

CITY OF SMITHVILLE

MARCH 9, 2020

COUNCIL MEETING

Present: Mayor Scott Saunders Jr, Councilmembers, Bill Gordon, Joanna Morgan, Sharon Foerster, Cassie Barrientos, Jason Hewitt and City Manager Robert Tamble.

**Open Meeting:** Call to order: Mayor Saunders called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Invocation: Robert Tamble gave the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance: Councilwoman Morgan led the pledge.

Recognition/Awards/Proclamations/Announcements/Presentations: 5<sup>th</sup> Grader Brityn Roberts read her essay on Character Trait word "Self-Reliance". Mayor Saunders read a proclamation for the "Vietnam Veterans Day".

Approval of the minutes from February 10, 2020, Council Meeting and Public Hearing: Councilman Gordon moved to approve the minutes. Councilwoman Foerster seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Citizen Comments on: None

Hear recommendation from Planning and Zoning on:

- a. On a minimum lot size variance at 502 Leah Ln. Oak Meadows Retirement Community, Lot 18, Acres .01150, Martha Hirsch Agent Jeanie Ralph: *Brian Riewe (P&Z Chairman) said the P&Z recommends approving the lot size variance.*
- b. On a front yard setback variance at 308 Lee Street Smithville Townsite, block 82, Lot 10, Owner Daniel Tackett: *Brian Riewe (P&Z Chairman) said the P&Z recommends approving the nine-foot (9') setback variance*

**Public Hearing:**

Hear Citizens Comments on:

- a. A minimum lot size variance at 502 Leah Ln. Oak Meadows Retirement Community, Lot 18, Acres .01150, Martha Hirsch Agent Jeanie Ralph: No one signed up to speak
- b. A front yard setback variance at 308 Lee Street Smithville Townsite, block 82, Lot 10, Owner Daniel Tackett: No one signed up to speak

## Open Meeting:

### Discussion and Action:

- a. On a minimum lot size variance at 502 Leah Ln. Oak Meadows Retirement Community, Lot 18, Acres .01150, Martha Hirsch Agent Jeanie Ralph: *Ms. Hirsch is asking for a minimum lot size variance from 6,500ft<sup>2</sup> to 5,000ft<sup>2</sup> to allow future construction of a home. After reviewing the criteria for granting a variance, the P&Z unanimously recommended approval. Councilwoman Foerster made a motion to approve the variance that they have met all criteria for granting a variance. Councilwoman Morgan seconded and the motion passed unanimously.*
- b. On a front yard setback variance at 308 Lee Street Smithville Townsite, block 82, Lot 10, Owner Daniel Tackett: *Mr. Tackett is requesting a 9' front yard setback variance (form the required 25' to 16') to allow him to attach a home to the existing steps, ramp, and porch slab. After reviewing the criteria for granting a variance, the P&Z unanimously recommended approval.*

Citizen Comments: None

Discussion and Action on the Annual Audit for the 2018-2019 Fiscal Year Budget: Singleton, Clark & Company, PC completed the annual audit of the City of Smithville's 2018-19 financial statements. Overall, we received a "clean" financial audit. Councilman Gordon made a motion to approve the Annual Audit. Councilwoman Barrientos seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Citizen Comments: None

Discussion and Action on the awarding of a contract bid for the SE 2nd Street Detention Pond and Drainage Project (FEMA-DR-4272-011): The City received eight (8) bids for the project ranging from \$512,509 to \$754,557. The low bidder for the project was WJC Constructors, LLC of Smithville in the amount of \$512,509. Councilwoman Barrientos made a motion to award the bid to WJC Constructors, LLC. Councilman Gordon seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Citizen Comments: None

Discussion and Action on the awarding of a contract bid for Marburger Drainage Improvements Phase 2 - Phase 2 of the Marburger project involve drainage upgrades to storm drains and culverts running parallel to NE 1st and Marburger. The bid opening for the Phase 2 project was held on Tuesday, February 25, 2020. The City received two (2) bids ranging from \$193,985 to \$225,637 with 304 Construction, LLC submitting the lowest bid. Councilwoman Morgan made a motion to award 304 Construction, LLC the bid. Councilwoman Barrientos seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Citizen Comments: None

Discussion and Action on entering an Interlocal Agreement with Bastrop County for the CBDG-DG Funding: The City of Smithville, in partnership with Bastrop County, was awarded \$1.5M in 2017 CDBG-DR set-aside funding (Hurricane Harvey) for county-wide infrastructure improvements. Pending approval by the City Council, the ILA will be effective on the date of execution and remain in effect for a period of five (5) years. It is expressly agreed and understood that grant funds to be paid by Bastrop County under this ILA shall not exceed \$574,520. The CDBG-DR funding will be used for the design and construction of drainage improvements along NW 2nd Street from Cleveland to SH95. The ILA will require the City to hire a qualified engineering firm to design and manage the project. Councilwoman Barrientos made a motion to approve the ILA with Bastrop County. Councilwoman Foerster seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Citizen Comments: None

Discussion and Action on awarding an Engineering Services Bid for the General Land Office (GLO) CDBG-DR Infrastructure Drainage Project: Proposals for engineering services (Request for Qualifications (RFQ)) for the City of Smithville CDBG-DR 2nd STREET DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT were received by 3:00 pm on 2/26/20 and reviewed by City staff on 3/4/20. Experience, work performance, and capacity to perform were criteria used by the City staff to evaluate/differentiate each engineering consultant's qualifications. Four (4) Engineering services consultants submitted their qualifications. BEFCO Engineering, Inc. received the highest total score (98). Councilwoman Barrientos made a motion to award the bid to BEFCO Engineering, Inc. Councilwoman Morgan seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Citizen Comments: None

Discussion and Action on the Cemetery Maintenance Contract bid: Outsourcing the cemetery maintenance contract will save the City approximately \$20k per year. The City received only 1 bid for the 2-year contract from Wilson 5 Lawn Care, LLC in the amount of \$72k per year. The contract includes maintenance at both Oak Hill and Mt. Pleasant Cemeteries. Councilwoman Foerster made a motion to award the bid to Wilson 5 Lawn Care, LLC. Councilman Gordon seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Citizens Comments: None

Discussion and Action on a Historical Marker to be placed on the home at 301 Mills St: Faith Franklin has applied for a City of Smithville Historical Marker for the Joseph Charles and Frantiska Langer Leshikar home at 301 Mills. The home meets 10 of the 11 criteria established by the Historic Preservation Design Standards Advisory Committee. Councilwoman Morgan made a motion to approve the Historical Marker at 301 Mills St. Councilwoman Barrientos seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Citizen Comments:None

Discussion and Action on an Ordinance Amending Chapter 1 General Provisions, Article 1.200 Cemeteries and Burial of the Dead: Amending the cemetery ordinance to allow artificial flowers and remove the requirement to cover all graves with sod. Also, the ordinance is being updated to prohibit the burial of pet/animal remains in city cemeteries. Councilman Gordon made a motion to approve the Ordinance Amendment. Councilwoman Morgan seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Citizen Comments: None

Discussion and Action on an Ordinance Amending Chapter 2 Animal Control, Article 2.809 Location of Space Allotted: Request ordinance amendment to allow horse enclosure to be situated 25' from inhabited dwelling as opposed to 50'. Council man Gordon made a motion to approve and Ordinance Amendment. Councilwoman Morgan seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Citizens Comments: None

Discussion and Action on the Financial Report: Councilwoman Morgan made a motion to approve the Financial Report. Councilwoman Foerster seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Adjourn: 7:08**

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Scott Saunders Jr., Mayor

Attest:

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Jennifer Lynch, City Secretary