

CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES – MARCH 5, 2019

The Enterprise City Council convened in a Work Session on, Tuesday, March 5, 2019, at 4:30 p.m. in the Mayor's Conference Room in City Hall. Notice of the meeting was posted as Per Act 2005-40 Code of Alabama.

Present: Council President Perry Vickers, District #3
Council Member Sonya W. Rich, District #1
Council President Pro-Tem Eugene Goolsby, District #2
Council Member Turner Townsend, District #5

Also Present: Mayor William E. Cooper
City Clerk/Treasurer Robert J. Dean, Jr.
City Attorney, Rainer Cotter
Beverly Sweeney, Assistant City Clerk
Donita Peters, Revenue Officer, minutes
Stephanie Crowe, Finance Director
Jared Alexander, Director of Engineering
T. D. Jones, Chief of Police
Billy Powell, Dir. Parks & Recreation
Jonathan Tullos, Executive Dir. Wiregrass EDC
Whit Armstrong, Wiregrass Economic Dev.
Ken Leblanc, Wiregrass Futbol Soccer Club/Enterprise
Michelle Mann, Southeast Sun
Caroline Quattlebaum, Media
Josh Richards, Media

Council President Vickers called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

All Council Members were present with the exception of Council Member Wallace "Al" Miller, Jr.

Council President addressed Billy Powell concerning the Recreation Center study. Mr. Powell asked the Council Members to look over the study in their binders they were given and he would answer any questions and were welcomed to call him. He said that he would speak again and would also answer any questions anyone may have on, Thursday, March 7, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. and looked forward to seeing everyone at the meeting. Council President Vickers asked if there were any questions for Mr. Powell and there were none.

Council President Vickers introduced a special quest, Mr. Ken LeBlanc with the Wiregrass Futbol Soccer Club – Enterprise. Mr. LeBlanc said that he had served in the military for (22) years and retired from military service at Ft. Rucker in 2006. He said that he is highly affiliated with army aviation today. He lives in Enterprise and is impressed by the growth of the City of Enterprise and wants to attract more teams to the city and surrounding areas. He wants to bring the Wiregrass together. Mr. LeBlanc thanked the City for letting his club use the city's fields lighting, etc. He asked the Council if the City would be willing to go into a public private partnership and allow his club to improve an area for the club to use. He said about three to four years ago, he requested the use of Peavy Park and said the City told him that there was a plan. He said he saw the plans and they were about twenty-five plus years old and as a result the organization did not use Peavy Park and built the field at Henderson Park instead. Mr. Leblanc said he had asked for Peavy Park again and has toured the city to find a field for multiple programs. He said that he is looking for land to continue building fields without using the tax players' money and will turn time into money. If the city had any land to recommend three to five acres for the club, Mr. LeBlanc said that it would be appreciated. The club would build its organization to support the City's Recreation Department or build the program for the Recreation Department in which his organization has done for years.

Council Member Townsend said that he has been involved some with Mr. LeBlanc and has had phone calls from parents and it was apparent that soccer has become a very popular sport in Enterprise. He said that everyone should continue to talk about soccer facilities as well as continue to talk about recreation and the facilities have to be on the front. Council Member Townsend said that the City needs to rely on Billy Powell, Blake Moore, and the Mayor for a recommendation. Mr. LeBlanc said that he is the Commissioner for the Alabama State Soccer League and the team numbers have increased from (30) teams to about (150) teams in a couple of years and really needs facilities. Council Member Vickers thanked Mr. LeBlanc for speaking. The Council made no decisions concerning this matter.

DISCUSSION:

Council President Vickers addressed the issue of the expiring term of Marcella Cardona, Mental Health Board Member that is effective April 1, 2019. He asked Mr. Dean to advertise the position. Council President Pro-Tem Goolsby asked Mr. Dean if Ms. Cardona had been contacted to see if she would like to serve another term. Mr. Dean announced the vacancy and said that he would contact her to see if she would like to continue her position.


Council President Vickers asked Mr. Dean for the information concerning the budget. Mr. Dean referred to the packets that the Council and the Mayor had been given and said the first item was the financing of the fire pumper truck. He said that the approval for the purchasing of the fire pumper truck was made by the Council and the Mayor and was passed and approved last year (2018). Mr. Dean said while negotiating on the financing, the financing rates elevated above and beyond the financing terms of the existing line of credit for the city. Mr. Dean said that even though the existing line for equipment had been being paid on, the rate is currently at 3.42%. The current balance is \$1.9 million and is paid quarterly. The future payments will be paid in March, June, and September, which will occur in FY2019 and are approximately \$200,000.00 each. The City pays roughly \$800,000.00 in a fiscal year. Mr. Dean said the City has a balance that exceeds \$600,000.00 in the fire tax account. The city cannot use all of the monies but can use quite a bit to pay for the fire truck and have a balance left over and use the line of credit if accepted by the Council and the Mayor. Upon approval, in the next couple of weeks, Mr. Dean said he would develop a new RFP to refinance the new balance on the line of credit. There would be a balance of approximately \$2.2 million to \$2.3 million with even a lower fixed rate and to be paid on over a (3) year term which would save the City on some money on the interest rates. Mr. Dean is requesting to utilize the line of credit. Mr. Cotter said the purchase of the fire pumper truck was approved by the Council in May of 2018 and Mr. Dean agreed and said that the rate at that time was 3.57%. The financing was not approved at that time only the purchase. The rates were agreed upon. Mr. Cotter wanted to make sure that a motion to approve was made by the Council and approved for the financing so all would appear in the minutes for the lending institution. Council President Vickers asked Mr. Dean if the process needed to be addressed in the Regular Session. Mr. Dean said that because the truck would be on site the first week of April, at the latest, he wanted to request it be put on the agenda for the Regular Session at 6:00 p.m., if possible. Council President Vickers asked for a motion to add the financing mechanism for the fire pumper truck to the agenda and it was agreed that it would be added to the agenda as the first item of new business. Council President Vickers asked Council Member Townsend to make a motion to amend the agenda and he said he would.

Council President Vickers asked the Council Members and the Mayor to refer to Ordinance 03-03-19-A. This ordinance provides for the granting of a franchise to CenturyTel of Alabama, LLC. d/b/a CenturyLink to operate and maintain a telecommunications system in the City of Enterprise. Council President Vickers said that this would require suspension of the rules. The 3% franchise fee that is paid is the same as the other cities across Alabama and many across the nation. CenturyTel is paying the same franchise fees also as the other businesses in the city. President Vickers advised the Council that for the Council to consider and pass the ordinance at the regular meeting, there would need to be a motion to suspend the rules. It was agreed that this would be done.


Council President Vickers asked Mr. Dean to inform the Council concerning the General Unrestricted Reserves. The total funds in the General Unrestricted Reserve Account as of 3-5-19 is, \$7,656,557.00. Mr. Dean said there is a total of \$725,811.00 that is in an isolated gas tax amount for utilization of some of the anticipated road paving projects. The FY18 budget was passed with a deficit of \$1,048,105.00. The fiscal year ended with a \$378,144.00 deficit. Considering a non-budgeted item for the College Street School and its new roof for over \$670,000.00, would have adjusted FY18 in the surplus of over \$290,000.00. This is a total swing in excess of \$1,300,000.00 due to a combination of increased sales tax revenues and reduced spending. Council President Vickers asked the Council Members if there were any questions and there were none.

Council President Vickers asked the Council Members to review an item that was not included on the agenda. Mayor Cooper made a request at the Special Called Session on Monday, March 4, 2019 concerning salary increases. Mayor Cooper presented two proposals with one being a 5% increase and the other being a 3.5% increase in salaries for the department heads. Council President Vickers said, in September 2018, the Mayor made a request for the increase and the Council did not want to approve any increase at that point in time until all of the audits were completed and the figures were completed for the Council to review. President Vickers said that he personally wanted to know when the last department head salary increase was made and had research the matter the increase was in 2017 after the current Council Members were sworn in. At that time, the salary increase was 5%. Council President Vickers said that he personally was not for or against anything, but he would like to have more time to look more into the matter. Council Member Townsend said that it would be good to have some background information on the matter. Council Member Townsend also discussed the internal inequities and how people within the organization stack up with people similarly situated inside of our organization, which is the city. He also said the external inequities of how the city's department heads salaries compare to department heads in other similar cities. He said the department heads need to be paid what they are worth but expect in return the quality of work and agreed with Council President Vickers that more information is needed. He asked Council President Vickers to work with Mr. Dean on the matter and Council Member Vickers said he would be glad to work with Mr. Dean and research the matter, but it was the Council's decision. Council President Vickers said the department heads do a great job, but the matter needs to be researched. Council Member Rich agreed that the department heads were deserving of an increase and asked Council President Vickers how often the Council will be asked to increase department heads salaries and would the increase be all or none. Council Member Townsend said that would be left up to the Council to decide. Council President Pro-Tem Goolsby said that he felt it was very important to compare the city's department head salaries to the other cities compared to Enterprise City's size, because the city has some good department heads and he did not want to lose them to another city to face a favorable price. Christina Meissner, Human Resources Dir., addressed the Council and said that the last department head salary increase was a 5% increase and was passed when the budget was passed and became effective on October 1, 2017. She said previously the department heads received an increase when they were re-appointed which was every four years. She said there was an increase in 2016 when reappointed and the previous increase before 2016 was in 2012. The Council Members asked Mrs. Meissner to gather the information for them to review. Mayor Cooper was also in agreement to review the information when it was received. Council President Vickers said the city did not want to lose any department heads and said that the city did not want to lose anyone and in order not to lose anyone the city needed to be competitive and fair. The Council Members agreed with Council President Vickers that the matter would be reviewed during the meeting in two weeks.

Council President Vickers called for a motion for the Council to proceed into Executive Session and a move was made by Council President Pro-Tem Goolsby and a second was made by Council Member Rich all were Ayes and the motion was passed and the Council went into Executive Session. The Executive Session was related to economic development and real estate and it was so certified for this purpose. The City Council came out of the Executive Session and the Work Session was adjourned at approximately 5:45 p.m.



Robert J. Dean, Jr.
City Clerk/Treasurer



Perry Vickers
Council President