MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL

November 5, 2018

Ronnie Thompson, Mayor  Sally W. Sandy, City Manager
Wendy Cato  Louis E. Vinay, Jr., City Attorney
Forrest A. Fleming  Council
Christopher Hawkins
Sidney Simmons  Becky Brinkley, Interpreter

I. Call to Order – The Meeting was called to order in the Council Chambers at City Hall at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Thompson.

II. Public Comment – The Mayor stated the guidelines for public comment and said speakers were to be called in order of sign-up.

No speakers were signed up or appeared.

III. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag – Mayor Pro-tem Fleming led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

IV. Invocation – The invocation was given by the Rev. Larry Britt, Chaplain – Morganton Department of Public Safety.

V. Introduction of Council – The Mayor introduced the Council and staff.

VI. Service Pin – The Personnel Committee and City staff have decided to recognize long-term employees for years of service at a Council meeting. Alan Clark is a Lineman 3 in the Electric Department with 20 years’ service. Councilman Simmons presented Clark with his service pin.

VII. Public Advocacy Issues and Strategies

a. The Mayor read a proclamation for Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week. The proclamation was accepted by: Alison Azbell, Executive Director of The Meeting Place Mission. Azbell stated that Burke Cares is comprised of organizations in Burke County that help those who are underserved. She announced an upcoming event called the Burke I-Care Tour which will take participants on a tour of some of the facilities that help those in our community who are hungry and homeless. She invited the Council to join the tour.
b. The Mayor made the following announcements: He stated that Election Day is tomorrow, Tuesday, November 6. He stated that City Hall will be closed on November 12 for Veterans Day and November 22-23 for the Thanksgiving Day holiday.

The Mayor invited Public Works Director Scott Lookadoo to speak. Lookadoo announced the Thanksgiving trash pick-up schedule saying it will be normal on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday and Thursday’s pick-up will be a day early on Wednesday. Lookadoo then gave an overview of the various solid waste collection services provided by the City, answered some “frequently asked questions”, and thanked the staff for help getting information posted on the website where citizens could easily find the information.

The Mayor announced a joint meeting of the City Council and Cable Commission to be held on Tuesday, December 11, 5:30 p.m. in the City Council Chamber to receive information about the digital cable TV transition.

The Mayor asked CoMMA Director Jim Smith to talk about a recent award received by the auditorium. Smith stated this award was received from South Arts, which is a network of theaters located in the Southeast, for Most Progressive Theater. The awards committee determines recipients for artistic achievement, community programming, procession of local students on the stage, grant opportunities, and involvement of schools and arts programs. There are also nominations from touring groups, producers and artists. CoMMA received the Outstanding Theater Award and stood out from other theaters through several components. Those components included: providing programming and seeking grants for school-day shows; creating local programming – Gossler-Williams Honors Chorus; and innovative marketing plans and strategies to increase millennial patronage. Local touring groups and producers cited CoMMA as a clean, well-organized performance venue that stood out among other road-house style theaters.

The Mayor announced the following upcoming events for CoMMA: Yesterday – A Tribute to the Beatles on November 17 and “A Very Electric Christmas” Lightwire Theater on November 29. He then announced the following upcoming events in the Downtown area: a Farmers Market on Saturday, November 17, 10:00 a.m. on North Green Street; the Memorial Tree Lighting and Winter Carnival also on November 17 beginning at 5:00 p.m.; Santa Claus will be downtown on Friday and Saturday evenings beginning November 23 from 4-7 p.m.; and carriage rides in downtown on Friday and Saturday evenings, 5:30-9 p.m.

The City Manager added that it is the end of the Farmers Market season and there are grants used for the market. While reading year-end reports for those grants and looking at sales for this season, which began in April, staff found that total sales exceeded $225,000. The City Manager stated it has taken years to grow the market to this point and congratulated all involved.
VIII. North Carolina Municipal Power Agency Number 1 Update – The City Manager stated there are two seats from NCMPA1 to the ElectriCities’ Board of Directors. The nominations are Steven Peeler from Lincolnton in the majority vote seat and Randy McCaslin from High Point in the weighted vote seat. Election will be held on November 13, 2018.

IX. Consent Agenda – The City Manager presented the Consent Agenda and asked if any items should be removed from the Consent Agenda. No request was made.

Upon motion by Councilwoman Cato, seconded by Councilman Simmons, and unanimously carried, the Consent Agenda was approved and each individual item adopted as stated, these being as follows:

A. Approved minutes for a Regular Meeting and a Special Meeting both held on October 1, 2018.

B. Amended Section 4-2006(a)(1) of the Code of Ordinances to provide that ordinarily the frequency of residential back yard solid waste collection is once per week. (Ord. #18-60)

C. Amended Section 6-2035(c) of the Code of Ordinances concerning permitting and fees for regular or recurring parades or public assemblies at the same location. (Ord. #18-61)

D. Approved a budget amendment (Ord. #18-62) in the amount of $2,251 for the Firemen’s Supplemental Retirement Fund.

E. Approved issuance of Taxicab Franchises to Michael W. Gilbert (Ace Cab), Larry Segars (City Cab) and Claudia Morales (Becerra Translation & Associates).

F. Approved a contract with Nexsen Pruet, PLLC, for professional lobbying services with the State of North Carolina, for the period November 1, 2018 through December 31, 2020, in the amount of $50,000 for the year through 2019 and $45,000 for the year 2020.

G. Approved the installment purchase of a Sewer Vac-Pump Combination Truck from Southern Vac for the amount of $398,000.

Approved Resolution #18-31 for financing to BB&T for a Sewer Vac Truck in the amount of $398,000 for a five year term at a rate of 3.29%.

H. Approved the award of contracts to Ilderton Dodge and the NC Sheriff's Association co-op for the purchase of eight (8) Dodge Chargers and one (1) Ford Explorer totaling $400,173.
Approved Resolution #18-31 for financing to BB&T for Public Safety vehicles in the amount of $400,173 for a three year term at a rate of $3.07%.

I. Awarded a contract to Municipal Emergency Services (MES) for Scott Air Packs and appurtenances at a cost of $383,855.15.

X. Items Removed from Consent Agenda – There were no items removed from the Consent Agenda.

XI. New Business

A. Public Hearings

1. Public Hearing and Consideration of Closing an Alley Extending Northward from Concord Street between South Sterling and South Green Streets – This item is postponed due to insufficient notification to the public. The hearing is continued and item will be placed on the December 3 agenda.

B. Other Business

1. Consideration of Approval of Contract for Design of Signalization of the Intersection of South Sterling Street and a New Connector Road to West Parker Road

Phillip Lookadoo, Director of Development and Design stated the City has received a grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission, and by agreement with the property owners (the Stroup family), the City has been planning the construction of a connector road from South Sterling Street opposite Hospital Drive (SR 1874) in a westerly direction to West Parker Road, all in order to make the property developable, specifically for a select service hotel. One of the first steps in this project will be the planning and design of a revised intersection on the West side of South Sterling Street opposite the hospital parkway, including new traffic signalization.

Federal and State regulations governing the use of federal money such as the City’s grant for this project require certain protracted reviews and contracting demands, which have necessitated an extensive design and planning process for the intersection and signalization work.

The Department of Development and Design issued requests for qualifications to engineers for the design of this project. Three responses were received. After careful consideration, the Department has determined that John Davenport Engineering, Inc., d/b/a Davenport, is the preferred provider for the professional service of designing the signalization for this project. Davenport proposes to do the work for $15,000, and is also prepared, if the City exercises its right, to do certain additional alternate work for $6,000.

City staff recommends that the City contract with Davenport for the provision of the design services in the amount of $15,000.
The Mayor asked when Davenport would begin the design. Lookadoo stated the North Carolina Department of Transportation needs to agree to the contract prior to work beginning.

Upon motion by Councilman Hawkins, seconded by Councilman Simmons, and carried unanimously, the Council approved entering into a Construction Agreement Contract with John Davenport Engineering, Inc. d/b/a Davenport, for $15,000, for design of the signalization at the intersection of South Sterling Street with the new connector road to West Parker Road.

2. Consideration of a Request for a Mainstreet Small Business Loan to Reece Winery, LLC

The City Manager stated that Reece Winery made the decision to re-locate downtown to 116 North Sterling Street and has requested a small business loan in the amount of $9,000. The loan will be used to extend electrical to a new bar, for a wine cooler, stainless steel 3 compartment sink, hand and prep sink, and remodel of the first floor space to a tasting room and retail space. Additionally, the property owner is installing 2 new restrooms.

Reece Winery sells wine that is made on the premises for sale to age appropriate general public. Their wines are made primarily with California grapes including Cabs, Merlot, Chardonnay and Moscato. They also sell wine accessories.

Mitchell David Reece and his wife Teresa Reece are giving a personal guarantee of the loan. This will deplete the revolving loan fund at this time. Mainstreet will follow the current loan program guidelines set up in the original Main Street Solutions Fund Grant awarded in 2010 which provided the first round of monies.

Councilman Fleming stated the City might need to begin looking at the number of breweries and wineries in the city limits, stating he feels the market may become too saturated.

Mayor Thompson asked if this would deplete the revolving loan fund. The City Manager stated that if the loan repayments are made on time, after five years one-half of the loan will become a grant. The remaining funds go back into the revolving account to be used again for future loans. This loan does deplete current funds on hand.

Upon motion by Councilman Simmons, seconded by Councilwoman Cato, and carried unanimously, the Council approved a Mainstreet Small Business Loan to Reece Winery, LLC in the amount of $9,000.

3. Consideration of a Resolution Authorizing the City to Submit an Application to the Greater Hickory MPO / College Street Complete Streets Project
The City Manager stated that Council recently adopted two new master plans: The Downtown Master Plan and the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. These plans overlap where facilities accommodating various modes of transportation were identified in both plans for implementation. The primary overlapping project identified is the College Street right sizing/Complete Streets project. This project, described in the attached documentation from both plans, connects the 800 acre Broughton District Reuse site owned by the state of North Carolina, Western Piedmont Community College and Burke County with Downtown and the existing Catawba River Greenway.

Improvements to College Street will allow it to be the designated connector for both pedestrians and bicyclists. In order to make the described improvements, the City is seeking available grant funding. A resolution approved by City Council is required to begin the application process for $3,312,000 consisting of $2,649,600 of grant funds and $662,400 (20%) City of Morganton funds which have been included in the Capital Improvements Plan for FY2019-2020.

The Mayor asked if the pictures shown would be the final design. The City Manager stated the pictures were renderings or samples of what the project could look like and traffic engineering would need to be done prior to a final design.

Upon motion by Councilwoman Cato, seconded by Councilman Fleming, and carried unanimously, the Council adopted Resolution #18-32 authorizing city staff to submit an application on behalf of the City of Morganton for STBG-DA grant funds through the LAPP program in the amount of $2,649,000, and committing $662,400 of City funds as a 20% match, for a total of $3,312,000 to construct a facility accommodating multi-modal traffic along College Street from Fleming Drive to Green Street.

a. 30-Day Notice / Boards and Commissions – The Mayor announced the following notice of ending terms for Boards and Commissions: Burke Development, Inc. (BDI) and the Community House Board. These appointments will be made at the December 3, 2018 Council meeting.

4. Appointments to Boards and Commissions
   a. Historic Preservation - The terms for appointees Dottie Ervin and Joan Malloch have expired. These members have been excellent participants on the Historic Preservation Commission and have expressed interest in continuing to serve as members of the Commission. Appointments are for 3-year terms and would expire in November 2021.

   Upon motion by Councilman Fleming, seconded by Councilman Simmons, and carried unanimously, the Council reappointed to the Historic Preservation Commission: Dottie Ervin and Joan Malloch for terms to expire in November 2021.

   b. Human Relations Commission - The Human Relations Commission (HRC) is a committee established by the Mayor and City Council to address matters involving race, discrimination, human relations and to encourage and promote tolerance and goodwill...
to all people. By putting together this committee the Mayor and City Council get a closer look at ways of improving our city for all.

Commission bylaws state when a member has two consecutive unexcused absences, a written notice shall be sent to the member indicating that another unexcused absence could result in the appointment being rescinded. This scenario has occurred with a current member who is unable to attend regularly. Gerald McBrayer has been thanked for his service to this commission.

This Commission is appointed by the Mayor who rescinded the appointment. Juan H. Monvoy has expressed interest in serving on this Commission. The Mayor appointed Juan H. Monvoy for a term to expire on May 3, 2020.

XII. Other Items from City Manager and City Council Not on Agenda – There were no other items.

XIII. Reports – Reports were distributed to Council.

XIV. Adjournment – The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 6:39 p.m.

Preparation of Minutes. These minutes were prepared by Mikela D. Russell, Assistant City Clerk. Copies of all resolutions, ordinances and orders referenced in these minutes are intended to be incorporated into these minutes as if fully set forth herein. Prior to including them into the official minute book, the minutes have been read and approved by the City Manager and the City Attorney, then distributed to each member of the City Council for further review and final approval, at a subsequent Council Meeting.

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Mayor                                      Assistant City Clerk