

MINUTES
OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL
December 11th, 2017
5:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Tem Mike Brening

Mayor Pro Tem Bruce Burt

Councilmember Pattisue Elliott

Councilmember Travis Ferguson

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 Solomon Ferguson, seconded by Bruce Burt to approve the minutes of the October 9th regular council meeting. Vote was 3 ayes with Mayor Brening and Councilmember Pattisue Elliott abstaining.

Motion made by Travis Ferguson, seconded by Pattisue Elliott to approve the minutes of the November 13th regular council meeting. Vote was 4 ayes with Solomon Ferguson abstaining.

Motion made by Travis Ferguson, seconded by Bruce Burt to approve the November 2017 Treasurer's Report. Vote was unanimous with 5 ayes.

Chief Roderick Jolivette with the Manchester Fire Department appeared before the council to give his thanks on behalf of his department for their support and also the support of the citizens of Manchester. He recognized Fire Fighter Scott Oglesby for his 3 National Certifications and also John Altman, Connie Willette, and Rachel Midkiff for receiving their State Volunteer Certifications. He then presented 3 awards for Firefighter of the year to career Firefighter Chris Garrett and auxillary Firefighters Connie Willette and John Altman.

Monroe Hildebrand with the Flint River Gun Club had requested to be placed on the agenda but was not in attendance. City Manager, Doug Westberry, explained to the council that Mr. Hildebrand was in agreement with the terms of the new lease but had asked to extend the lease past 12 months. However, legal restraints for local governments do not allow for this to occur.

A motion was made by Bruce Burt and seconded by Pattisue Elliot to authorize the Mayor to sign the lease between the City and Flint River Gun Club. Vote was unanimous with 5 ayes.

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Lewis Michael Caudel came before the Mayor and Council to discuss problems with water drainage and storm water entering onto some of his properties. City Manager, Doug Westberry, advised that the City had checked into its drainage apparatus and all were in working order. He also stated that the DOT had been contacted and were in the process of checking and repairing their drainage mechanisms. After presenting to the council pictures of water damage at his properties, he inquired about filing a claim for repairs with the City's insurance company. Mayor Brening advised that the City would continue working in conjunction with the DOT to get the drainage problem resolved and any claims would need to be directed to Mr. Caudel's insurance company.

In the Mayor's report and comments portion of the meeting, Mayor Brening asked members of the council to review an example ordinance sent to them via email pertaining to blighted properties. He asked they be prepared to discuss the matter at the January 2018 council meeting.

Mayor Brening recognized Councilmember Pattisue Elliott on her upcoming retirement and years of service on the Manchester City Council. Upon presentation of a plaque of commendation, he thanked her for her leadership, guidance and advice.

City Manager, Doug Westberry, updated the council on various items. He stated that the school crossing lights and crosswalk markings in front of the high school had been fully completed by the DOT. Another item of note was regarding the Service Delivery Strategy with Talbot County. It has been fully executed and accepted by the Department of Community Affairs. Mr. Westberry commented on a Presidential Pathways event held at the President Theatre the previous month. He wanted to publicly acknowledge the excellent hospitality and atmosphere at the event. He also gave an update on the Perry Street repaving project. He stated the contractor, Robinson Paving, had postponed repairs until mid-February or early March due to delays in other projects. Lastly, he informed of the Christmas holiday closings which would be Monday, December 25th and Tuesday, December 26th.

Members of the council all thanked fellow member, Pattisue Elliott, for her years of service and for the opportunity to work with her. Travis Ferguson thanked her for her zeal for Manchester and her successes as a mover and shaker in the community. Solomon Ferguson expressed his appreciation of her love of Manchester and her ability to talk the talk and walk the walk. Bruce Burt wished her the best and reminded her the future is a lot more than what is in the rear view mirror.

Mr. Westberry expressed to Pattisue that she would always hold a special place in his heart and she had been a pleasure to work with. He also thanked her for helping him with many things and wanted to send God's blessing to her.

A motion was made by Travis Ferguson and seconded by Pattisue Elliott to enter into executive session at 5:59 PM. Vote was unanimous with 5 ayes.

Motion made to reconvene into regular session by Pattisue Elliott and seconded by Solomon Ferguson. Vote was unanimous with 5 ayes.

Motion made by Pattisue Elliott, seconded by Bruce Burt to raise the City Manager's salary to \$80K per year effective January 1st, 2018. Vote was unanimous with 5 ayes.

Motion made by Bruce Burt and seconded by Pattisue Elliott to adjourn at 6:54 PM. Vote was unanimous.

City Clerk Lea Spell

Mayor Michael J. Brening