

MINUTES
OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL
November 13th, 2017
5:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Tem Mike Brening

Mayor Pro Tem Bruce Burt

Councilmember Pattisue Elliott

Councilmember Travis Ferguson

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Councilmember Solomon Ferguson

OTHER STAFF PRESENT:

City Attorney Nathan Lee

City Manager Doug Westberry

City Clerk Lea Spell

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 Travis Ferguson, seconded by Pattisue Elliott to approve the minutes of the September 18th regular council meeting. Vote was 3 ayes with Mayor Pro Tem Bruce Burt abstaining.

Approval of the October 9th meeting minutes was postponed due to lack of a quorum of members present to approve.

Motion made by Travis Ferguson, seconded by Bruce Burt to approve the minutes of the October 13th special called meeting. Vote was unanimous with 4 ayes.

Motion made by Bruce Burt, seconded by Travis Ferguson to approve the minutes of the October 19th special called meeting. Vote was 3 ayes with Pattisue Elliott abstaining.

Motion made by Travis Elliott, seconded by Bruce Burt to approve the October 2017 Treasurer's Report. Vote was unanimous with 4 ayes.

Motion made by Travis Ferguson, seconded by Pattisue Elliott to ratify the 2017 Red Ribbon Week Proclamation. Vote was unanimous with 4 ayes.

Motion made by Pattisue Elliott, seconded by Travis Ferguson for Mayor Brening to sign the Service Delivery Strategy extension with Talbot County until 2027. Vote was unanimous with 4 ayes.

Motion made by Pattisue Elliott, seconded by Travis Ferguson to approve the 2017 Employee Service Awards. Vote was unanimous with 4 ayes.

MINUTES
OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL
November 13th, 2017
5:00 P.M.
Cont.

Motion made by Bruce Burt, seconded by Pattisue Elliott to reappoint James McCurdy and Dan Crawford to the Manchester Planning and Zoning Board. Both reappointments have terms of January 1, 2018 until December 31, 2020. Vote was unanimous with 4 ayes.

Mayor Brening congratulated the Manchester High School Blue Devils for their regional championship win. He also commended the recreation department for both their part in the success of the high school team as well as its own team's successes this year.

The Mayor also extended thanks to Gary Jones for his organization of the recent Veteran's Day Parade and the accompanying events. He also thanked Carla Stephens for her organization of the Christmas Express event. He noted that both events were well attended and very enjoyable experiences.

In the Mayor's final comments, he brought to the attention of the Council a program that had been implemented in the City of Savannah pertaining to blighted properties. He explained that the program allowed for higher property tax rates to be charged to properties that were considered blighted. He would like for himself and the council to explore this potential solution further in the near future.

Mayor Pro Tem Bruce Burt updated the Mayor, Council and members of the audience with Habitat for Humanity's progress in Manchester. He noted the previously untaxed property that had been utilized for new home construction had added approximately \$8,500 to Manchester's tax rolls and had added value to the county's digest as well.

Mr. Burt was commended by the Mayor for his leadership and dedication to the organization.

City Manager, Doug Westberry, stated that City Hall would be closed on November 23rd and 24th in observance of Thanksgiving.

He also reported that the school zone in front of the high school on 5th Street is officially set up with solar powered flashing lights.

Other updates from the City Manager were as follows:

Citywide hydrant flushing would be completed by November 16th and this project will have accomplished several tasks. These include verification of hydrants properly functioning, flushing debris and sediment from water lines and also preparation for upcoming ISO rating procedures.

The Utility Department was scheduled for an inspection of the gas system the week of November 6th. This process is very detailed and normally takes place over a period of 3 or 4 days. In this instance, the inspection was completed after one day with no deficiencies or violations noted.

The train derailment that occurred on Tuesday November 7th on the CSX railyard had little to no direct impact on the citizens of Manchester. Emergency personnel maintained a presence at the site throughout the event. Railroad personnel had the incident cleared in the same day.

Activity with Next Site 360 is progressing with agents that are representing the City of Manchester currently attending conferences to help form business alliances.

In his concluding comments, Mr. Westberry was pleased to announce that The Presidential Pathways organization will meet in Manchester on November 16th at The President Theater.

Motion made by Bruce Burt and seconded by Travis Ferguson at 5:38 PM to adjourn. Vote was unanimous with 4 ayes.

.

City Clerk Lea Spell

Mayor Michael J. Brening