

6:30 PM

Special Called Lake Park City Council Meeting

April 24, 2012

This special called meeting of the Lake Park City Council was called to order on April 24, 2012.

Those present were Mayor Futch, Mayor Pro-Tem Sherrill, Council Members Moss, Whitfield and Lane (via skype).

Welcome by Mayor Futch followed by flag salute and prayer.

Member Whitfield requested to be heard. Mayor approved. Member Whitfield moved to have citizens to be heard at the first part of the agenda and also limit this meeting and all future meetings to a maximum of two (2) hours. Second by Mayor Pro-Tem Sherrill. Discussion followed with mayor stating that elected officials were there to attend to city business and he was opposed to time limits. Members Whitfield and Sherrill voted in favor of motion. Members Moss and Lane voted against. 2/2 Tie. Mayor Futch voted against. Motion failed.

Under citizens to be heard, recently resigned council member Eric Schindler ^{*expressed a concern that*} criticized the council and police/fire Chief Baker regarding the use of a police radio by a department intern, Explorer volunteers riding on fire trucks, a fire call to I-75 and use's of funds. Schindler was also ^{*expressed a concern that*} critical of cemetery issues and expenses and the council's recent decision to eliminate and trade two of the city's present fire trucks. Citizen Carl Spano then addressed the council with his concerns of agenda items, citizens to be heard, current or former employee's wage reporting and council member's remote attendance. By written statement, Citizen Charles Rhodes requested city's help with watershed drainage problems affecting his property.

Member Whitfield requested to be heard. Mayor approved. Member Whitfield moved to have an agenda item (Pension Fund Issues & 2nd Reading) moved up the agenda and addressed now. Second by Sherrill. Members Whitfield and Sherrill voted in favor of the motion. Members Moss and Lane voted against. 2/2 Tie. Mayor Futch voted against. Motion failed.

Council's voting procedures were then discussed. "No Vote" and abstentions by council members, "Roberts Rules Of Order" and other parliamentary procedures were discussed among council members and Attorney Plumb. Member Whitfield moved to table this until future meeting. Second by Lane. All agreed. Motion approved.

Various city project reports were then updated by Mayor Futch including Essa Street drainage improvements, Tom's pond park project and the Marion Avenue landscape project. Current U.S. 41 (Lewis) and Old 41 (Langdale) drainage problems were also reported.

City appointments to the Cemetery Committee to replace recently resigned members Louis Herring, Dale Cooper and Kathy Fletcher were considered. Mayor Futch and member Lane reported that Melissa Asbell and Patricia Brown had both volunteered to be members. Member Lane moved to appoint both Ms. Asbell and Ms. Brown as trustees. Second by Moss. Discussion followed with Mayor Pro-Tem Sherrill stating that Cemetery "trustees" should have approval of expenditures under \$ 500.00 and amounts over \$ 500.00 to be approved by council. ~~Member Sherrill also questioned the ability and knowledge of both Ms. Asbell and Ms. Brown to administer Cemetery issues and funds.~~ Member Lane stated that Ms. Asbell's family's presence in the Cemetery had been there longer than the City of Lake Park. Member Moss stated that she had met both Mrs. Asbell and Ms. Brown at the recent ~~Cemetery Cleanup~~ and their "heart and soul" were in that cemetery.

Cemetery

Members Lane and Moss voted for the Asbell & Brown appointments. Whitfield and Sherrill voted against. 2/2 Tie. Mayor Futch voted for. Motion and appointments approved.

Police Chief Baker then discussed the city's need of a wrecker service. Chief Baker described several options that were available, including, the current wrecker service provided by Larry Dorminey, bids from other wrecker services or use of the county rotating "block system". Member Sherrill moved to table request until Chief Baker obtains bids from wrecker services that might be located within the city limits. Second by Whitfield. All agreed. Motion approved.

Mayor Pro-Tem Sherrill requested to address previous citizens concerns with Chief Baker. Mayor Futch approved. Member Sherrill voiced many concerns to Chief Baker including; allowing underage riders and occupants in both city police and fire vehicles, police intern responding to an incident in the county, fire department "Explorer Unit" participation with fire department ISO hydrant testing, flooding the parking lot of a local business, unsupervised Explorers presence in the fire department building, activating the warning siren at fire station, Explorers littering city property, Explorers personal vehicles having unacceptable vehicle needs and Explorer volunteers speeding in their personal vehicles and being present at a recent fire scene. Member Sherrill questioned operators driver's license requirements and moved to restrict police vehicle ride-a-longs to police officers and elected officials only and to limit fire truck usage and operators to certified fire fighters only. Second Whitfield. ~~Sherrill~~ and Whitfield voted for. Lane and Moss against. 2/2 Tie. Mayor Futch voted against. Motion denied. ~~Sherrill~~

Member Moss then moved to request that Chief Baker and the Explorer Unit's be present at the next meeting to provide the council with their policies and procedures guidelines. Second by Lane. Whitfield, Lane & Moss voted for motion. Sherrill voted against. Motion approved 3/1.

A request for the City to sign and participate in a Statewide Mutual Aid agreement was presented to the council by Attorney Plumb. After agreeing to invite the Lowndes County EMA Director to come to the next meeting to further explain city obligations, Member Whitfield moved to table the agreement until the next meeting. Second by Lane. All agreed. Motion approved.

Pension Fund Issues and the 2nd reading of the Pension Fund renewal were discussed next. Mayor Futch stated that the past administration of the City of Lake Park had budgeted \$ 48,000 for pension contributions with the city having 2 vested employees for 2012. Mayor Futch also reported that the City of Hahira paid around \$ 30,000 into their pension plan for approximately 25 employees. Mayor Futch recommended that the city schedule a work session to examine the city's pension obligations with both current and projected future costs to city taxpayers. Attorney Plumb recommended that the city adopt the Pension Fund renewal with a default provision for the pension secretary and pension fund committee members. (3 members of council, 2 employees, city clerk being pension secretary.) Member Whitfield moved to approve the adoption. Second by Sherrill. All agreed. Motion approved.

The Public Works departments request for needed equipment and repairs (new zero turn mower, trailer, power tools, misc. safety equipment, city dump truck repairs, etc.) was discussed in length. Member Sherrill questioned the mayor about contacting lawn service vendors for prices to mow and maintain all city right of ways. Mayor Futch stated that he followed Member Sherrill's request from a previous meeting and he had already met with two local vendors and all determined that the City would be better off to maintain their own right of ways. Member Moss moved to accept all low bids on the bid summary report, perform repairs to the city dump truck and fund up to \$ 18,000 out of the SPLOST VI account. Second by Lane. Both member Whitfield and Mayor Futch expressed the importance of both inventory and preventive maintenance

schedules. Members Moss and Lane voted in favor. Members Whitfield and Sherrill against. 2/2 Tie. Mayor Futch voted in favor. Motion approved.

City volunteer Bob Wilbers came before council with several options for a second city fire truck to replace the outgoing fire trucks. Both Mr. Wilbers and Fire Chief Baker recommended the city purchase a used E-1 pumper/tanker with 1500 gal water capacity, 1250 gpm pump from a fire department in Connecticut. Member Lane moved to accept this recommendation with a cap of \$30,000 total expenditure to be paid from SPLOST VI funds. Second member Moss. Member Whitfield stated he had campaigned to voters on saving money at the fire department. Mayor Futch and other members recognized that with the help of Bob Wilbers, the city would be trading the two present fire trucks relieving the city's financial obligation of over \$21,000 per year of the next nine years (\$192,000 total) and replacing them with two comparable Class A fire trucks for \$30,000 that will be paid in full thru now available SPLOST VI Funds. All agreed. Motion approved.

The former administrations plan to replace the Civic Center's HVAC system was discussed. Mayor Futch stated that the unit had been repaired in January and was presently working well. Member Whitfield recommended there be no update at this time. All agreed. Council then discussed the Civic Center operational costs versus it's income and rental fees. Member Whitfield moved for city to have a 2 tier rental fee with Lake Park Citizens paying \$75.00 and non-citizens paying \$150.00 rental per day, requiring both to have a \$100.00 damage deposit, renters to produce a copy of their drivers license to prove residency and to monitor activity for 6 months to determine revenue stream. Second by Lane. All approved. Motion passed.

City financial matters included a request from Mayor Pro-Tem Sherrill to remove either Wendy Carter or Beth Sims from the city bank account signature cards. Mayor Futch said that would be done. Present city debit cards and the need for a credit card were discussed. Member Moss moved for the city to immediately eliminate all debit cards, obtain one credit card with a \$1,000 maximum credit limit, \$200.00 single purchase limit and set credit card use policies. Member Whitfield moved to establish credit card policy and present at the next meeting. Second by Moss. All agreed. Motion approved.

July 4th Celebration plans were discussed. With the 4th of July being on a Wednesday, council discussed several event options. Mayor Futch reported that the past fireworks show cost the city approximately \$4,000 plus permits, etc... and had not been budgeted for 2012. Member Whitfield requested that council see if there were any other budget line items that could be partially used to fund fireworks. Member Moss voiced her concerns over many present city expenses (Voice, etc..) that were not included in the 2012 budget. Terry Dees and Danny Beasley volunteered to investigate budget costs for fireworks or alternative events and report back to the Council. Mayor and council members thanked them for their help.

Mayor stated that the next Lake Park Council meeting would be held at 7:30 pm on Tuesday, May 1, 2012 at City Hall. Member Moss moved to adjourn meeting. Second by Whitfield. All approved.

Meeting adjourned.

Approved Tom Futch Mayor Date 5/1/12

Attest Wendy Carter