

MINUTES
OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL
September 12, 2016
5:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Michael J. Brening
Mayor Pro Tem Bruce S. Burt
Councilmember Solomon Ferguson
Councilmember Travis L. Ferguson
Councilmember Pattisue Elliott

OTHER STAFF PRESENT:

City Attorney Nathan Lee
City Manager Doug Westberry
City Clerk Lea Spell
Chief Gray Couch

Mayor Brening called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. in City Hall. Councilmember Travis Ferguson gave the invocation and Mayor Brening led the pledge of allegiance.

Motion made by Pattisue Elliot, seconded by Travis Ferguson to approve the minutes of the August 8th, 2016 regular meeting. A vote was taken and the results were unanimous with 5 ayes.

Motion made by Travis Ferguson to approve the August 2016 Treasurer's report as presented, seconded by Pattisue Elliott. A vote was taken and the results were unanimous with 5 ayes.

Tammy Decker with USDA was listed on the agenda but was not in attendance.

Julian Segar with Anytime Fitness came before the Mayor and Council to let them know he and a partner were planning to open a franchise of the business in Manchester soon. He detailed various aspects of the facility and expressed excitement about conducting business in Manchester. The Mayor and Council welcomed them and the business to the City of Manchester.

Bill Gregory, Finance Director and EMA Director with Meriwether County, came before the council to present the Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement. He explained that the City of Manchester could proceed one of two ways, the first is to sign the agreement with Meriwether County. This option means the County would act on behalf of the City in the event of a disaster. The second is the City could sign the agreement directly with the state and be its own representative in a disaster situation. Mayor Brening requested that the City be allowed to have further discussion regarding the agreement in order to vote on the matter at the next meeting. Mr. Gregory agreed to the request.

Jessie Bowles, a citizen in the Mill Town area, came before the Mayor and Council to express his displeasure regarding the alley behind his house and the means in which it had been maintained by the City. After a lengthy discussion, it was determined that the City would continue to maintain the alley as has been done in the past with concerned parties (such as Mr. Bowles) notifying the City when necessary.

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Motion made by Bruce Burt, seconded by Solomon Ferguson to remove Kathy Storey and add Lea Spell as signatory on the City's bank accounts. A vote was taken and the results were unanimous with 5 ayes.

Motion made by Solomon Ferguson, seconded by Travis Ferguson to designate Lea Spell as the City's Retirement Secretary. A vote was taken and the results were unanimous with 5 ayes.

Motion made by Bruce Burt, seconded by Pattisue Elliot to fund the Railroad Days event with \$1000 out of the hotel/motel fund. A vote was taken and the results were unanimous with 5 ayes.

Motion made by Travis Ferguson, seconded by Pattisue Elliot to amend the agenda to reflect discussion of the possible sale of surplus property. A vote was taken and the results were unanimous with 5 ayes.

Motion made by Pattisue Elliot, seconded by Travis to sell a 1994 Mercury Grand Marquis as surplus property. A vote was taken and the results were unanimous with 5 ayes.

Mayor Brening welcomed the new City Clerk, Lea Spell.

He also spoke of several businesses in town that were new or going through extensive renovations. He wanted to recognize the investments and express his appreciation towards the businesses. He stated, "Manchester is a good place to invest money and a good place to shop."

City Manager, Doug Westberry, updated the Mayor and Council on upcoming events. He reminded them of the Meriwether Cleanup Day on October 22nd from 9-4. He noted that there would be dumpsters by the mill where citizens can bring larger items for disposal.

He also noted that there would be a countywide litter pick that day as well. Volunteers are needed for this activity and he has sign up forms for those who are interested.

Mr. Westberry mentioned another event scheduled for the month of October, Railroad Days, which is held October 14-15. Mayor Brening added that the County and Chamber of Commerce has coordinated a Geocache event to be held in conjunction with Railroad Days.

Mr. Westberry notified the Mayor and Council that he had received correspondence from the EPD stating that 53 counties in Georgia were in level 1 drought conditions and that Meriwether County was included in the list. He asked everyone to adhere to the watering policy which permits outdoor watering between 4:00 PM and 10:00 PM only.

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Mayor Brening reminded the Council of the Veteran's Day parade to be held on November 5th at 11:00 AM. He informed the council that an exhibit honoring our veterans will be displayed at the school auditorium from Thursday November 3rd through Saturday November 5th. The exhibit is entitled "The Eyes of Freedom" and is presented by the Lima Company Memorial. He asked if the council would be interested in making a monetary donation towards the event.

Motion made by Bruce Burt, seconded by Solomon Ferguson to amend the agenda to discuss a donation. A vote was taken and the results were unanimous with 5 ayes.

Motion made by Solomon Ferguson, seconded by Travis Ferguson to authorize the City Manager to donate \$1000.00 towards the event out of hotel/motel tax revenues.

City Attorney Nathan Lee explained to the council the changes in the recent MGAG contract that the Gas Authority has asked for the City to execute.

Motion made by Pattisue Elliott, seconded by Bruce Burt to sign the contract. A vote was taken and the results were unanimous with 5 ayes.

At 6:05 PM a motion was made by Travis Ferguson, seconded by Pattisue Elliot to enter into executive session to discuss personnel. A vote was taken and the results were unanimous with 5 ayes.

At 6:15 PM a motion was made by Pattisue Elliott to close executive session and return to regular session, seconded by Solomon Ferguson. A vote was taken and the results were unanimous with 5 ayes.

Mayor Brening stated that no votes or decisions were made during executive session.

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Bruce Burt, seconded by Solomon Ferguson to adjourn at 6:21 PM. Vote was unanimous with 5 ayes.

City Clerk Lea Spell

Mayor Michael J. Brening