

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF AUSTELL
CITY HALL BUILDING
MONDAY, MAY 4, 2020**

Present:

Mayor Ollie Clemons (via Zoom)
Valerie Anderson
Melanie Elder
Devon Myrick
Marlin Lamar
Randy Green

Absent: Sandra Leverette & Jim Graham

Also present: Scott Kimbrough, City Attorney; Denise Lowe, Finance Director; Bo Garrison, Public Works Director; Brandon Merritt, Fire Chief; Bob Starrett, Police Chief; and Elizabeth Young, City Clerk

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Clemons called the meeting to order, gave the invocation & led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Clemons asked if anyone needed to add items to the agenda. Mr. Lamar stated he needed to add item 10 B, Purchase of Bunker Gear. Mayor Clemons stated he needed to add item 14 A, Purchase of Property. Mayor Clemons stated he needed to add item 15 B, Hazard Pay.

Mrs. Anderson moved to follow the recommendation of Mayor Clemons to add Items 10 B, 14 A & 15 B. Seconded by Mr. Lamar. Motion passed. (5-0)

2. CONSENT AGENDA – INFORMATION AND UPDATE

(No Action Required by Council – See Specific Department Director before a Meeting.)

3. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approve Bills
- B. Approve Legal Bills-March \$2,102.50 & April \$4,552.50
- C. Approve Minutes of Regular Council Meeting March 2, 2020

Mrs. Anderson moved to follow the recommendation of Mayor Clemons to approve the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Mr. Green. Motion passed (5-0).

4. EXCEPTION TO CONSENT AGENDA

5. CITIZENS REPORT

6. GAS SYSTEM REPRESENTATIVE

OLLIE CLEMONS, MAYOR

Mr. Kimbrough stated there has not been a gas board meeting for 2 months. Rob Register, General Manager for Austell Gas gave Mr. Kimbrough an update. Everything is going good at the gas system & we are only a few days behind on MMBTU's from this time last year.

7. FINANCE DEPARTMENT

VALERIE ANDERSON, CHAIRPERSON

Denise Soesbee, Finance Director

- A. Financial Report
- B. Public Hearing 2020-21 Preliminary Budget-1st Reading

Mr. Kimbrough called for a public hearing. Mr. Kimbrough asked if anyone signed up with questions about the budget or if any council member had questions. Mrs. Young stated no one signed up & there were no questions from the council.

Mr. Kimbrough stated we need a motion to close the public hearing. Mr. Green made a motion to close the public hearing. Seconded by Mr. Myrick. Motion passed. (5-0)

8. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

MELANIE ELDER, CHAIRPERSON

Elizabeth Young, Director

- A. No Report

9. POLICE DEPARTMENT

RANDY GREEN, CHAIRPERSON

Bob Starrett, Police Chief

- A. Police Report
- B. Vehicle Purchase

Mr. Green asked Chief Starrett to give the details regarding the vehicle purchase. Chief Starrett stated the Police Department is requesting council to approve the purchase of three 2020 Ford Explorers. The vehicles will be purchased with 2011 SPLOST funds & will come from Casey Jackson Ford. Two bids were received, due to only two dealers that we found having these vehicles in stock. These vehicles are in high demand, & it will be some time before 2021 vehicles are available. Brannen Ford does not include the accessories we need; therefore, it puts their bid at a higher cost than Casey Jackson Ford. Mr. Green stated the vehicles will have a good extended warranty on them also.

Mr. Green moved to follow the recommendation of Mayor Clemons to purchase 3 new vehicles. Seconded by Mr. Lamar. Motion passed. (5-0)

10. FIRE DEPARTMENT

MARLIN LAMAR, CHAIRPERSON

Brandon Merritt, Fire Chief

A. Fire Report

B. Purchase of Bunker Gear

The City of Austell Fire Department has received quotes for purchasing new Bunker Gear for the Fire Department. This gear is used by the fire department for protection when fighting fires and protection during extrication and performing other duties while working.

Bunker Gear:

#1: NAFECO:(total includes 28 hoods) \$2,206.00 per set @ 28 set: \$63,944.00

2: Ga. Fire & Rescue Supply: \$2,688.48 per set @ 28 sets: \$75,277.44

3: Bennett Fire Products: \$2,325.00 per set @ 28 sets: \$65,100.00

Quotes and specifications for gear are attached.

Bunker gear is required to be replaced after ten years by NFPA standards and most of ours sets are near the end of their wearable life by that time.

The Fire Department recommends approval of the proposed estimate by NAFECO for bunker gear. The NAFECO quote is not only the lowest cost but also is the brand that we currently have and has proven to be very durable gear with low maintenance costs and the total also includes 28 protective hoods that are part of our gear (the other two quotes do not include hoods).

The total for the proposed gear: \$63,944.00

Funding would be from the \$65,000.00 that the City received from selling the reserve fire engine in 08/2018.

Mr. Lamar moved to follow the recommendation of Mayor Clemons to approve the purchase of the bunker gear. Seconded by Mrs. Anderson. Motion passed. (5-0)

11. PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

SANDRA LEVERETTE, CHAIRPERSON

Bo Garrison, Director

A. No Report

12. PARKS DEPARTMENT

DEVON MYRICK, CHAIRPERSON

Jim Graham, Director

- A. No Report

13. COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

VALERIE ANDERSON, CHAIRPERSON

Jim Graham, Director

- A. Code Enforcement Report
- B. Cobb CDBG Cooperation Agreement for PY 2021-2023

It is the recommendation of the Community Affairs Department that Mayor & Council, as required every 3 years, approve Austell's intent to participate in the Cobb Urban County CDBG Program for program years January 1, 2021-December 31, 2023.

Mrs. Anderson moved to follow the recommendation of Mayor Clemons to approve the Cobb CDBG Agreement. Seconded by Mr. Green. Motion passed. (5-0)

14. ATTORNEY, DUPREE & KIMBROUGH

- A. Purchase of Property

Mr. Kimbrough stated this property is 3.207 acres off C.H. James Parkway & we had an executive session last week to discuss this matter, no motions were made & no votes were taken. This property is needed to access 1 of our pump stations. The purchase price is \$1, 000.00 for the entire tract of 3.207 acres, this price is less than what it would have cost us to get an easement across the property. There is a survey & environmental report being done that should be complete within 1-2 weeks. The city will be covering all costs related to the purchase of the property, such as the survey, environmental report, title policy & closing cost.

Mr. Kimbrough stated we need a motion to purchase the property. Mr. Green made a motion to purchase the property. Seconded by Mrs. Anderson. Motion passed. (5-0)

15. MAYOR'S REPORT

- A. Hazard Pay/Resolution

This is to adopt a resolution designating certain city employees as "at-risk" for the 2020 COVID-19 Pandemic, authorizing hazardous duty pay. Due to the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic, a resolution is needed to define and designate certain employees as "at-risk" & to provide general guidelines & procedures for notifications, staffing & pay in the event of a temporary closure or limitation of operational services due to a man-made or natural disaster, public health emergency, or any other emergency that has the potential for long-term reduction of city services. This policy also addresses hazard pay for at-risk essential employees.

Resolution of the City of Austell Designating at-risk Employees & Authorizing Hazard Pay

WHEREAS, the City of Austell, Georgia has experienced an event of critical significance as a result of the novel coronavirus known as COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, President Donald Trump declared a national emergency in response to the outbreak of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 14, 2020, Governor Brian Kemp declared that a public health emergency exists in the State of Georgia due to the spread of COVID-19 within Georgia; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a public emergency affecting and threatening the safety, health and well-being of the citizens of Austell; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Ollie B. Clemons, Jr. declared a State of Emergency on March 24, 2020 finding that there exist emergency circumstances located in the entire city limits of Austell requiring extraordinary and immediate corrective actions for the protection of the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Austell; and

WHEREAS, during this COVID-19 pandemic, certain city employees have an increased likelihood of injury, disease, or other negative consequences related to the performance of job duties. These employees include Fire Department, Police Department, Community Affairs Department and Public Works Department employees who have the potential to come into contact with the virus directly from the public and cannot put measures in place to mitigate this contact due to the nature of their job duties.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Fire Department, Police Department, Community Affairs Department and Public Works Department employees who, in the judgement of their respective department heads, have the potential to come into contact with the public are hereby designated as "AT-RISK" employees and will receive hazardous duty pay of \$2.50 per each hour worked in addition to any other pay due to the employee. Such hazard pay will be retroactive to March 24, 2020 and continue while the State of Emergency declared by the Mayor is in effect.

The hazard pay covered by this resolution will be funded from Contingency until funds are depleted and if necessary, by Reserves upon depletion of Contingency.

Mayor Clemons asked if there are any questions. Mr. Myrick stated it says, "in the judgement of their respective department heads", is that every single person in the listed departments above? Mayor Clemons stated not everyone in these departments are considered at risk. The respective department heads have the knowledge of the job duties they perform & they know if the employees fall into this category. Mr. Myrick asked what the criteria is. Mayor Clemons stated if the employee is coming in contact with the general public by the nature of their job, they fit the criteria.

Mrs. Anderson moved to follow the recommendation of Mayor Clemons to adopt the resolution. Seconded by Mr. Lamar. Motion passed. (5-0)

B. Executive Session

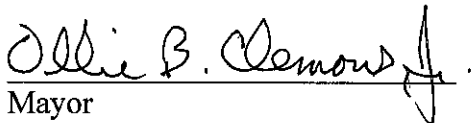
Mayor Clemons stated they need to go into executive session to discuss a legal matter.

Mrs. Anderson moved to follow the recommendation of Mayor Clemons to go into executive session. Seconded by Mr. Green. Motion passed. (5-0)

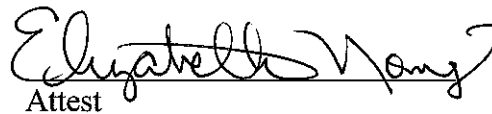
There were no motions made & no votes taken.

16. ADJOURN

Mr. Myrick moved to follow the recommendation of Mayor Clemons to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Green. Motion passed. (5-0)



Mayor



Attest

JUNE 19, 2020

Date