

CITY OF LIBERTY WORK SESSION MEETING
May 7, 2007 - 6:00 P.M.
ROSEWOOD CENTER
MINUTES

This meeting was called to order by Mayor Deese. Present were Council Members: Walt McJunkin, Dwight Yates, Lewis Wilson Michael Sheriff, Brian Petersen and Mayor Deese.

Absent: CM Rick Clark

Others Present: Chief Miller, Emily DeRoberts

Mayor Deese welcomed everyone and the meeting started at precisely 6:00 p.m.

DISCUSSION: DUKE POWER SUB STATION – EMILY DEROBERTS

Before Emily DeRoberts from Duke Power began, Mayor Deese stated he would like to announce that Duke Power would be presenting a Duke Energy Special Event during this year's municipal association's annual meeting. You could catch a shuttle bus at the Hyatt and go to a Greenville Drive Baseball game, where hot dogs and hamburgers would be served. They have graciously provided this entertainment for your family as well, so I need to get a head count on how many are coming, so that Emily can order the tickets. We will need to know by the first week in June. Since the meeting is in Greenville this year, the City would not be paying for rooms. Mayor Deese turned the meeting over to Mrs. DeRoberts. Emily explained that this area has grown so much they needed more capacity. We bought the property from Liberty Denim. She produced a picture of the site. She explained that some of the equipment would be removed from this site. Emily stated new lines would be run. CM Yates will be meeting with an engineer at the site to explain more about the survey.

DISCUSSION: CELL TOWER

Mayor Deese stated Tony Stewart had sent him a copy of the lease regarding the cell tower which stated they wanted \$600 per month for 5 years with 5 renewals, on a 30 year lease with a 10% increase each 5 years thereafter. Mayor Deese counter-offered stating \$800 per month with a 3% increase the first 5 years with a 10% increase thereafter every 5 years. Alltel is the group wanting to put up the cell tower. Mayor Deese stated where the property where the tower will be located is zoned Low Density Residential. Our options are, since the property is all ball fields and public works station, is to go to the Variance Committee and ask for a variance, or to go the Planning Commission and ask that the property be re-zoned light industrial. There was some discussion regarding re-zoning the property might invite tattoo parlors to build there, but, to do so, they would have to buy the land from the City. Also, the discussion centered on the Variance Committee and the Zoning Commission. Mayor Deese stated we would have to post a 15 day notice to have the public hearing on this matter. Council decided to absorb the information and render a decision at a later time.

DISCUSSION: DOWNTOWN PARKING ORDINANCE

Mayor Deese stated that downtown parking had been brought to his attention. He stated a suggestion again had been made to turn Commerce St. into a one-way street. One main problem is the business owners parking on the street all day. We can amend our parking ordinance to make sure it addresses and takes care of the problem. One suggestion is to allow Chief Miller to tow the vehicles of repeat offender's vehicles. Mayor Deese stated he would sit down with Chief Miller and review the parking ordinance and put something together for council to review. CM

Wilson stated he had received some complaints from some ladies who were trying to pull out onto 178 by Pancho's Restaurant and due to the line of cars parked in front of the restaurant; they practically had to pull onto 178 before they could see if it was clear to pull out. Mayor Deese stated our No Parking signs were not in yet, but we would be putting those in place as soon as they come in.

DISCUSSION: MILLAGE CAP CALCULATION

Mayor Deese stated the State has instituted a cap on municipalities raising their millage rate. He explained that the City was capped at 4.3%. If he had a major incident in the community that required serious millage increases for a year or two, we could not longer do that. We have to be realistic in how we run the City. Mayor Deese stated he was not advocating an increase in millage rates this year, but it would have to be something we would have to seriously think about doing this year or next year. Consensus from some council members was that the State was forcing municipalities to raise their millage rate every year. CM McJunkin suggested we might take a little something from each department and put it toward an emergency fund that we could carry over from year to year. Mayor Deese stated everyone should have a copy of what he perceives to be a balanced budget. He stated he and councilman McJunkin would be going over the budget. Also, Mayor Deese reported there will be 82 homes build in Ashton Ridge. We called Ashton Ridge and asked them realistically how many homes were being built next year and they stated around 60. We went with 40 which will bring around 40 or 50 thousand dollars in revenue to the city. Mayor Deese requested each councilman look over the budget this week and have the 1st reading Monday night.

DISCUSSION: LAWN MOWER QUOTES

CM Sheriff reported that they had been working getting these quotes for this lawn mower for a while. He discussed two quotes with council out of the three submitted. He stated the recreation director needed a 60 inch mower due to additional fields and the irrigation of the fields. CM Sheriff explained the rec department had around \$3200 from the county to buy a lawn mower and he was requesting the city pay the remaining amount of around \$4000. There was some discussion on the matter and council decided to pay the remaining amount for the lawn mower.

DISCUSSION: TRASH/LIMB PICK-UP

CM Sheriff stated there had been some confusion in the policy on picking up limbs/brush pick-up and he had received some comments regarding this matter. He stated he understood the chipper was down, but we all need to be on the same page. Mayor Deese stated as he understood the policy to be was if you hired a contractor/yard man to trim your trees or clip you shrubs, it is their responsibility to haul off the debris. Mayor Deese announced that Barry Chappell, as of July 1st will be a full time Code Enforcement Officer and an assistant to the Zoning Administrator. He will be learning under Richard Davidson. There was some discussion on if a zoning officer should carry a weapon onto construction sites.

DISCUSSION: PERSONNEL ISSUE

Several personnel issues was discussed.

DISCUSSION: ROSEWOOD COMMUNITY CENTER DESIGN COMMITTEE UPDATE

CM Sheriff reported he should have pricing to report to council next month.

DISUSSION: PEDESTRIAN PARK

CM Sheriff stated he should have something to report to council next month. Freedom Park was discussed.

DISCUSSION: CDBG GRANT

Mayor Deese informed council we will have a 2nd meeting with the Department of Commerce on Monday, May 14th, at 2:00 p.m. at the Rosewood Center.

Mayor Deese asked each councilman if he had anything he wanted to comment on.

CM Wilson stated he had noticed after ball games especially, kids were walking on the railroad tracks. Mayor Deese stated that should be announced at the games that children are no allowed to walk on the railroad tracks. There was some discussion about the city putting up a fence.

CM Peterson wanted someone to come fix the siding at the gym. Mayor Deese stated that was being done now. Also, CM Petersen questioned where we were on the bids for the grass cutting and edging around town. Mayor Deese stated he was putting the specs together now to put out for bid. CM Petersen stated all asphalt paving and patchwork done in the city should be put out for bid.

CM McJunkin stated he had some comments regarding the warning siren and that council might consider putting up another siren in another location to help warn citizens.

Adjourn

- CM Yates made motion to adjourn.
- CM Sheriff seconded the motion.
- All voted in favor

V. Sue Woods, Clerk

Verification/Mayor

Approval Date