

CITY OF ARNOLDSVILLE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

December 15, 2016 – 7:00 PM

Present: Mayor George Spearing, IV; Council Members: Greg Banks, Norma Craddock; Danny Morcom, Jack Norman, Lee Norman,; City Attorney, Danny Love; Water Super., George Spearing, III

Observers: Melvin Fleming, Joyce Sniff

Media: Jessica Colquitt

Minutes

On a motion by Norma Craddock, seconded by Lee Norman, the minutes for the November 17, 2016 meeting were approved as submitted. 5 - 0

General Fund Financials

On a motion by Norma Craddock seconded by Danny Morcom, the November General Fund Financial Report was approved as submitted. 5-0

Water

Mayor Spearing reported that the check from the recent insurance claim should be arriving in the mail shortly. George Spearing, III, Water Superintendent, reported that everything is going fine with all wells. He stated that more electricity is being used because of placing heaters in the wellhouses. Mr. Spearing also reported that he has received the new locater that was recently purchased.

City Attorney Love reported that after conferring with Mayor Spearing, the decision was made to go ahead and submit payment for the 2017 insurance premium. This was done in an effort to avoid an increase in premium which may occur as a result of the recent claim filed by the city due to a lightning strike on the pump at Wellhouse #6. By paying the premium in advance, the city may have saved approximately \$800 - \$900 for 2017. Payment is usually submitted by February 10 of each year. This insurance will be applied through February of 2018.

Water Fund Financials

On a motion by Greg Banks seconded by Norma Craddock, the November Water Fund Financial Report was approved as submitted. 5-0

Fire Department

The fire department was represented by Mr. Melvin Fleming. It was reported that the fire chief had planned to be present but was called away on a family emergency. One item mentioned in reference to the fire department was that they are currently having problems with some of the breathing apparatus equipment. An "unofficial" report was given stating that the fundraiser was successful with an approximate amount of \$1,600 being received. This amount has not been confirmed.

Zoning

The next item of business was zoning and the progress of the completed zoning ordinances. Mayor Spearing reported that he had been asked to bring up the concerns of a council member regarding the section on Bicycles/Bike Lanes currently listed in the zoning draft.

A lengthy discussion took place with council member Norma Craddock expressing total disfavor with the idea of allowing any kind of bike lanes inside the city limits on the Arnoldsville-Winterville Road including any language or references regarding bikes or bike lanes. Concerns regarding the possibility of the Firefly project were discussed as well as various opinions on the subject of bike lanes. City Attorney Love pointed out that the current drafted section regarding Bicycle Facilities on Rural Road Shoulders could apply to existing roads. The possibility of inserting a clause in this section prohibiting bike lanes was also proposed by council member Craddock. Mayor Spearing stated that since the Arnoldsville-Winterville Rd. is considered a county road, it would be a possibility that the county could pull all funding and assistance and make the city responsible for road maintenance on the section in question. Council member Greg Banks stated that he felt the section 4-3-8 should be kept in the zoning ordinance for protection. City Attorney Love also pointed out that he didn't think the city had the authority to tell Oglethorpe County that they were not allowing bike lanes in the city limits. He also stated that he was not sure the city could ban installing bike lanes because the city does not pay for maintenance of the road. Attorney Love also pointed out that the Firefly project has nothing to do with Arnoldsville Zoning. City Attorney Love stated that a clause could be added to the section 4-3-8 but in his "legal opinion, that would be a mistake." He also pointed out that the public meeting may change everything. The Zoning Ordinances will not be final until the second city council vote. The first vote will be on January 19 with the second one being during the February meeting. Love reiterated that the city has "no control over a county road." He stated that adding the additional clause would not be effective but it could be added.

Norma Craddock made a motion to add a clause prohibiting bike lanes/paths on the Arnoldsville-Winterville Road within the city limits to Section 4-3-8 of the Zoning Code. The motion was seconded by Greg Banks. Banks then asked about the possibility of sleeping on it and thinking a little more...could table the motion but council member Craddock said she would prefer not tabling. Council member Jack Norman stated it made no difference to him either way. Council member Danny Morcom stated that he felt like "restricting to one road would be opening a can of worms." Council member Lee Norman stated that he felt that the current Section 4-3-8 covers

all roads now. Ms. Craddock again stated that she would rather have the “opinion in writing.”

Ms. Craddock then rescinded her original motion to the following:

No bike lanes/paths allowed on any county roads in the city limits of Arnoldsville. Council member Greg Banks seconded. Vote was two (2) yes and three (3) no. The motion did not pass.

It was then agreed that Section 4-3-8 would be kept as is for now.

Next, City Attorney Love handed out copies to each council member stating the Policies & Procedures for Public Hearings.

Council member Danny Morcom made a motion stating that the notice regarding the public meeting should run in the county newspaper two times in addition to the notice already published, prior to the public meeting for January 17, 2017. Vote 5 – 0

The “draft” of the zoning ordinances will be made available to the public with several different options. Citizens may review a hard copy with the city clerk, paying the hourly rate of the clerk. If a hard copy is requested, a charge of \$50 will be required. Copies may be put on a flash drive or CD for a price of \$15 each. A “draft” copy may be emailed for free.

A second discussion regarding Section 2-2 of the zoning ordinance regarding the need for a Planning Commission. City Attorney Love explained that there really would be no need for a Planning Commission as the City Council would serve in this capacity. On a motion from Greg Banks with a second from Danny Morcom, the council voted to amend Section 2-2-1 to read that the Planning Commission would be “Inactive.” Vote 5 - 0

Additional points discussed included the Land Use Office and Code Enforcement Office. Both of these positions may be held by the same person. The Board of Appeals will consist of three (3) people appointed by the City Council. This board will have the authority to overrule a decision of the Land Use Officer.

A schedule of fees will be obtained from Oglethorpe County as a reference. The city will need to appoint a Hearing Examiner.

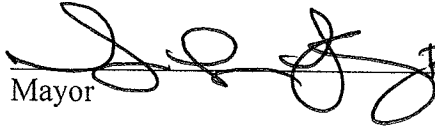
Other Business

Council member Morcom inquired again about the possibility of a sign in the Creekside Subdivision stating “Careful, Watch for Children.” City Attorney Love will conduct more research on this issue.

Possible LMIG projects for 2018 discussed were the widening/paving of Oak and Spring Streets.

Council member Craddock provided information she received from attending the SPLOST meeting recently held by Oglethorpe County.

9:00 p.m. Motion to adjourn by Jack Norman with a second from Lee Norman. 5-0

 # 1/15/17
Mayor Date

Minutes prepared and submitted by Clerk, Debbie Love, January 19, 2017