

REGULAR MEETING - NOVEMBER 5, 2015

The Mayor and City Council met in regular session on Thursday, November 5, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall located at 114 West Sycamore Street, Lincolnton North Carolina.

Council members in attendance were:

RHYNE CLONINGER EADDY HOVIS

Mayor John O. Gilleland, Jr. called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilman Rhyne made the motion unanimously approved the *REGULAR AGENDA*.

Councilman Eaddy made the motion unanimously approved the *CONSENT AGENDA* as follows:

Proclaimed November 2015 as "National Caregivers Month"

REGULAR AGENDA:

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION HONORING SALVADOR SOSA ON HIS UPCOMING RETIREMENT:

(R-11-15)

Mayor Gilleland presented Salvador Sosa with a retirement resolution, a check as described by the policy, and congratulated him on his years of service with the City. The Mayor read the resolution aloud as follows:

WHEREAS, the City of Lincolnton does desire to recognize and honor employees of the City for dedicated and distinguished contributions to our City and its citizens; and

WHEREAS, Salvador Sosa, began employment with the City of Lincolnton on May 25, 1988 as a Solid Waste Collector I in the Public Works Division. In 2002 he was promoted to a Solid Waste Collector II, excelling again in 2004 to his current position of Equipment Operator; and

WHEREAS, Salvador Sosa, has over his tenure assisted the City through demanding changes, transitioning routes and solid waste debris collection, while always maintaining a superior level of service to our citizens; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Lincolnton, that appreciation be shown to **Salvador Sosa**, honoring him on his upcoming retirement on December 1, 2015 and that we extend congratulations and best wishes to him for continued success in all his future endeavors.

Adopted and presented this the 5th day of November 2015.

Mayor Gilleland thanked Mr. Sosa for his service.

RESOLUTION TO JOIN THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE HEALTH PLAN

(R-12-15)

City Manager Jeff Emory spoke to Council concerning this item giving some of the background of this latest opportunity for the City regarding health care coverage. Finance Director Steve Zickefoose, as well as Human Resources Director Tanya Osborne addressed Council on the topic, both recommending approval from Council. It was duly noted that the adoption of the resolution does not guarantee acceptance. It is the second step in a series steps that will need to be taken, with the final step being the adoption of a Memorandum of Understanding. Mr. Emory explained that although retirees cannot be covered under this plan, the City is obligated to find and offer retiree coverage that will mimic coverage offered to all other employees. The potential cost savings by going with this plan was also talked about.

Finance Director Steve Zickefoose explained the numbers side of the plan being considered. He also gave some insight regarding securing retiree coverage. Mr. Zickefoose informed Council that the City could see a cost savings of approximately one million dollars (\$1,000,000) as well as spoke to the stability of the State Health Plan. One down side to the plan is once you are in, you cannot opt out. Mr. Zickefoose also informed that due to the current agreement with Municipal Insurance Trust, July 1, 2016 would be the potential start date of the plan unless other arrangements can be made.

Human Resources Director Tanya Osborne presented the Resolution, stressing again that adoption of the resolution is the second step in the process with the first step being a Letter of Intent. Mrs. Osborne stated she felt this change not only benefits the City, but the employees as well. She explained the proposed Resolution was drafted after consulting with staff from another city whose Resolution has been accepted by the State. In conclusion, Mrs. Osborne requested that Council adopt the proposed resolution which will allow staff to continue in the process required to become a member of the North Carolina State Health Plan.

Some discussion was generated among both Council and staff regarding the multiple reasons to move forward.

Councilman Rhyne made the motion unanimously approved to adopt Resolution to join the North Carolina Health Plan

CONSIDERATION OF AWARDING CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY AND GSP FOR THE PURCHASE OF SANITATION TRUCKS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$241,256.55 PER UNIT:

(C-19-15)

City Manager Jeff Emory spoke to this item requesting Council award contract to GSP for the purchase of two sanitation trucks. Mr. Emory reminded Council that \$275,000.00 has been budgeted for each truck in the current year's budget as a part of the City's plan to go to an automated system effective July 1, 2016. Bids were received

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on October 26, 2015 with GSP submitting the lowest bid. Mr. Emory informed purchase will be paid through a bank loan. In conclusion, Mr. Emory recommended bid be awarded.

Assistant Public Works Director Rob Buff also spoke to this item. Mr. Buff gave some insight into the purpose for this purchase and how it will aid in moving forward. He reported that staff with the City of Charlotte have offered to help with training our employees on the equipment at no cost to the City. Mr. Buff has also received offers to help with routing. He continued speaking to the design of the trucks and in response to a question from Councilman Eaddy, Mr. Buff stated youtube videos are available online that can possibly be linked to the City's website to help during this transition.

Councilman Eaddy made the motion unanimously approved to accept the low bid from GSP Marketing for the purchase of two solid waste pick-up trucks.

CONSIDERATION OF CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY OF LINCOLNTON AND LINCOLN COUNTY FOR FIRE SERVICE:

(C-20-15)

City Manager Jeff Emory presented a proposed fire service contract between the City Of Lincolnton and Lincoln County that involves covering areas that are not currently in the Lincolnton fire district. Mr. Emory stated this agreement is actually the result of Lincoln County agreeing to assist the City with its Route 90 customers. He reported the area should generate minimal call volume and recommended adoption of the contract.

Chief Ryan Heaver was in attendance and available for questions. He confirmed he and others have reviewed the terms and conditions several times and feel comfortable with what is presented. Mr. Heaver informed the State would be onsite to conduct an inspection the following week. He expressed no concerns regarding the contracts approval.

Councilman Eaddy stated that although he was unable to recuse himself from voting on this topic, he does have an adult family member that lives in one of the areas who could possibly benefit from this action.

Councilman Larry Mac Hovis made the motion unanimously approved to approve the contract.

CONSIDERATION OF INDUSTRIAL INCENTIVE POLICY:

(P-01-15)

Before the presentation, City Manager Jeff Emory explained the intent of this appearance being to make Council aware of suggested changes to the current policy. Council will actually consider and adopt the amended policy at a later date.

Mr. Cliff Brumfield, Director of the Lincoln Economic Development Association, came before Council to discuss proposed revisions to the City's Industrial Incentive Policy.

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Mr. Brumfield provided Mayor and Council with a draft copy of the proposed changes to the current policy explaining why changes are needed. He pointed out how the current policy compares to the proposed changes and how it fits into the City's intentions to become more aggressive in recruiting industry.

City Manager Jeff verified that action will be needed on this item at next month's regular meeting and assured that the newly elected officials will receive copies of the information.

DISCUSSION OF WATER ISSUES ON THE CORNER OF ELIZABETH AVENUE AND CARPENTER STREET:

Mrs. Martha Finger of 2219 Tin Mine Road, Lincolnton spoke to Council regarding ongoing drainage issues in a mobile home park that she owns at the corner of Elizabeth Ave. and Carpenter Street. Mrs. Finger claims water was diverted to her property when the area was annexed by the City and as a result her mobile park is constantly being flooded. Mrs. Finger acknowledges she has met with the Mayor, City Manager, Steve Peeler and Rob Buff several times regarding this issue however she stressed her displeasure and frustration with how the City has handled this problem. She request the City do something to correct the problem once and for all.

In discussion, Mayor Gilleland noted the City has taken several steps to help with this issue. City Attorney T.J. Wilson suggested she contact United States Geological Service to help maintain the water ways in the creek behind the property. At the conclusion of discussion on this issue, staff was directed to again assess the situation to see if there is any additional things the City can do. Mrs. Finger requested to be notified before staff's arrival.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL UPDATE/OVERTIME REPORT:

City Manager Jeff Emory presented a Executive Summary for September 2015. Mr. Emory directed Councils attention to the various funds comparing this year's activity to last year's at this same time. He also pointed out preliminary numbers are showing no Fund Balance funds being spent.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Robert Tomlinson of 501 South Grove Street, Lincolnton. Mr. Tomlinson began by thanking Mayor Gilleland and Councilman Hovis for their years of service then addressed Council regarding the upcoming December meeting recommending that the December 3rd meeting be held at the Citizens Center. This due to the maximum occupancy of the Council Chambers being 100. Mayor Gilleland thanked Mr. Tomlinson for his recommendation.

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CLOSED SESSION:

Councilman Eaddy made the motion unanimously approved to enter into closed session in accordance with NCGS 143-318.11(a)(1)(4)(5)(6) to discuss property and personnel.

Commissioner Oates was asked to remain for a portion of the Closed Session. Mr. Joe Tate was also allowed to remain.

Returning to open session Mayor Gilleland explaining discussion regarding an opportunity that has presented itself at the Lincolnton/Lincoln County Airport. With no further discussion Councilman Eaddy made the motion unanimously approved concerning property at the airport, being two parts.

First, that the Lincolnton City Council transfer its fifty percent (50%) ownership of approximately 8.5 acres located behind the hangers, between the hangers and Jack Dellinger Road to Lincoln County. Second part being that the Lincolnton City Council approve the airport property release agreement and authorize the Mayor and City Manager to execute the agreement once the survey is received and the attorneys finish their agreements on the protective organ in that contract.

NEWS MEDIA:

Mayor Gilleland opened the floor up to questions from the news media. Mr. Wayne Howard thanked both Mayor Gilleland and Councilman Hovis for their service to the City. Mayor Gilleland responded expressing his pleasure serving in his respective capacities. Councilman Hovis made comments and expressed his disappointment with this being his last meeting stating "it is like losing a family member." He ended by saying his service to the City has been an honor.

Councilman Rhyne reminded Council of the upcoming open house/public input meeting on November 18th at the Lentz Gym from 5pm – 7pm. City Manager Jeff Emory informed the Architects request to be on the December agenda.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilman Hovis made the motion unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting.

Note: Ms. Daphne Ingram filled in for the absence of the City Clerk who was on FMLA during the time of this meeting. Minutes were taken and drafted by Ms. Ingram.

DONNA C. FLOWERS, MMC
CITY CLERK

JOHN O. GILLELAND, Jr.
MAYOR