

**CALLED MEETING OF TEMPLE
CITY COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes
July 14, 2014 6:30pm
TEMPLE CITY HALL**

Mayor Lester Harmon called the Special Called Council Meeting to order at 6:30pm with the following members present constituting a quorum: Council Member Hiley Miller; Council Member Richard Bracknell, Council Member William Simmons (teleconference) Council Member Howard Walden and Council Member Penny Ransom

Invocation by Mayor Lester Harmon

New Business

1. Forensic Audit

Forensic Audit - IAG Forensics and Rhonda D. McClendon & Associates provided written quotes for audit

- a) Rhonda McClendon was present for the meeting. Ms. McClendon states that she is a CPA that specializes in CPA and Forensic Accounting. Her firm would look at a sample audit of SPLOST, general fund, and see if further assessment needs to be done. There was discussion between Council Member Ransom and Ms McClendon in reference to services and procedures. The retainer for Ms. McClendons firm is \$10,000 and that should cover the assessment phase of the audit. Council Member Ransom asked if Ms McClendon's firm would represent the city in court if any legal action was deemed necessary. Ms McClendon stated that there would be an additional fee for full prosecution.
- b) IAG Forensics did not have representative present; however, their quote provided a cost of \$7500 for the initial assessment phase of the audit, with fees to be reassessed and provided to the council for approval after the assessment phase was completed. A complete report was provided and attached in the agenda for this meeting.

Council Member Ransom motioned that the city select the IAG Forensic firm, the best assessment for the lowest price, Council Member Walden stated that he agreed providing that if a problem was found, the issue would go to the District Attorney, with the City Attorney, and the Forensic Accountant for full prosecution.

Motion made by Council Member Ransom, 2nd by Council Member Miller,
Motion Carried 5-0.

2. Discussion of Library Project

Discussion of Library Project – Proposal to put a Referendum Question on November Ballot to Modify Approved SPLOST Projects

City Attorney Daley-made the recommendation that 2 referendum questions be put on the November ballot to allow citizens to vote to allow the SPLOST funds from that were originally proposed for the Library building on the Sewell building purchased with the 1998 SPLOST funds. That location has become infeasible due to the costs of construction. This referendum would allow the Mayor and the Council to purchase a more feasible location within the city to house the library. The second referendum question would allow the Council to abandon the portion of the construction of the administration building on the Sewell site, due to the need to expend an additional \$2.5 million dollars to complete such project. Council Member Ransom voiced her concern that the original SPLOST did not indicate that it was for a new administration building; however it was for administration improvements and equipment. City Attorney Daley states that because money was spent for improvements, that it could be interpreted that the project was started. Therefore, the project would need to be voted on to be 'abandoned'. She further stated that it is her recommendation that the project be put on the ballot to be voted on to make for a clean interpretation by the citizens. There was discussion among Council Members Bracknell and Miller with City Attorney Daley in reference to reallocating the money to a different department. City attorney Daley stated that that was ok. Council Member Miller questioned City Attorney Daley about what would happen if the City decided not to do anything with an admin building at all? City Attorney Daley replied that it would have to stay as an open project and explained that once money had been expended to begin a project, it either had to be completed or listed as abandoned. Council Member Walden asked if recreation was included on the ballot would that mean we would never need to add an admin building or a library? City Attorney Daley explained that there is a difference between narrowing the scope of the project and abandoning the project. If nothing at all is going to be done with the property, then it is consider abandonment. The property, however, can be repurposed for other use. She advised that adding the statement 'rather the project be converted to a recreation project' at the end of referendum question 2 would be an acceptable resolve. Council Member Bracknell motioned to accept the referendum questions with the added verbiage. This motion died on the floor due to lack of a second. Council Member Ransom motioned to put referendum question 1 with the additional verbiage to "but the property to be used for recreation purposes". Council Member Walden 2nd the motion. Motion carried 4-1; Council Member Bracknell Opposed

3. Discuss issue of damage to personal property caused by what may possibly be due to negligence of the City

City Administrator Hill provided the council with documentation in reference to the incident. The manhole was not open; however, the risers had not been put back in place therefore causing a two inch drop. City Attorney Daley stated that the liability of the city was that of the proper signage not being in place. City Attorney Daley clarified that it was not an open man hole, it was an issue of the risers, not the actual manhole covers. Public Works Director Freeman verified that there was not proper signage. Council Member Bracknell motioned to allow insurance to take care of this claim. Council Member Ransom 2nd the motion. Council Member Miller asked to ensure that more than one quote is obtained and would like to ensure that it is known that the manholes were covered. City Attorney Daley stated that the insurance company will require more than one quote to settle the claim. Motion carried 5-0.

4. Discussion of Downtown Development Authority

Council Member Bracknell stated that there are certain criteria that must be met in order to form the DDA. It does not require that it be done by ward. City Administrator Hill read the portion of the ordinance that pertains to who can be members of the DDA. Mayor Harmon wants to nominate Debbie McIntosh, Council Member Bracknell would like to nominate Council Member Ransom as the Councils representative. Council Member Bracknell stated that there may be some current members of the DDA that may still be in their 'term'. He suggests that a committee be formed with the 2 nominated to proceed with restarting this group. Citizen Debbie McIntosh asked that the council recognize the DDA as a 'viable' group, and therefore enabling them to be able to qualify for certain programs and funding. Council Member Bracknell further explains that it is important to find an anchor program. It is the anchor program that will bring the funding for the future development. Council Member Bracknell made the motion to put Ms McIntosh and Council Member Ransom on DDA committee, 2nd by Council Member Miller, Motion carried 5-0.

5. Discussion of File Retention

Mayor Harmon would like to appoint a committee of Mrs. Linda Walden and Council Member Ransom for the File Retention committee; Council Member Ransom stated that all personal and confidential items have been handled as such. Council Member Bracknell makes a motion to allow City Attorney Daley to provide council with a file retention and confidentiality agreement; 2nd by Council Member Ransom. Citizen Linda Walden asked that if a complaint is to be filed, she asks that a return address and signature be provided if the complaint is to be considered and/or accepted? Mayor Harmon stated that if there is a policy in place, it should still be enforced. Motion carried 5-0. Upon further discussion, Council Member Ransom asked that if any record shredding be done by an outside vendor and should be bid out at the time the council agrees to proceed.

6. Personnel

Senior Center Director Sandra Stillwell asks for a part time assistant for 12 hours a week. She would like to hire Billy Bryant. Motion by Council Member Bracknell to offer conditional employment with 6 month probationary period. 2nd by Council Member Miller. Motion carried 4-0. (It was determined that communications with Council Member Simmons had been lost)

7. Department Purchase Requests for Capital Purchases

Senior Center Director Sandra Stillwell presents request approval to spend \$54,584.00 for a bus for the senior center. This was approved in the capital budget. She would like to request that the council accept proposal 1. Council Member Bracknell motioned to accept proposal for bus #1 in the presented proposal, seconded by Council Member Walden. City Attorney Daley asked that training video be provided for the driver of the vehicle. Motion carried 4-0.

Recreation Director Joe Wilson asks for approval for 3 new scoreboards for the fields. He has quotes from the company that installed them last year. Quote is for \$14,500.00 Council Member Bracknell motioned to purchase scoreboards, seconded by Council Member Miller. Council Member Miller asks for clarification of policy from City Attorney Daley. Amendment to the motion that City Administrator Hill be given final approval on this, as he sees fit, providing that Recreation Director Wilson provides either 3 quotes, or the purchasing policy is followed. Amendment motion by Council Member Bracknell. Motion carried 4-0.

Police Chief Thorn is requesting to spend \$65346.00 for two patrol vehicles. These were budgeted in the capital budget. Motion to purchase 2 vehicles by Council Member Bracknell from Alan Vigil contingent upon documentation of 3 bids being provided, 2nd by Council Member Walden, Motion carried 4-0.

Police Chief Thorn is also requesting to purchase surveillance systems for the patrol cars in the amount of \$47665.00 as per the capital budget allowance. There were 3 bids provided. Digital Ally is providing a \$750 credit for previous equipment and the lowest purchase price for 13 new cameras. This will cover the cost for all patrol cars to have the camera systems. These will have a 5 year warranty. Motion by Council Member Bracknell, 2nd by Council Member Bracknell, Motion carried 4-0.

Executive Session –

Motion to enter into executive session at 8:38pm by Council Member Miller, 2nd by Council Member Ransom, Carried 4-0

Motion to enter back into regular session at 8:48 by Council Member Miller, 2nd by Council Member Bracknell, Carried 4-0

MAYOR AND COUNCIL CLOSING COMMENTS:

Mayor Lester Harmon: Requests keys to all city hall locks and to know when City Administrator Timothy Hill will be out of the office

Council Member Penny Ransom: Likes the new agendas

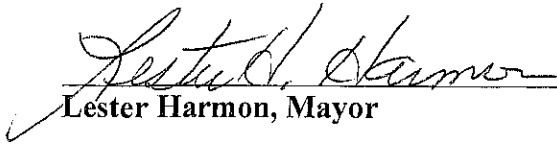
Council Member Howard Walden:

Council Member Hiley Miller:

Council Member William Simmons:

Council Member Richard Bracknell: Asked that there be more details added to meeting agendas like a ‘synopsis’ of each item; maybe to make it more read easy

ADJOURNMENT: Motion: Council Member Miller 2nd: Council Member Ransom at 8:59pm


Lester Harmon, Mayor

Felicia Wall, City Clerk