

City of Locust Grove
Council Workshop Meeting Minutes
Public Safety Building – 3640 Highway 42 S.
Locust Grove, GA 30248
Monday, December 18, 2023
6:00 PM

Members Present:	Staff Present:
Robert Price – Mayor	Tim Young – City Manager
Rod Shearouse – Councilman	Bert Foster – Assistant City Manager
Keith Boone – Councilman/Pro Tem	Misty Spurling – City Clerk
Carlos Greer – Councilman	Daunte’ Gibbs – Community Development Director
Willie Taylor – Councilman	Jack Rose – Public Works Director
Rudy Breedlove - Councilman	Colleen Watts – Main Street Manager
	Derrick Austin – Police Chief
	Andy Welch – Attorney
Members Present via Teleconference:	
Vincent Williams – Councilman	

Mayor Price called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Invocation given by Community Development Director Daunte’ Gibbs

Councilman Breedlove led the Pledge of Allegiance

APPROVAL OF AGENDA –

Mayor Price asked for a motion. Councilman Boone made the motion to approve the agenda.

RESULT	APPROVED AGENDA
MADE MOTION	COUNCILMAN BOONE
2 ND MOTION	COUNCILMAN SHEAROUSE
VOTE	MOTION CARRIED - ALL IN FAVOR

PUBLIC COMMENTS –

- Chief Austin stepped forward to introduce the officers who recently graduated from the police academy. They will begin their field training this Friday and we are glad to welcome Officer Gray and Officer Flewellan. The Mayor and Council congratulated both officers and welcomed them to the staff. Nothing further.
- Tim stepped forward and introduced Mr. TaJae Bodrick, representative with Enterprise Fleet Management. Tim said Mr. Bodrick is here to discuss options for future fleet operations for the City of Locust Grove.

Mr. Bodrick said Enterprise is currently partnering with Jonesboro and other municipalities with this fleet program. We would reduce fuel costs by 14% and reduce the total maintenance costs of each vehicle from \$172.33 to \$71.85 per unit. The current vehicle life cycle would be shortened from 8.20 years to 5 years. The plan would be to sell eight vehicles the first year at no less than \$1,000 per vehicle. The city would lease eight vehicles through Enterprise for approximately \$88,000. The city would recoup no less than \$8,000 from the salvage of the eight vehicles sold.

Councilman Greer asked Mr. Bodrick how he is figuring the \$1,000 resale value for the cities current fleet. Mr. Bodrick said their team gets the numbers conservatively from various resources. Mr. Bodrick said they are initially placing an average amount on the vehicle, and pending review and assessment by their team an accurate value can be placed on the vehicle. The equity would go back to the city, therefore a continuous cycle. Andy said the goal is to cycle out the entire fleet, and eventually the city fleet will be Enterprise leased vehicles.

Councilman Boone asked how the fuel savings are calculated. Mr. Bodrick said the fuel costs will reduce by replacing the older vehicles with new fuel-efficient vehicles.

Andy asked what the city's liability is if an employee has an accident in the leased vehicle. Mr. Bodrick said the city will continue to use the same process with their insurance provider. Nothing will change.

Councilman Breedlove asked what vehicles are excluded from this plan. Tim said the garbage truck, freightliner, and bigger trucks are not included. This would include mostly the passenger vehicles and by 2028 all normal fleet would be on a lease basis. Breedlove asked if there is a mileage limit. Mr. Bodrick said yes, an open-end leasing option, the city would pay for the vehicle to a reduced book value.

Bert asked what the motive was for getting the highest price for the city. Mr. Bodrick said their marketing team sells all the vehicles. The number one buyer is [CarMax] and Enterprise is confident they will get 105 percent for city fleet. Andy asked how Enterprise makes money with this kind of program. Mr. Bodrick said with the up-front fees (interest fees, service fees, management fees) and said Enterprise is one of the largest leasing companies in the world with over 1 million vehicles leased.

Councilman Greer asked Chief Austin what the cost is to outfit (with necessary equipment) a police vehicle. Chief Austin said \$16,00 per vehicle.

Tim said the staff is still reviewing and Andy will also review further. Mr. Eddy Simon, sales manager with Enterprise, said their master lease agreement has no timeline, the actual quote will be four to five years. The financing will be for each individual vehicle. Andy said if the city chooses to transition, and then transition out of leasing vehicles, the city will have to go back to purchasing their vehicles. Mr. Simon said Enterprise gives the option to purchase the vehicles from enterprise if the city wanted to end the contract. Andy said the city would stop leasing their vehicles and request a price for the vehicle for option to purchase.

Mr. Bodrick said ten percent of the cost of the vehicle is their management fee. Andy asked how negotiable the lease terms are on the vehicles. Mr. Bodrick said the public works vehicles will be on a 24–36-month lease and the police vehicles will have a longer lease term. Discussion took place the police have at least 30 vehicles and public works have at least eleven vehicles currently.

Mr. Bodrick said they would factory order the police vehicles and would outsource Dana Safety Supply; therefore, all the vehicles will arrive turn-key ready [including delivery]. Nothing further.

- Chief Austin said the police department coordinated a 5K run for breast cancer awareness in October. Chief Austin invited Amanda Reeves from Hands of Hope and Olivia Johnson from The Johnson Foundation to step forward. Chief Austin said there were 100 participants and on behalf of the City of Locust Grove, the department is presenting a check for \$2,786.89 to Hands of Hope. Amanda Reeves, executive director with Hands of Hope said it is a privilege to provide top quality care through her organization. This check will allow her organization to serve 270 people with a medical visit at her clinic. Councilman Greer said thank you to Amanda and Olivia for all their efforts. Nothing further.

PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS – NONE

OLD BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS – NONE

1. Resolution to adopt the annual update of the Capital Improvements Element (CIE) for the City of Locust Grove –

Mayor Price asked for a motion. Councilman Boone made the motion to approve the request by approving resolution #**23-12-101**.

RESULT	APPROVED RESOLUTION #23-12-101
MADE MOTION	COUNCILMAN BOONE
2 ND MOTION	COUNCILMAN SHEAROUSE
VOTE	MOTION CARRIED - ALL IN FAVOR

2. Ordinance to adopt the FY 2024 final operating and capital improvements budget for the City of Locust Grove–

Mayor Price asked for a motion. Councilman Boone made the motion to approve the request by approving ordinance #**23-12-102**.

RESULT	APPROVED ORDINANCE #23-12-102
MADE MOTION	COUNCILMAN TAYLOR
2 ND MOTION	COUNCILMAN SHEAROUSE
VOTE	MOTION CARRIED - ALL IN FAVOR

NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS –

3. Resolution to approve a proposal from WSP to provide engineering design services associated with the SR 42 northbound widening project –

Bert stepped forward and said this is a proposal from our on-call engineers (WSP) as requested by staff. This details GDOT permitting, Norfolk Southern permitting, and a time and material cost not to exceed \$540,000 and includes a contingency fee of \$65,000. GDOT will also be contributing \$2.78 million. WSP has also notified us the hourly rates will be escalated by four percent annually beginning January 1, 2024.

Councilman Breedlove asked if the 4% increase is included in the \$540,000. Bert said no, the 4% increase begins in January and is not part of the proposed cost. Discussion took place about travel fees and requesting those fees be eliminated. Boone asked why the four percent increase wasn't included in the \$540,000 proposed. Bert said \$540,000 is the cap and we can ask them to withhold any travel costs preapproved.

Discussion took place about the intersections and turning lanes. Tim said this project will have a two-way northbound lane and one lane southbound. In the future it will convert to a two-lane southbound lane and one lane northbound lane.

Mayor Price asked for a motion. Councilman Boone made the motion to approve the request with exception of other direct expenses by approving resolution #**23-12-103**.

RESULT	APPROVED RESOLUTION #23-12-103
MADE MOTION	COUNCILMAN BOONE
2 ND MOTION	COUNCILMAN SHEAROUSE
VOTE	MOTION CARRIED - ALL IN FAVOR

CITY OPERATION REPORTS / WORKSHOP DISCUSSION ITEMS –

MAIN STREET OPERATIONS – COLLEEN COOK

Ms. Cook gave an update we had about one thousand people attend the Christmas in the Grove event. We thank the city staff and DDA for helping make it successful. Main Street, Inc. will have a joint workshop [dinner meeting] on Tuesday, January 23, 2024, for collaboration of the work plan for 2024. Nothing further.

4. FY 2024 HPC reappointments (Marianne Morfoot, Rachel Devitt, Betty Shearouse, and Jeff Mills) –

Colleen said we will have HPC reappointments for reappointment at the January 2, 2024, meeting. Also, Rod Shearouse for reappointment of DDA.

PUBLIC SAFETY OPERATIONS – CHIEF AUSTIN

Chief Austin reviewed the monthly report and gave an update total collected in November 2023 was \$83,274.38. The department completed 134 training hours in November. We had 42 new cases for investigation and cleared 34 of those cases. Chief Austin reviewed the crime analysis report provided and said there was an armed robbery at Chevron at Roberts Road. Officers made an arrest and recovered some of the money. Discussion about entering autos, shoplifting, and a stolen vehicle from Fairfield Inn. Further, Chief said we will host Shop with a Cop on Wednesday December 20, 2023, at 5:30 and each child will be assigned an officer to shop with. Nothing further.

PUBLIC WORKS – JACK ROSE

Public Works Director Jack Rose said we are continuing with regular maintenance, and we picked up the new chipper truck today. Nothing further.

ADMINISTRATION –BERT FOSTER

Mr. Foster gave an update on ongoing projects including the Peeksville Road Extension, the extra lane on Highway 42 and Bert said the Bill Gardner Parkway modifications are nearing completion. We hope to have the conceptual plan by year-end for the Downtown Corridor study and the City Hall renovation is 99 percent complete. The columns were installed last week, and painting will be finished soon. The equipment was ordered for the traffic signal at Bethlehem Road and expected to arrive in February 2024. Nothing further.

5. Veteran’s Memorial/Scatter Garden – costs for engraved bricks -

Bert said the feedback Mr. Garland has received regarding the price we set for the bricks is they are too expensive. Staff is requesting that the council reconsider the costs to \$150 per brick [small or large]. Councilman Greer said there may be different feedback after the project is complete. Bert said it is the use of material that makes removal of the bricks harder; therefore, the more bricks purchase [pre] completion is better.

Andy said it makes sense to lower the price to offset cost now. It will cost more to remove the brick later so cost will increase later. Bert said we will do \$150 per brick for pre-orders and \$200 per brick after the project is complete. Discussion took place about the two sizes of bricks [small for scatter garden and large for veteran’s memorial]. The council agreed to charge one set fee [\$150] for either size.

Mayor Price asked for a motion. Councilman Boone made the motion to amend the agenda to add item.

RESULT	APPROVED ADD ITEM
MADE MOTION	COUNCILMAN BOONE
2 ND MOTION	COUNCILMAN SHEAROUSE
VOTE	MOTION CARRIED - ALL IN FAVOR

ADD ITEM

Mayor Price asked for a motion. Councilman Bone made the motion to charge \$150 for both size bricks [pre-order] and \$200 per brick if purchased after project completed. Also, any revenue will go to offset costs of construction and anyone who pre-purchased at the original cost be reimbursed the difference.

RESULT	APPROVED WITH CHANGES
MADE MOTION	COUNCILMAN BOONE
2 ND MOTION	COUNCILMAN TAYLOR
VOTE	MOTION CARRIED - ALL IN FAVOR

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OPERATIONS – DAUNTÉ GIBBS

Mr. Gibbs gave an update his department has issued a total of 1,391 permits for 2023 and 181 new house permits. We have issued 257 COs [182 residential / 75 commercial] with 460 business licenses issued so far for 2023. Daunté said with the housing permits, we are trending six percent less than in 2022 and 40 percent less than 2021.

Councilman Boone asked if we authorized to have cluster boxes at subdivisions covered. Daunté said we don't have anything in writing to cover it, but we can ask the developer as a courtesy to do so. Nothing further.

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD (ARB) –

CITY MANAGER’S COMMENTS –TIM YOUNG

6. Update of Classification and Compensations study -

Tim said we sent out information on feedback from the council [from the last meeting] and we got information from the City of Jackson and our consultants. The consultants refined the criteria and Tim sent to the council on Friday. Tim said we can have this ready for adoption in January.

Mayor Price said we have had the meetings, why not approve tonight. Greer said we want to ensure what we are doing is correct. Andy said the agenda would have to be amended and added as an action item if the council wants to act tonight. Greer said his concern is the increase for public works (laborers).

Tim said we had some directives from some of the council and reviewed the increase percentages with public works being the most increase. Discussion took place about each pay level. Andy suggested this be on the January 2, 2024, meeting agenda for action. The council agreed to wait and have for action on January 2, 2024. Nothing further.

Tim continued with an update the city hall renovations are complete and within budget. We are looking at improvements to the interior of the Public Safety building for separation of the police clerk. Bert and Mayor Price met with a playground vendor for the purpose of updating the area behind City Hall to modernize the equipment. The city attorney is looking into a copy of the land

transfer (for any type of deed restriction) and the lease agreement (signed version) for the Women’s Club. The Fire Marshal has assessed the occupancy limit as well. We will be updating you on the Tanger Boulevard and Indian Creek Road intersection traffic dilemma. Hopefully, to create a four way stop and a roundabout in the longer term. We are closed Monday and Tuesday for Christmas and Monday January 1, 2024, for New Years. We reached out to three vendors for the AV equipment in the court room and waiting on proposals. Tim said he will be out Wednesday and Thursday and hope everyone has a Merry Christmas.

MAYOR’S COMMENTS –

Mayor asked everyone to pray for Janice Mason.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – PROPERTY ACQUISITION AND LITIGATION

Motion to go into executive session to discuss potential litigation and property acquisition matters by Councilman Greer and seconded by Councilman Shearouse. Motion Carried All in favor 8:07 PM.

At 8:55 PM, motion to come back into regular session made by Councilman Boone and seconded by Councilman Shearouse

ADJOURNMENT-

Mayor Price asked for a motion to adjourn. Councilman Greer made the motion to adjourn.

RESULT	ADOPTED
MADE MOTION	COUNCILMAN GREER
2 ND MOTION	COUNCILMAN SHEAROUSE
VOTE	MOTION CARRIED - ALL IN-FAVOR MEETING ADJOURNED @ 8:56PM.

Notes taken by:

Misty Spurling, City Clerk