

## **Sandersville City Council**

### **Working Session Minutes**

**March 16, 2020 – 4:00 P.M.**

Council Members and City Employees present:

Mayor Jimmy Andrews	Wayne Poole, Electric Department Director
Mayor Pro Tem Jeffery Smith	Andrew Simpson, Economic Development
Council Member Mayme Dennis	Victor Cuyler, Chief SPD
Council Member Jason Davis	Robert Eubanks, Public Works Director
Council Member Henry Watts	Russell Riner, Fire Chief
Kennan Howard, City Attorney	Kandice Hartley, City Clerk
Judy McCorkle, City Administrator	Brianna Wiley, Finance Director

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

#### Department Reports

Police Chief Cuyler stated he is working on an internship program with the local colleges. Chief Cuyler stated that he would have a policy for the council to review and adopt when it is completed. Mayor Andrews stated that the Police Department and Sheriff's Department have been working a lot of cases together, and it would be beneficial to move forward with the department being deputized. Mayor Pro Tem Smith stated that protocol needs to be put in place so that rules and guidelines are clear when an officer is to respond. Council Member Dennis expressed her concerns stating that the chain of command and policies need to be very clear before moving forward. Administrator McCorkle stated that she would meet with Chief Cuyler and they work on getting a protocol recommendation. Mayor Pro Tem Smith stated that he witnessed Officer Keyerika Yorker apprehending a suspect at the Jet 70 and complemented her tactics on a job well done.

Administrator McCorkle passed out a proposal for the council to review on actions the City will be taking to adhere to the guideline set by the President and the Governor as related to COVID-19. Administrator McCorkle reviewed the COVID-19 action plan: travel to training and conferences must be cancelled, closing the lobby of City Hall to the public during the busiest days, only accepting payment at the drive thru using both lanes, telephone, online, mail, and the night box, limit the number of Council Meetings, and other public meetings where a crowd of 10 or more would be present. Administrator McCorkle stated the five dollar convenience fee to pay over the phone needs to be temporarily waived. Council Member Dennis questioned if any other late fees would be waived. Administrator McCorkle said we will take discuss waiving the late fees on a case by case basis. Administrator McCorkle stated that the schools have closed until April 13<sup>th</sup> and she is requesting that on an as needed basis employees be allowed to be off without charging sick and vacation time.

Fire Chief Riner gave the latest update and report on COVID-19, stating that the Governor has declared this as a State of Emergency. Fire Chief Riner stated he would be updating everyone as he had new information. Chief Riner also stated that Ricky Beal longtime firefighter with the City of Sandersville recently passed away and would be greatly missed by the Fire Department.

Electric Director Poole stated that his crew got the second drive-thru lane working for City Hall to help relieve the traffic that would be coming through to make payments on the days the lobby is closed. Director Poole also stated that ECG safety trainings have been cancelled due to COVID-19.

Public Works Director Eubanks gave an update on the USDA projects. The Treatment Plant project would be delayed due to the project manager being from Canada and cannot leave because of flight cancellations due to the COVID-19. Director Eubanks also stated that he did a traffic study on Elder Street and read the statistics to the Council stating that the traffic study count did not warrant speed bumps. Chief Cuyler stated that he placed a police car on Floyd Street to record the traffic and speed on Floyd Street and by the traffic count and speed this street would not warrant speed bumps either. Council then had discussions on creating a criteria on getting speed bumps put on streets throughout the City.

Mayor Andrews asked for an update on the Christine E. Harris park playground equipment. Director Eubanks stated that the bids came in high so they were looking for alternative play equipment for a lower price. Mayor Andrews also asked Public Works Director to make sure campaign signs are out of the right of way, the crews need to take them back to the shop and whomever is campaigning can pick the signs up there. Mayor Andrews also asked Public Works Director to look at getting community service workers to clean up the sides of the road on Sunhill Road.

Community Development Director Larson stated there is a public hearing on the regular Agenda to allow vinyl siding to a mobile home at 720 Royal Lane. Council Member Davis questioned why the vinyl siding requirement was not allowed to be a part of the mobile Home Ordinance. Director

Larson stated that under the mobile home ordinance it is required to have a variance for this request. Director Larson stated that he does encourage applicants to include all special exception and variance under one request to keep from having to have separate public hearings. Director Larson asked the council to suspend upcoming public hearings due to COVID-19.

Finance Director Wiley stated that court has been suspended until April 20, 2020 due to COVID-19. Director Wiley stated there is a budget amendment on the regular agenda to true up 2019 expenditures and expenses.

Economic Development Director Simpson stated that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday events for April would be cancelled due to COVID-19. Director Simpson stated that the DDA would like the council to appoint Ann Knox Hodges, and David Brooker to the DDA board.

Other Business: None

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Council Member Brown made a motion to enter into an Executive Session to discuss personnel and property matters. Council Member Dennis seconded and the motion passed unanimously.