MINUTES
WESTMINSTER CITY COUNCIL
Regular Scheduled Meeting
Tuesday, August 10, 2021

The City Council of the City of Westminster met in a regular scheduled meeting at the Westminster Fire Department on Tuesday, August 10, 2021 at 6:00 pm with Mayor Brian Ramey presiding. Those in attendance were:

Brian Ramey	Danny Duncan	Reid Adams	Rusty Cater
Jimmy Powell	Yousef Mefleh	Brad Chastain	

Utility Director, Leigh Baker
Members of the public and press
(City Administrator Kevin Bronson was absent due to vacation)

Notice of the meeting and the agenda was posted on westminstersc.org twenty-four hours prior to the meeting and all persons, organizations and local media requesting notification and the agenda were notified by email.

Call to Order

Mayor Brian Ramey called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Chad Carrol led the Council in the invocation and Mr. Duncan led everyone in the pledge.

Certification of Quorum

The City Clerk certified a quorum.

Upon a motion by Mr. Duncan and seconded by Mr. Cater, the motion ***to move the presentations before public comments*** passed unanimously.

Recognition of Baseball Teams

Mayor Ramey read the accomplishments of each of the baseball teams that the City Council was recognizing at the meeting. Several members of Council followed with statements of their own thanking the players, coaches and parents for all their hard work and dedication.

Mayor Ramey then called each team up and presented each player and coach with a certificate. Mayor Ramey also read a proclamation from the City in honor of the 2021 West Oak Varsity Baseball Team 3A Upper State Champions.

The team that were recognized were, West Oak Varsity Baseball Team, the 14 & Under Oconee County All-Stars District II Champions, and the Westminster 12 & Under District I Runner-Ups Dixie Youth "Ozone" Division

Comments from Mayor and Council

1. Mayor Ramey encourage the public to call and report any power outages that they may experience. Recently, staff has not known about some outages until several hours has passed.

Presentation from the Westminster Rotary Club

Mr. Jack Aden and Mr. A.T. Caywood, representatives of the Westminster Rotary Club, presented Mayor Ramey and the City of Westminster with a donation of $5,000 for improvements at Retreat Street Park. Mr. Aden stated that the Rotary Club would like to place a plaque in the park showing their support of the project.

Old Business

1. Second Reading of an Ordinance #2021-08-10-01 for Capital Lease Purchase of Certain Equipment Not to Exceed an Amount.

   Leigh Baker clarified to Council that the item listed on the Ordinance as a "brush hog" is actually a Skidsteer with grinder head and grapple attachment.

   Upon a motion by Mr. Adams and seconded by Mr. Duncan, the motion ***to conduct the second reading of Ordinance #2021-08-10-01; Authorizing an Equipment Lease Purchase Agreement in the amount not to exceed $525,000*** passed unanimously.

Member	Motion	Vote
Ramey		Yes
Cater		Yes
Adams	Motion	Yes
Chastain		Yes
Duncan	Second	Yes
Mefleh		Yes
Powell		Yes

2. Second Reading of an Ordinance #2021-08-10-02; Assigning (Thrift Property Highway Commercial) Tax Map Number #530-06-02-014.

   Upon a motion by Mr. Adams and seconded by Mr. Duncan, the motion ***to conduct the second reading of Ordinance #2021-08-10-02; Rezone tax map #530-06-02-014 from a no classification to Highway Commercial*** passed unanimously.

Member	Motion	Vote
Ramey		Yes

Cater		Yes
Adams	Motion	Yes
Chastain		Yes
Duncan	Second	Yes
Mefleh		Yes
Powell		Yes

3. Draft Electric Cost Schedule

   Mr. Baker presented Council with a draft copy of a proposed cost schedule in order to start recouping some of the cost of electrical materials. Council asked Mr. Baker to provide comps from our surrounding electric providers before asked to make a decision.

New Business

4. Consideration to Allow the Use of the Mobile Stage Outside the City Limits; Hike for Hope

   The School District of Oconee County will be hosting an event for Mental Health Awareness Day with an event called Hike for Hope. The event is scheduled for the weekend of September 24, 2021 has requested use of the stage at Blue Ridge Co-op and a waiver of all fees.

   This event will focus on suicide prevention and awareness.

   Mr. Adams stated that he is not in favor of waiving fees but would be willing to waive the deposit and he will donate the rental fee himself.

   Upon a motion by Mr. Duncan and seconded by Mr. Mefleh, the motion ***to approve the request*** passed unanimously.

Member	**Motion**	**Vote**
Ramey		Yes
Cater		Yes
Adams		Yes
Chastain		Yes
Duncan	Motion	Yes
Mefleh	Second	Yes
Powell		Yes

5. Consideration of Amendment to the Mobile Stage Agreement

   Staff received a request from the Westminster Music Centre to be added to the priorities section of the agreement which exempts rental fees to those using the stage. Currently, the list includes the City of Westminster, Apple Festival and the Chamber of Commerce.

The Music Centre did contribute $443.34 (1/3 of cost) to help with repairs to the stage but did not help with the purchase of the stage. The stage was purchased by the City, Apple Festival and the Chamber.

Upon a motion by Mayor Ramey and seconded by Mr. Powell, the motion ***to amend the Mobile Stage Rental Agreement to include the Westminster Music Centre to Section 1 a. Priority in reserving the Mobile Stage*** pass with a 5 to 2 vote with Mr. Adams and Mr. Duncan voting no.

Member	Motion	Vote
Ramey	Motion	Yes
Cater		Yes
Adams		No
Chastain		Yes
Duncan		No
Mefleh		Yes
Powell	Second	Yes

6. Consider Bids for Police Department Roof Replacement

Mr. Baker stated that the roof at the Police Department has been leaking and currently budgeted is $20,000 in order to replace the roof.

Four bids have been received; Anderson Metal & Supply Inc. $11,800, Turnkey Roofing & Home Improvement $13,520, C & W Roofing, Siding & Window Co., $14,175, and Dolly's Roofing $14,400.

Upon a motion by Mr. Cater and seconded by Mr. Duncan, the motion ***to award the contract to Anderson Metal & Supply Inc. in the amount of $11,800*** passed unanimously.

Member	Motion	Vote
Ramey		Yes
Cater	Motion	Yes
Adams		Yes
Chastain		Yes
Duncan	Second	Yes
Mefleh		Yes
Powell		Yes

Routine Business

1. Upon a motion by Mr. Cater and seconded by Mr. Duncan, the motion ***to approve the July 13, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes*** passed unanimously.

Comments from Utility Director

Mr. Baker stated that 2 of 3 open positions have been filled and the third person should be starting in a week.

Mr. Baker informed Council that staff is preparing for the Apple Festival by adding outlets, mulching, and power washing.

Riley Street demolition should be starting in the next couple of weeks and will be completed prior to Apple Festival weekend. He will also have the concrete reserved in order to use it to start filling in the pool.

The Bigfoot statue has been installed on the Depot grounds and was set in concrete for safety reasons.

The a/c unit has gone out in the Clerk's office, prices were obtained from three vendors. A vendor was selected and the equipment has been ordered.

CFund request that includes the ADA access on Main Street has been awarded and now the process to advertise for bids will begin once Mr. Bronson returns from vacation.

The ad for bids on the electrical upgrade has been sent out. Also, the hunt continues to determine why the lights keep blinking in town.

Mr. Baker is still searching for two pickup trucks and he has secured a bucket truck but it will not be available until May. The skid-steer is on site.

Adjourn

Upon a motion by Mayor Ramey and seconded by Mr. Cater, the motion ***to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 p.m.*** passed unanimously.

(Minutes prepared by Jennifer Adams)

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Mayor Brian Ramey Date