

**BOARD OF MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION
APRIL 28TH, 2021
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING REGULAR MEETING
VIA ZOOM**

MINUTES

Members Present: Jonathan Elmore, Mayor
Brian Fisher, Mayor Pro Tem
Lisa Shortell, Commissioner
Lionel Laratte, Commissioner
Dee Merriam, Commissioner

Staff Present: Patrick Bryant, City Manager
Paul Hanebuth, Asst. City Manager
Shannon Powell, Asst. City Manager
Rebecca Long, Communications Manager
Gina Hill, City Clerk
Stephen Quinn, City Attorney
Sara Hempen, Events Manager
Ken Morris, Permitting Coordinator

Item #1 Meeting Called to Order

Item #2 Adoption of Agenda
Commissioner Laratte motioned to adopt. Mayor Pro Tem Fisher seconded. All ayes.

Item #3 **July 4th Festivities**

City Manager Bryant said that a contract has already been signed to provide the July 4th fireworks. He wanted to discuss what other festivities were appropriate. Mayor Elmore explained the differences between the fireworks and parade as far as coronavirus safety measures are concerned. He also described the resident-led golf cart parade put together for Halloween 2020 and would like to do something similar. Mr. Bryant listed the support that city staff could provide. Commissioner Laratte was supportive. Commissioner Shortell asked if there would be any other safety measures used during the fireworks. Mr. Bryant responded that measures will be adjusted as new guidance is released. She also urged the use of spray chalk instead of spray paint for the traditional painting of Clarendon Avenue. Mayor Elmore agreed. Commissioner Merriam asked about yard signs that are usually sold by the city. Assistant City Manager Powell said that was planned for this year as well. There was discussion about other holidays like Halloween and the Labor Day Race and there was consensus

that city staff would make recommendations at some point to the BOMC about how to proceed.

Item #4 **Christmas Decorations**

Assistant City Manager Hanebuth described the issues with the holly tree that currently serves as the city's Christmas tree. One of those is the electrical cable attached to the tree is harming it. He mentioned an estimate for a new electric source. Another issue is that of size. The tree is too big for the space and using it in the future for a Christmas tree could require significant pruning. Mr. Hanebuth suggested that a different tree nearby could serve as the Christmas tree. Commissioner Merriam agreed. There was discussion about the current tree and whether or not it's used as the Christmas tree for any historical reasons. Commissioner Shortell was also open to using a different tree. Commissioner Laratte agreed. Mayor Pro Tem Fisher felt the tree lighting should probably be moved. Mr. Bryant said these decisions should be made sooner rather than later.

Item #5 **Request for US278 Complete Street Design Funds**

Staff will request \$80,000 for traffic light reconfiguration and design work to leverage additional construction grant funds. Staff will provide more detail.

City Manager Bryant explained a current grant opportunity and said the city is a good candidate to receive it. Assistant City Manager Powell elaborated and explained why the timing makes this extra fund request important. This relates to the traffic lights along US 278 and the county's control over their timing and configuration. Mayor Elmore appreciated Representative Hank Johnson's office for making these funds available. Mayor Pro Tem Fisher asked about golf cart crossings. Ms. Powell is working on getting a crossing included as part of the project. Commissioner Shortell asked where the \$80,000 would come from and Mr. Bryant answered the capital fund. Commissioner Merriam is concerned about balancing the budget. Mr. Bryant explained that this money would be replaced by anticipated grant funds and this is only being done so the project can stay on schedule. Assistant City Manager Hanebuth explained the capital budget further. Mr. Bryant praised Mr. Johnson's staff and said they were very helpful during the application process.

Item #6 **Public Comment**

Erika Brown asked several questions about the above item. Jan Hover spoke in support of using a different Christmas tree from the current one. A long-time resident named Betty told a story about the holly tree and its original benefactor. She doesn't feel strongly about using that tree for Christmas but she did feel the lights this past Christmas were too bright.

Item #7 **Executive Session – Real Estate, Litigation**

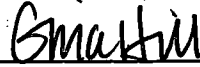
Commissioner Shortell moved to enter into executive session at 7:07 p.m. Commissioner Laratte seconded. All ayes.
Commissioner Laratte motioned to exit executive session at 7:39 p.m. Mayor Pro Tem Fisher seconded. All ayes.

Item #8

Adjournment

Commissioner Shortell moved to adjourn. Commissioner Laratte seconded. All ayes.

MINUTES APPROVED 5.26.2021



GINA HILL, CITY CLERK