

Sandersville City Council
Working Session Minutes
September 16, 2019 – 4:00 P.M.

Council Members and City Employees present:

Mayor Jimmy Andrews	Dave Larson, Building Official
Mayor Pro Tem Jeffery Smith	Victor Cuyler, Chief SPD
Council Member Jason Davis	Russell Riner, Chief SFD
Council Member Danny Brown	Wayne Poole, Electric Department Director
Council Member Henry Watts	Robert Eubanks, Public Works Director
Council Member Mayme Dennis	Brianna Wiley, Finance Director
Kennan Howard, City Attorney	Kandice Hartley, City Clerk
	Gloria Evans, Assistant City Clerk

Mayor Andrews called the working session to order at 4:00 p.m.

Recognitions

Fire Chief Russell Riner introduced Volunteer Firefighter Josh Nolan, stating he had completed all training to earn his pin for volunteer firefighter.

Katie Moncus reported and updated everyone on the upcoming Kaolin Festival and passed out a flyer with the scheduled events for October 11-12.

Connie Burley from Archway stated that she had a new student who was working on her engineering degree and she chose Sandersville to do a project on an asset management plan for the city.

Department Reports:

Chief Victor Cuyler stated that he completed the inspections for animal control and investigations patrol vehicles.

Fire Chief Riner stated he was working on budget and job descriptions for the pay study. Chief Riner stated that the fire department would be having rescue specialist training this coming weekend.

Public Works Director Eubanks stated that the USDA projects had begun. They have started at the treatment plant. He also stated that he has a recommendation on the agenda to award a bid for milling and resurfacing for Lanier, Evans and Grand Street in the amount of \$95,000. Council then had discussion on the difference in the bid amounts. Council Member Watts stated that the low bid is not always the best. Director Eubanks stated that they met the specs and they have done work for the city before.

Building Official Larson stated that the house on North Harris Street is in the process of being sold but he is not sure that everything would be final in time for the Kaolin Festival.

City Clerk Kandice Hartley introduced new Assistant City Clerk Gloria Evans.

Electric Director Poole stated that the small cell ordinance on the agenda was standard and that this would be a bigger deal in bigger cities but it is important that we have an ordinance in place. Director Poole also updated the council on DOT traffic light updates that would be taking place on East McCarty Street.

Administrator McCorkle stated she has an invoice from AT&T for relocation of the underground service for East Haynes Street that council needed to vote on in the regular meeting. Administrator McCorkle also stated the council would need to approve and set the date of November 4th for the annual budget meeting at 4:00 to be held at the firehouse in lieu of the regular session.

Electric Director Poole gave an update and stated that some minor changes had been made to the small cell ordinances that are on the agenda for the second reading. Director Poole stated that everything must comply with the NES guidelines. Administrator McCorkle stated that they had talked with Walter West and Peter Floyd to discuss some changes and she passed out copies of the changes to all the council members. Attorney Howard then reviewed the changes that were made from the 1st reading of the Ordinance.

Council Reports

Mayor Andrews stated that a very important election would be coming up for Sherriff and for the SPLOST and encouraged everyone to go out and vote. Early voting begins on October 14th.

Recognitions:

Mayor Andrews stated Brianna Nelson was here to present a proposal to the Council concerning the Maple Street Park. Ms. Nelson passed out a proposal of what she was requesting have done to the park and how she wanted it renamed. Ms. Nelson introduced Christine Harris, retired educator and resident of the Tybee community where the park is located. Ms. Nelson went on to read the history of the Maple Street Park and how it got started explaining that Ms. Harris was the one who helped get the Maple Street Park established. Mrs. Nelson passed out pictures of the park and suggested a plan to revitalize the park stating that the equipment was outdated and not kid friendly. In her plan she also suggested a walking trail to be put in with plaques throughout of key African American leaders from the neighborhood. Mrs. Nelson recommended that the park be named Christine E. Harris Community Park. Council Member Dennis said that this was a great park and was created for the kids of the Tybee Community but in recent years it has been taken over by older kids and bad activity. Administrator McCorkle stated that they were working on the budget for 2020 but not sure how this type of project would be funded. Most of the money would need to come from private sponsorships and donations and then the city would look to see what they could help with. Mayor Pro Tem Smith stated that the downtown Thiele Park was funded by private money and sponsorships, the old city cemetery was funded by a match from the old city cemetery committee and the City. Council Member Dennis said the city could help with the lighting in the park and adding security cameras and, have the police department patrol the area more. Council Member Dennis also stated that they may want to look at running an ad in the paper to make sure that names are not left out when recognizing the key leaders of that community. Mayor Andrews stated that he wants to appoint a committee to work with the revitalization of the Maple Street Park and wants Council Member Dennis to chair it, and Public Works Director Robert Eubanks and Administrator McCorkle to be on the committee as City representatives. Mrs. Christine Harris asked if the City would cut down the bushes and trees between her house and the park stating that she could not see the park anymore but when she could she was able to look after it and make sure it was safe. Council Member Dennis asked Public Works Director Eubanks to look at the property and see if he could get the trees taken down.