

FLEMINGTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

June 14, 2016

PRESENT: Mayor Sandra Martin
Mayor Pro Tem Paul Hawkins
Council Member Charles Richardson
Council Member Donnie Smith

ABSENT: Council Member Gail Evans
Council Member David Edwards

ALSO PRESENT: Matthew Williams substituting for City Attorney Craig Stafford
Deputy Sergeant Guy Pagliolo
City Clerk Terri Willett

1. The regularly scheduled meeting of the City of Flemington was called to order by Mayor Sandra Martin on Tuesday, June 14, 2016 at 4:30 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. Minutes of the May meeting were read. Mayor Martin asked if anyone had any proposed changes, corrections or additions to the minutes. Paul Hawkins stated paragraph 10a of minutes does not describe accurately the discussion on the price increase granted without council approval to Flemington Outdoor Maintenance. Instead, the description he provided in an e-mail to mayor, council, and city clerk should be used. Terri Willett stated City Attorney Craig Stafford reviewed the content shown in the minutes and advised that it appears to be representative of what occurred during the meeting, and his recommendation was to use that version. Paul Hawkins objected and made a motion to revise the minutes in accordance with his e-mail as follows:
Mr. Hawkins contacted GMA in reference to a contract being changed without council's knowledge and was told that once a motion has been passed it cannot be changed without approval of the governing body, and it is a serious matter. Mr. Hawkins informed the council that on April 13, 2010 a contract was awarded to Flemington Outdoor Maintenance. Although FOM was not the low bidder, Donnie Smith asked Mr. Harwell if he would take the contract for the same price as the low bidder of \$356.00 per month and he agreed. The contract was for cutting the grounds at City Hall and the fenced-in area behind Parker's. A motion was made and passed by council for \$356 per month. FOM's contract was changed in December 2015 to \$450 per month without council approval, and FOM was also paid for extra cuttings that were not approved by council. Also, FOM was paid for services that Mr. Hawkins thought was out of line as to work done, i.e., FOM was paid too much and no bids were taken. Donnie Smith noted that the Mayor could make emergency calls for work at City Hall but should discuss them with council at next meeting. After some discussion, Gail Evans made a motion to leave contract as is at \$450 per month until end of year, seconded by Donnie Smith. Motion passed with Paul Hawkins voting against. Council also discussed setting up contracts for 3 years, all to be reviewed at a later date. Mayor Martin asked that Charles Richardson, David Edwards, and Paul Hawkins form a committee to start the re-bidding process for grounds maintenance in October, provide bids to council to review in November, and move to award the contract in December. Motion to revise the minutes as described above was seconded by Palmer Dasher. All agreed. Motion passed. In regard to re-bidding the contracts, Jay Harwell noted that city grounds are separate from sidewalk maintenance and asked how that would be structured. Mayor Martin responded that there will be separate contracts but a contractor can bid on one or all.

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4. Deputy Sergeant Guy Pagliolo was in attendance to provide council with a list of statistics for the month of May. Sgt. Pagliolo reported that the false alarms last month were from Applebee's. One of the two assaults was at the school and the other was a sexual assault on Cobblestone Lane. Donnie Smith asked if the sexual assault has been resolved and Sgt. Pagliolo stated he could not comment on an ongoing case that is in the hands of detectives.

5. LCPC:

Action Items

- a. Business License and Sign Permit: LCPC's Gabrielle Hartage presented council with a request from Mrs. Deborah Brown for a business license and temporary banner for a Christian bookstore to be located at 1661J Oglethorpe Highway next to LV Nails. Business will sell religious items. Request also includes the approval of a temporary banner, size 3'x8', for four months through October 13, 2016. LCPC recommends approval. Motion by Palmer Dasher to approved both requests. Seconded by Charles Richardson. All agreed. Motion passed.
 - b. Business License: LCPC's Gabriel Hartage also presented council with a request from Sequeda Sutton to operate Sutton Coaching Agency from her home at 196 Cobblestone Lane. This application is in keeping with provisions of home occupations and LCPC recommends approval. Motion by Palmer Dasher to approve the request. Seconded by Charles Richardson. All agreed. Motion passed.
 - c. Mayor Martin presented council with information on Chamber of Commerce magazine ad. Motion made by Palmer Dasher to approve same size ad as last year, 1/2 page. Motion seconded by Charles Richardson. All agreed. Motion passed.
6. City Engineer, Matthew Barrow was in attendance to provide council with information that the city received notice from Georgia DOT that the department has approved the application for LMIG funding assistance for the Off-System Safety Improvement Program of up to \$40,000 or 70% of the project cost, whichever is less. Council previously discussed using such funds to provide for a right turn lane at Wallace Martin and Oglethorpe Highway. Mayor Martin asked if the project would be bid out and Matthew answered in the affirmative. Matthew emphasized that it would be late this year before the project will begin. Motion by Donnie Smith to move forward with the project. Seconded by Charles Richardson. All agreed. Motion passed. Matthew also agreed to check on the status of a sign saying "Do not block intersection" at the same location.
7. Unfinished/New Business:
 - a. Mayor Martin presented the proposed 2017 budget, noting that the budget may need to be amended later should future residential and/or commercial development increase costs such as fire service fees, sold waste, streetlights, etc. Palmer Dasher asked about the line item for contingencies and Terri Willet explained that the contingency line is used to balance the budget if it is not otherwise balanced. Mayor Martin asked for public comments and received none. Motion by Donnie Smith to approve the FY 17 budget as presented. Seconded by Charles Richardson. All agreed. Motion passed.
 - b. Marcus Sack of Paul Simonton and Associates, along with developer Bill Nutting, were present to present for information purposes only a proposed plan for development of the remaining acreage of the Sydnea Miles property located on Old Savannah Road. Two tentative plans were presented for PUD zoning, one with a density of 70 single family units and the other with a density of 68 single family units. Several residents in the vicinity of Old Savannah Road were present to present their views and ask for some consideration in terms of buffers, quality of construction, density, etc. Traffic concerns were also discussed with Donnie Smith noting that heavy traffic is a continuing concern

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on Old Sunbury Road. Charles Richardson asked if the proposed buffers are natural and Mr. Nutting said yes. Mrs. Grace Moran, a resident of Old Savannah Road, asked about preservation of oak trees and Mr. Nutting replied that no oak trees are affected by the proposal. Residents were invited to a workshop on the proposed development to be held at Flemington City Hall at 3:00 p.m., June 30th.

- c. Charles Richardson asked if distribution of SPLOST funds has been received should SPLOST be passed in the general election. Mayor Martin responded that an e-mail had been sent out which specifies the distribution of funds, noting that Flemington's share of SPLOST is designated for roads. Mayor Martin stated that Johnny Smiley had inquired about the possibility of paving Kahlquist. There are no SPLOST funds available from Flemington but Mayor Martin noted that the county may have some funds that could supplement new SPLOST funding if it materializes.
 - d. Paul Hawkins stated he saw personnel cutting the right of way on Highway 84 and, upon inquiring, discovered that Signature Lawns had been awarded a contract for two cuttings per year at \$2,000 each. He questioned the award of the contract without council approval. Terri Willett responded that the need for the contract was discussed at a March 17th workshop. Gail Evans made the motion to award to Signature Lawns. Motion was seconded by David Edwards and was passed by council. Donnie Smith asked if action taken in a workshop is legal or does it have to be ratified by vote of council at the next meeting. Terri Willett stated she would contact City Attorney Craig Stafford (Matthew Williams having left the council meeting prior to this discussion) and get an answer. Palmer Dasher noted that if legal advice is that the workshop vote is legal then it should be formalized in minutes of the workshop and made a matter of public record. A heated discussion ensued, primarily involving Paul Hawkins and Jay Harwell. At the conclusion of the meeting, it was agreed that the plan for award of contracts discussed in paragraph 3, above, will provide a new start and level the playing field so there is open competition for city business.
8. Charles Richardson made a motion to adjourn from the City Council meeting at 6:45 pm. Seconded by Palmer Dasher. All agreed. Motion passed.