

MINUTES
OF THE REGULAR MEETING

OF THE MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL
June 11th, 2018 5:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Mike Brening

Mayor Pro Tem Bruce Burt

Councilmember Judy Taylor Foster

Councilmember Solomon Ferguson

STAFF PRESENT:

City Manager Doug Westberry

City Clerk Lea Spell

City Attorney Nathan Lee

Chief Gray Couch

Mayor Brening called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m. in City Hall. Councilmember Solomon Ferguson gave the invocation and Mayor Brening led the pledge of allegiance.

Motion made by Solomon Ferguson to adopt the agenda with the addition of 3b – George Sanders, Gilbert Road. Motion was seconded by Judy Foster. Vote was unanimous with 4 ayes.

Motion made by Bruce Burt, seconded by Solomon Ferguson to approve the minutes of the May 14th regular meeting with a correction to Judy Foster's last name on page 2, paragraph 1. Vote was unanimous with 4 ayes.

Motion made by Solomon Ferguson, seconded by Bruce Burt to approve the May 14th Buffington – EIP Public Hearing. Vote was unanimous with 4 ayes.

Motion made by Judy Foster and seconded by Bruce Burt to approve the May 14th FY 2018-2019 Budget Public Hearing. Vote was unanimous with 4 ayes.

Motion made by Solomon Ferguson, seconded by Judy Foster to approve the May 22nd Work Session Minutes. Vote was unanimous with 4 ayes.

Motion made by Judy Foster, seconded by Solomon Ferguson to approve the June 6th Called Meeting Minutes with a correction to change the name Mr. Powell to Mr. Gregory. Vote was 3 ayes with Bruce Burt abstaining.

Motion made by Bruce Burt, seconded by Solomon Ferguson to approve the May 2018 Treasurer's Report. Vote was unanimous with 4 ayes.

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Meliah McGregor with Last Chance Animal Rescue came before the council and thanked them for their support. She also gave special thanks to Animal Control and the Police Department for their help with a dog rescue situation on Dallas St. the weekend of June 2nd.

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Ms. McGregor spoke briefly on changes to the Animal Control Ordinance and recommended that the City follow closely with Meriwether County's ordinance. She also suggested that the City of Manchester become a mandatory spay and neuter town. She stated that she had spoken with the Atlanta Humane Society and they would come to set up clinics to get the process started.

The Mayor and Council agreed to consider the proposal.

City Manager, Doug Westberry, asked the council for a directive for the City Attorney to bring review of the new Animal Control Ordinance. All agreed for a review to begin.

Mr. Westberry also stated that the City's Animal Control Shelter had undergone an inspection by the State on June 11th and that it had gone well. He noted that the state inspector recommended that the City be more involved with the County in regards to animal control.

George Sanders, a citizen of Manchester, appeared before the council to request repairs to Gilbert Road at his residence. Mr. Sanders was informed that a letter had been sent to Meriwether County requesting their help in resolving the issue. He was also informed that the City did not have the proper equipment to repair the road. Mayor Brening asked Mr. Sanders to please be patient and to give the City some time in getting help to correct the problem.

Motion made by Bruce Burt and seconded by Solomon Ferguson to approve the FY 2018-2019 Budget Resolution. Vote was unanimous with 4 ayes.

Motion made by Judy Foster, seconded by Bruce Burt to close the 2013 Construction Account at Southcrest Bank. Vote was unanimous with 4 ayes.

Motion made by Solomon Ferguson, seconded by Bruce Burt to approve the Meriwether County Joint Comprehensive Plan Resolution. Vote was unanimous with 4 ayes.

The agenda reflected a "New Business" topic pertaining to the waiving of vendor fees for the

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Manchester Market. However the representative for the Market, Carla Stephens, was not in attendance. A motion was made by Bruce Burt, seconded by Solomon Ferguson to table the discussion. Vote was unanimous with 4 ayes.

Mayor Brening updated the council on various items. He stated he had met with the new Meriwether County School Superintendent and wanted to welcome him and his family to the community. He noted that the recreation department had 5 All Star teams representing the City and County in the upcoming 8 and under age group tournament. In a closing comment, he recognized Southern Auto Sales, a car dealership that had recently opened for business on Warm Springs Hwy.

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City Manager Doug Westberry gave an update on the sale of the City's natural gas system to Liberty Utilities. He stated that the Public Service Commission had unanimously approved the sale but that a 10 day waiting period was required for any appeals. The anticipated closing date was originally June 15th but due to the waiting period the closing date would be later.

He informed the council of the various vendors that were to be in attendance at the City's July 3rd event. In conclusion, he commended Utility Director Sam Summers and his staff for the job they have done using the millings from recent repaving projects in the city on repairing and improving several alleyways.

Police Chief Gray Couch presented his department's statistics for the month of May. In addition to this information, he stated the tractor trailer which had been parked on Truman Street causing citizen complaints had been moved.

He referenced an investigation his department was conducting pertaining to counterfeit bills. He wanted to alert business to be on the lookout. He stated the counterfeits were in all denominations and had some type of foreign writing on them.

Chief Couch concluded his report with a staff update. He informed the Mayor and Council that he had filled two vacancies but the new employees were not yet certified. He stated they would be attending the POST Academy starting July 5th and would complete training by late September.

Motion made by Bruce Burt and seconded by Solomon Ferguson to adjourn at 6:19 PM. Vote was unanimous with 4 ayes.

