept): City manager John Flythe advised the council that we are prepared to send out bid requests for a F-550 truck needed for the sanitation department. He asked that since we could get a state contract price, could we proceed with our local vendor on the Ford purchase or did the council prefer that it be sent out for bids? The Mayor added that he didn't know if you could get any better than a state contract price. Councilman Cowart stated that he likes the idea of working with our local Ford dealer. Councilman Cowart made a motion to move forward with Cook County Ford on the state contract price. Councilwoman Sharpe seconded. All were in favor.

Maintenance Building Bids (Recreation Dept): Bids were received for the maintenance building to be erected at the new Adel-Cook Recreation Sports Complex and were as follows:

Lariat Steel Design, Inc.	\$35,834.40 base bid
Elite Structures	\$34,285.00 base bid
Steel Building Systems, Inc.	\$38,499.00 base bid
Vulcan Steel Structures, Inc.	\$35,601.00 base bid
Hornet Steel Buildings, Inc.	\$33,095.00 base bid

All bids contained an additional three options for add-ons. After a discussion concerning the need to review the bids with consideration for the add-ons, Councilman McClain made a motion to continue this item until the next meeting. Councilwoman Sharpe seconded. All were in favor.

Solar Rates Ordinance: The city manager advised the council that we have a customer that has added solar panels to their residence. Anyone that adds solar panels is supposed to make application to the city prior to any installation, but that did not happen in this case. The law states that only a certain amount of alternate power has to be added to our system. Once we reach that peak, we can no longer add additional customers. Mr. Flythe noted that his concern is with safety; if we have a power outage but the customer's system is still running, we have to be sure they can't feed power onto our system; otherwise, it could result in someone being electrocuted. He stated we have ordered 4 meters to use in conjunction with the solar, and that this customer is expecting to produce more than what they will use. We will have to buy the energy placed on our system at voided cost. Our consultant is currently reviewing to see how many more customers we can add. He further added that our last ordinance regarding solar was in 2016 and we will have the first reading of a new ordinance presented at the next meeting.

COLA: The council was reminded that during the last meeting when the budget was adopted, a COLA adjustment was not included, it had been discussed to do this later. The city manager proposed proceeding with an adjustment and bringing the total dollar amount for a budget adjustment at the next meeting. He would like to get authority to proceed before we process the next payroll in two weeks. The city attorney stated we would need to pass the budget amendment before adding the COLA to payroll. A 1% increase is \$47,383.55. Councilman Cowart asked if the COLA would be city-wide. Mr. Flythe stated yes, however; he noted that we need to review the rates for one department. If we adjust those market rates, this department won't receive a COLA, they will get the actual adjustment.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.

Rhonda P. Rowe, City Clerk

Luther L. Duke III, Mayor
