

FLEMINGTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

October 18, 2016

PRESENT: Mayor Sandra Martin
Mayor Pro Tem Paul Hawkins
Council Member Charles Richardson
Council Member Donnie Smith
Council Member Gail Evans
Council Member David Edwards
Council Member Palmer Dasher

ALSO PRESENT: City Attorney Jeff Arnold (in lieu of Craig Stafford)
Deputy Sergeant Guy Pagliolo
City Clerk Lori Taylor

1. The regularly scheduled meeting of the City of Flemington was called to order by Mayor Sandra Martin on Tuesday, October 18, 2016 at 4:34 p.m. in the conference room at City Hall in Flemington, GA. A quorum necessary to conduct business was visibly present.
2. Invocation by Mayor Pro Tem Paul Hawkins, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. ***Palmer Dasher made a motion to approve and dispense with the reading of the minutes from the September Meeting, as written. Motion was seconded by Charles Richardson. All approved and motion passed.***
4. Deputy Sergeant Guy Pagliolo was in attendance to provide council with a list of statistics for the month of September. He also briefed council on the emergency services provided during Hurricane Matthew. He stated that he worked double shifts for three or four days during the storm. He suggested that council consider purchasing cones or barricades to use in emergency situations for closing dangerous roadways. Sgt. Pagliolo also reported that his deputy car was scheduled to have a dealer-recall maintenance performed the next business day.
5. Council reviewed the City Expense Report.
6. City Engineer, Matthew Barrow, presented council with an engineering update.
 - a. The Mowing and Maintenance RFP contained 5 items: Street Sweeping, Right-of-Way Maintenance, City Hall Grounds Maintenance, Power Easement Maintenance, and Pressure Wash City Hall. Three contractors placed bids: Jody Smiley Landscaping, Flemington Outdoor Maintenance, and Signature Lawns.
 1. Street Sweeping – Low bid was Signature Lawns
 2. Right-of-Way Maintenance – Low bid was Jody Smiley Landscaping
 3. City Hall Grounds Maintenance – Low bid was Flemington Outdoor Maintenance
 4. Power Easement Maintenance – Low bid was Jody Smiley Maintenance
 5. Pressure Wash City Hall – Low bid was Jody Smiley MaintenanceTim Boggs, Signature Lawns, asked to address council. He requested council combine items 1&2, and stated that he was only interested in both items together. Council discussed and all agreed that this process was to be determined by the lowest bid in each item, not a combination of items. Matthew discussed the Street Sweeping options. He noted the Alternate #1 option listed, stating that it included the sweeping of Tremain and Caleb White. He said that was up to council to decide if they wanted to add that option. ***Charles Richardson made a motion to eliminate Alternate #1 option from Street Sweeping. Paul Hawkins seconded. All agreed. Motion carried.*** Palmer

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Dasher and Charles Richardson questioned Matthew about the frequency of street sweeping per Stormwater requirements. Matthew stated that he would have to check into the matter and would get back to council. **Charles Richardson motioned to award Jody Smiley Landscaping with the remaining items (Street Sweeping, Right-of-Way Maintenance, Power Easement Maintenance, and Pressure Wash City Hall). Seconded by Donnie Smith. All agreed. Motion carried.** Matthew stated that he would contact the contractors and get the contracts to City Hall as soon as possible. The new contracts will be effective November 1, 2016 – October 31, 2019.

- b. Matthew briefed council on the LMIG project for the right turn lane on Wallace Martin Drive. He stated that DOT made an additional suggested change and it is currently with the DOT supervisor. Matthew will inquire about the status again and will have another update for council soon. He also stated that council will have to make a decision as to how to apply the LMIG 2017 funds before December 31.
 - c. Matthew introduced council to a maintenance issue with Mr. Godwin's property located at 564 Tremain Drive. It involves a drainage ditch that is piped behind his house from Hinesville. It has caused erosion of Mr. Godwin's property, including a fence. The ditch must be maintained and stabilized to ensure Mr. Godwin's property. Clinton Wells will be working to temporarily stabilize ditch, but the City needs to gain a permanent access in order to maintain the ditch. It is in the city limits of Flemington. Matthew and Mr. Hawkins have been working with the County to find a solution.
7. Leah Poole, Liberty County Convention & Visitor's Bureau/Liberty County Chamber of Commerce
- a. Leah presented council with the quarterly update from LCCVB, including activities from the past quarter and upcoming events.
 - b. The new website for Flemington is under construction and should be ready for council to preview by the end of the week. Leah will send a preview link for council to see. She asked that council send suggested changes to Lori, then Lori can compile a master list of changes to submit for final implementation.
8. LCPC:
- Action Items:
- a. Melissa Jones presented council with the 2040 Liberty County Joint Comprehensive Plan for Flemington to sign and adopt. There were no changes made from the initial plan that was agreed upon in July. **Paul Hawkins made a motion to approve the resolution. Seconded by Charles Richardson. All approved. Motion carried.**
 - b. Gabby Hartage presented the sketch plan for Flemington Oaks Subdivision. It meets R-1 design standards with 33 lots. There is no engineering information included, only the lot layout. Donnie Smith questioned Marcus Sacks about the pond, its placement, and it bisecting lots. Marcus responded saying that the sketch shows an approximate placement of the pond, and that they will not know an exact placement until they do the engineering study. He also states that it is possible that the pond and wetlands could be on its own lot, therefore not dividing any other lots. Donnie Smith clarified that if approved, it is only the sketch plan that has approval, and not an overall greenlight for development. Gail Evans and Donnie Smith asked about a buffer for the historic Presbyterian Church. Bill Nutting stated that he was willing to give a 50 foot buffer to protect the historic nature of the church and cemetery, but that the area behind the pond will be clear cut. He stated that he would give every concession that he could give, but the homes would have to be downgraded because the lot cost increased due to decreased number of lots. He said that there would no longer be all brick homes, but that they would be nicer than anything else. Keith Moran, Flemington resident, spoke on behalf of the community. He stated that they are concerned with drainage and property values but are willing to accept whatever the council decides. **Palmer Dasher made a motion to approve the sketch plan as presented. Seconded by Donnie Smith. All approved. Motion carried.** Bill Nutting states to council that the next step will be a full construction plan including paving & grading, water & sewage, sidewalks, drainage, etc.

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9. Sara Swida briefed council on Keep Liberty Beautiful. She stated that Flemington needs a representative on the KLB Advisory Board. It could be a council member, a staff member, or a resident of Flemington. There is a required 40 hour minimum per year participation commitment. It is a 3 year term. Paul Hawkins stated that council will make contacts to fill the position and get back with her soon.
10. Paul Hawkins introduced Barry McCaffrey to the council. He is in charge of the contracting company that is monitoring the debris pickup and disposal of Hurricane Matthew debris. They oversee the documentation of the debris for FEMA reports. They utilize GPS markers and a cradle-to-grave system of documentation. Mr. McCaffrey stated that debris can be any size and must be within 10-15 feet of the road for pickup.
11. Palmer Dasher discussed some of the information that he received from the Tourism Conference regarding Hotel/Motel Taxes. He stated that we need to tighten up and improve our procedures for our Hotel/Motel accounts. He suggested that we schedule a Workshop to work on it at a later date. Gail Evans stated that we should invite representation from Golden & Associates, as well as Leah Poole from LCCVB, to attend the workshop as well.
12. David Edwards discussed the city's Subdivision Ordinance and the need to look into fire prevention measures in regards to vinyl siding. He suggested working on it during a scheduled workshop as well.
13. Mayor Martin discussed the Holiday Open House/Christmas Tree Lighting. Donnie Smith stated there is usually not much community participation outside of the council. **Palmer Dasher made a motion to dispense with the Holiday Open House/Christmas Tree Lighting. Seconded by Donnie Smith. Palmer Dasher, David Edwards, Gail Evans, Donnie Smith voted for the motion. Charles Richardson and Paul Hawkins voted against the motion. Motion carried 4-2.** Palmer Dasher suggested that City Hall minimize decorations. Paul Hawkins stated that he would put up the Christmas trees both inside and out. Donnie Smith volunteered to help Lori decorate inside City Hall.
14. Charles Richardson discussed the amount of council stipends. Mayor Martin stated that council can only vote for compensation to be effective upon the next term of council, which will be voted on in November 2017, and effective January 2018. Palmer Dasher suggested that the clerk research compensation in area municipalities and bring back information to a later Workshop.
15. Flemington resident, Aisha Bradshaw, addressed council regarding holding a Toy Drive for her organization, Impossible is Possible Corporation. She requested to have a drop box located in City Hall for donations. Three families would be adopted to be recipients of the Toy Drive, and any additional donations would be taken to Gabriel's House. Council requested Mr. Arnold's legal opinion on the matter. He stated that if council allows it for one organization, then they would have to allow it for other organizations as well. Council commends Ms. Bradshaw on her efforts to assist needy families but states that City Hall will not allow drop boxes for any organization.
16. Attorney Jeff Arnold stated to council that the issue of Overtime Pay for a previous employee that he was asked to brief council on does not require an executive session. He stated that the current regulations for overtime pay for a salaried employee are: 1) employee must receive a salary or fee basis on a rate of not less than \$455 per week, 2) the primary duty must be the performance of office or non-manual work, directly related to the management or general business operations of the employer or employer's customers, 3) employee's primary duty includes the exercise of discretion and independent judgement with respect to matters of significance. Mr. Arnold clarifies that if all three conditions are met, the employee is not authorized overtime pay. Mayor Martin and council agreed that all three conditions were met, therefore there is no overtime pay authorized. The new rule regarding Overtime Pay will go into effect December 1, 2016. The new rule will increase the salary amount to \$47,476 per year. Mr. Arnold stated that he will give a memo to Mayor and council regarding this issue, and also city attorney will draft a letter to

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respond to the previous employee's inquiry. The Mayor can sign the letter and send to previous employee by regular mail.

17. Donnie Smith addressed other allegations in an email received from a previous employee. Jeff Arnold stated any citizen has the right to voice concerns and is welcome to present facts to council if they want, however he said that there is no actionable stuff in the letter. He offered to draft a letter for Mayor to sign addressing the matter of issuing complaints to council that can be sent to said person. He also stated to avoid the appearance of impropriety, we should change the way we communicate with each other so it cannot be misconstrued.
18. Charles Richardson inquires about fallen trees across the private drive to the historical home behind his house. Mr. Arnold states that the city cannot do anything about trees on a private drive.
19. Charles Richardson and Paul Hawkins addressed council about the options of custom plywood to cover the windows for City Hall or replacing the current shutters with hurricane shutters. Paul Hawkins said that he would get a quote on both options.
- 20. *Palmer Dasher motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Gail Evans. All approved. Council adjourned at 7:34 p.m.***