

WILLIAM B. WHITLEY
Mayor
JOHN B. "JACK" NICHOLS
City Attorney
VICKI WAINWRIGHT
Clerk / City Administrator



COUNCIL:
EDWARD GUINN
Mayor, Pro Tem
LANCE BERNARD
GLENN HARRIS
AMANZIE JENKINS
DEBORAH WILLIAMS

May 12, 2020
Council Meeting via ZOOM
7:00 PM

Present:

Mayor Barry Whitley
Mayor Pro-Tem Ed Guinn
Councilperson Deborah Williams
Councilman Lance Bernard
Vicki Wainwright

Media Present:

Taylor Co News

INVOCATION: Councilman Lance Bernard

OLD BUSINESS:

Approval of March 10th, 2020 Regular Meeting and Work Session and the April 15th, 2020 Special Called Meeting for USDA Community Facilities Grant: A motion to approve the minutes of the above mentioned minutes was made by Councilperson Deborah Williams and a second was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Ed Guinn. The vote was unanimous. *(Councilman Amanzie Jenkins and Councilman Glenn Harris was absent)*

NEW BUSINESS:

CDBG 2019 Notice of Bid Award: Public Works Director David Windham informed the Council that four bids were received for the 2019 CDBG and after bid tabulations the low bid went to Gulf Coast Underground, LLC. The engineers have gone through the bid and recommends that the City proceed with this company. A motion to allow the Mayor to sign the Notice of Award was made by Councilman Lance Bernard and a second was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Ed Guinn. The vote was unanimous. *(Councilman Amanzie Jenkins and Councilman Glenn Harris was absent)*



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DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Public Works Director David Windham told the Mayor and Council that the past six weeks have been rough due to COVID-19 and he appreciates their support as the City has had to adjust.

He also said that the contractors for the 2017 CDBG are working on erosion control to finish up that project. He is hoping that they will get grass established before another strong rainstorm.

Mr. Windham said that he has heard some concerns regarding the need for speed bumps in the Brown Drive area. He asked for clarification from the Mayor and Council as to whether or not that is something they want to address, and if so, how do they want him to proceed. Patti Bazemore has requested them. The City has made sure that there are Children at Play signs in place. It was decided that he should get prices for the cost of speed bumps but before anything is done the Council feels that the police should patrol the area to see who the speeders are in that neighborhood. Placing speed bumps in that area will cause people to complain. Mayor Pro-Tem Guinn said he would rather the Police Department address this issue with a visit to the speeders home.

Mr. Windham reminded the Mayor and Council that several months back there was dumping on West Venus and the City had cleaned it up, but someone is dumping there again. It was recommended by Councilperson Williams to install cameras in that area to catch the culprit.

Mr. Windham said that the next hurdle the City will face is how to adapt operations due to COVID-19. He said that we will all have to learn new ways of doing things in order to keep everyone safe. He reminded everyone that Georgia is still under a State of Emergency and a Shelter in Place for the elderly and medically fragile until June 12th. He said that even though we all want to get back into normal operations he has a strong concern regarding social distancing and how we will manage that as well as keeping the office sanitized with the shortage of cleaning supplies and PPEs. He stated that the City ordered Clorox and Lysol, as



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well as hand sanitizer well before the emergency declaration was declared and before Taylor County ever had a case, and still have not received any. He said that opening back up is up to the Mayor and Council, but operating the current way has not caused any hardships, and he was not inclined to open things back up just yet. He wants the staff to be safe as well as the customers. Mayor Pro-Tem Guinn said he felt that we should wait until June 12th and assess it from there. Mayor Whitley said that the City needs to implement a protocol using health guidelines and installing plexiglass in the lobby. He said that the City needs to start transitioning to open back up. It was agreed that the potential for a second wave of the virus is concerning to all. Mayor Pro-Tem Guinn asked if there is any sector of the population that has been inconvenienced by how the City is currently operating. Ms. Wainwright said that the older generation that has always come in to pay the utility bill had to adjust but once it was explained there had been no issues. Mayor Whitley said the City would operate the current way for another week and re-evaluate at that time. That will be May 26th to potentially open.

Windham said that Graduation will potentially be held on May 23rd as a "Drive-By" Graduation. Due to this he would like to block off the intersection of Oak St and Edgewood and possibly Mulberry to keep traffic under control. The Council agreed that was a good idea.

Mr. Windham said that the City has discontinued disconnects until operations return back to normal.

Chief of Police Kain Cobb said that he has heard no complaints regarding the way City Hall is operating. He said that he has spoke with several customers and they all understand why things are being done this way. He said that traffic violations are down during this time. The police department had 143 incidents in April.

Fire Coordinator Eddie Moulton said that the Fire Department ran 11 calls last month. He said that he is keeping the fire department doors locked and no meetings or trainings are being held during this time. He announced that the Fire Department had received a \$17,977.00 grant from the Fireworks Tax.



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ADJOURN:

With no other issues to discuss, a motion to adjourn from the Council Meeting was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Ed Guinn and a second was made by Councilman Lance Bernard. The vote was unanimous, and the meeting was adjourned.

Mayor Whitley

Attest

