



CITY OF FLOWERY BRANCH
Council Meeting Minutes
Work Session
Wednesday December 16, 2009
9:30 A.M.



CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Hirling called the meeting to order at 9:30 am.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mayor Diane Hirling and Council Members Pat Zalewski, Chris Fetterman, Allen Bryans, Craig Lutz and Mary Jones. Also in attendance were City Manager Bill Andrew, City Clerk Melissa McCain, City Planner James Riker and City Attorney Ron Bennett.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Reverend Mister Al Samoranski– Prince of Peace Catholic Church gave the invocation

Mayor Hirling led the pledge of allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: -

Bill Northquest – 7532 Brookstone Circle, Flowery Branch, Ga. 30542

Mr. Northquest approached the council and bid a fond farewell to the three out going council members.

Dinah Wayne – Better Hometown Manager

Mrs. Wayne approached the council and informed them that 12Stone Church congregation had collected and donated \$1,835.00 to the Better Hometown Coats for Kids program. This program issues coats to families that need assistance.

Mrs. Wayne also announced that she was resigning as the Better Hometown Manager and hopes that the program will continue to flourish.

Further Mrs. Wayne also bid farewell to the outgoing council.

Kellin Dobbs – 7635 Ten Speed Court, Flowery Branch, Ga. 30542

Mr. Dobbs approached the council and advised that outgoing council that they would be missed and thanks for all their work with his development.

UNFINISHED:

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion December 2, 2009 Meeting Minutes

On page 2, typographical errors were corrected.

No other changes were noted.

This item was placed on the December 16, 2009 Consent Agenda for further consideration.

Discussion – GEO-HYDRO Engineers Proposal Exploration Services

City Manager Andrew reviewed the contract that he had already executed due to exigent circumstances.

Manager Andrew stated that the scope of work was to bore under the filter & chemical building and test the soil and foundation for effects of the sewer line break that occurred under the buildings.

The ratification of the City Manager's signature was placed on the December 16, 2009 Consent Agenda for further consideration.

Discussion - Walker & Associates Auditing Firm Contract Renewal

Manager Andrew reviewed the contract renewal as proposed by the City's current auditor Walker & Associates.

Manager Andrew advised that the firm was very thorough and the fees for the renewal were still less then the bids from three years ago.

Councilman Lutz inquired about the issue of binding the council to a three year contract.

Attorney Bennett advised that the council could choose not to budget for this expense in the future budgets and the contract would be null and void.

This item was placed on the December 16, 2009 Consent Agenda for further consideration.

Discussion – Resolution Waste Management Plan

Manager Andrew reviewed the Resolution pertaining to a waste management plan. Each City has been asked to approve the resolution and have been asked to have a representative sit on the committee.

Manager Andrew advised that he currently attends the meetings and will notify the council of pertinent information.

This item was placed on the December 16, 2009 Consent Agenda for further consideration.

[Discussion – Resolution 09-016 - Roadway Dedication Additional Right of Way - Prince of Peace](#)

Planner Riker reviewed the Resolution and stated that this was the last item the City had to approve in order to comply with the grant application for the future widening of Spout Springs Road.

Resolution 09-016 was placed on the Voting Session Agenda for further consideration.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Planning & Zoning

Planner Riker reviewed the recent collapse of Spring Street at Mulberry Creek and reviewed the options presented by the engineer.

The options are to 1) install two 13x5 box culverts; 2) install two 15x5 steel arch culverts; 3) install three steel arch culverts.

Planner Riker advised that the City Engineer is preparing a bid package and it is estimated that the cost could be in the range \$75,000 - \$100,000.

There was a consensus to appoint Allen Bryans to sit in on the meeting with Pond Engineering to review costs and also to authorize Councilman Bryans the right to approve City Manager Andrew's signature and execution of a contract with Pond Engineering for the repair of Spring Street.

It was further noted that there are funds available from SPLOST V to assist with the repair of the street and culvert.

City Manager Report

City Manager Andrew wished the outgoing council well.

City Clerk Report

Clerk McCain advised that she was in receipt of a letter from Shirley Richards requesting that her utility bill amount be reduced.

Clerk McCain stated that Mrs. Richardson and her family have come into so difficult times and have not been able to pay their utility bill and she would like the \$90.00 penalty removed.

Further Clerk McCain advised that a payment has not been made on this account in a year and the current bill is \$222.39.

There was a consensus as a one time courtesy to credit the penalty in the amount of \$90.39 contingent on the remainder of the bill being paid in the amount of \$132.00.

Council Report

Councilwoman Jones addressed the council and stated that the Better Hometown Committee has collected funds and that the board wanted to contribute to the City something that would be meaningful and would be around years to come for the community to enjoy.

Councilwoman Jones continued by stating that the board decided to donate at least two light posts to be erected on the Flowery Branch Depot Park area and a plaque on each stating that it was donated by the Flowery Branch Better Hometown.

Further, Councilwoman Jones advised that the gift would be of no cost to the City except that the City install the lights. A site plan was submitted indicating the requested location of said lights.

Councilwoman Jones advised that the Better Hometown Board Members are Mary Jones, Clarice Bailey, Pat Zalewski, Janice Bryans, Jean Rowe Luciani, Alex Wayne, Daren Wayne and Advisor to the board Elizabeth A Lyon.

ADJOURNMENT WORK SESSION:

Mayor Hirling adjourned the Work Session at 10:24 am.



CITY OF FLOWERY BRANCH
Council Meeting Minutes
Voting Session
Wednesday December 16, 2009
Immediately following Work Session



OPEN VOTING SESSION:

Mayor Hirling opened the Voting Session at 10:24 am.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval December 2, 2009 Meeting Minutes

Melissa McCain – TAB 1

Approval – GEO-HYDRO Engineers Proposal Exploration Services

Bill Andrew – TAB 2

Approval - Walker & Associates Auditing Firm Contract Renewal

Bill Andrew – TAB 3

Approval – Resolution Waste Management Plan

Bill Andrew – TAB 4

There was a motion made to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

MOTION: Craig Lutz

SECOND: Pat Zalewski

AYES: Craig Lutz, Mary Jones, Pat Zalewski, Chris Fetterman and Allen Bryans

NAYES: None

Motion carried

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Approval – Resolution 09-016 - Roadway Dedication Additional Right of Way - Prince of Peace

James Riker – TAB 5

Attorney Bennett read Resolution 09-016.

There was a motion made to approve Resolution 09-016

MOTION: Pat Zalewski

SECOND: Mary Jones

AYES: Craig Lutz, Mary Jones, Pat Zalewski, Chris Fetterman and Allen Bryans

NAYES: None

Motion carried

Councilman Fetterman commented on the departing of the three council members that were not serving in 2010 and stated the following:

From the bottom of my heart I want to I know we have had a lot of 3-2 votes and a lot of disagreements but that's what we do. We have five different visions and it takes a majority to put the vision in motion whether its streets or painting depots or things that I may disagree with or agree with. Anybody that serves as elected officials is a brother or sisterhood here and nobody understands until you do it. I promise to do my best to continue to put the city in the direction that you started. Feel free to call me as a citizen and chew me out if I do something wrong. I really do appreciate everything you have done.

Councilman Lutz made the following statement pertaining to the three councilmember's that were ending their terms as of January 1, 2010:

“A little more than 2 years ago after I was elected to office, I reflected on a quote by George Washington when he spoke to the Continental Congress after being made the general of the Continental Army. This morning I would like to paraphrase the quote to fit the position I was in; “Tho' I am truly sensible of the high Honor done me, in this Appointment, yet I feel great distress, from a consciousness that my abilities and experience may not be equal to the extensive and important Trust: However, as the people desire it, I will enter upon the momentous duty, and exert every power I possess in their service, and for support of the glorious cause.” And so with an idealistic resolve I came to this chamber, made my first motion and then proceeded to pontificate on the issue for probably about 15 minutes with quotes from at least 6 different presidents. After I was done and the vote was called, I found myself on the bottom side of a 3-2 vote. Come to find out, it would be the first of many 3-2 votes I found myself on the bottom side of.

However, unlike George Washington who when elected to office had no predecessor to look towards as an example, I was fortunate to come in to a group that contained a lot of experience and possessed a lot of passion for this city. While I may remember some of the 3-2 votes, the fact is we agreed on far more issues than we disagreed on. And it is in the vain of agreement that I would like to thank you for your service to this community and implore you to stay involved. It was Margate Mead who said, “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.”

As I look across the room at our 3 departing friends, I see Councilmember Jones. Dr. Martin Luther King once said, “Everyone can be great because anyone can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't even have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve... You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love...”. Mary for all I know may have a degree from Harvard, but if you do that isn't what comprises your value to this city, it is your love for Flowery Branch and your heart that is full of grace. She has set a positive example on how to serve.

Then there is Mr. Infrastructure, Councilmember Bryans. Ivy Baker Priest reminds me that “we seldom stop to think how many people's lives are entwined with our own. It is a form of selfishness to imagine that every individual can operate on his own or can pull out of the general stream and not be missed.” I can’t imagine how it will be when we are discussing sewer or water in the future without Mr. Infrastructure around. I think you know where every pipe is in this city. Your knowledge will be truly missed and it is my hope that you will always be around to help.

Councilmember Zalewski, I once read a quote from Captain Scott O’Grady who was shot down over Bosnia that reminds me of you; “It wasn't the reward that mattered or the recognition you might harvest. It was your depth of commitment, your quality of service, the product of your devotion -- these were the things that counted in life. When you gave purely, the honor in giving, and that was honor enough.”

To the three, Albert Schweitzer once said, “I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I know: the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve.” While we may have disagreed a time or two these past couple of years, when I looked over the table, I saw a group that was happy to serve. I hope that we can continue to serve together within the community even if it comes in different forms than from this council. Thanks for your service and I ask that God bless you and your pursuits in the future.

ADJOURNMENT:

There was a motion made to adjourn the meeting at 10:33 am.

MOTION: Allen Bryans
SECOND: Mary Jones
AYES: Allen Bryans, Pat Zalewski, and Mary Jones
NAYES: Chris Fetterman and Craig Lutz
Motion carried