

City of New Ellenton
Regular Meeting of City Council – Work Session
City Hall Council Chambers
Monday, November 19, 2012 @ 6:00 PM
MINUTES

WELCOME: Mayor Vernon Dunbar opened the work session at 6:05 PM.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Council Present – Amy Bailey, Eartha Rogers, Terence Williams, Vernon Dunbar, Daniel Braswell, Roy Shaw, David Dunbar, Sr.

Others present –Assistant City Clerk Courtney Moseley, Fire Chief Mike Kellems, Attorney J.D. Mosteller

ITEMS DISCUSSED:

- Fire Chief Kellems explained that Aiken County recently completed a reassessment of property throughout the County to detect smaller improvements (garages, work sheds, etc.). As a result, the Fire Department has added fire fees on improvements valued over \$1000.
- First Reading on the ordinance authorizing the tax anticipation note. A special meeting for the final reading was scheduled for Wednesday, November 28, at 6 PM.
- Mayor Dunbar presented a letter he received today by mail from Pope & Ziegler Law Firm regarding the cost of preparing the Tax Anticipation Note – total is \$3500.
- Final Reading on the amendment to the Business License Ordinance per MASC.
- Vacancy on the Board of Zoning Appeals – Citizen Rex Nordeen has completed the mandatory starter training and has volunteered to fill the vacancy. BZA hearing is scheduled for November 27 at 6 PM.
- Fire Chief Kellems presented two bids for construction to bring substation on Highway 278 to code per Aiken County's Land Management regulations.
- Mayor Pro Tem Daniel Braswell brought up the concrete bumper curbs for the parking lot at City Hall, stating he would like to start shopping around to have this work completed.
- Councilman Shaw discussed the electrical wiring/work needed to be done in order to have the Christmas tree lit by the Tree Lighting Ceremony.
- Mayor Dunbar suggested that we look into purchasing a tree that could be used year after year – possibly purchased out of Capital Outlay as it would be an improvement that we could use year after year. Mayor Dunbar said he would look into this.
- Mayor Dunbar asked Council who wished to ride in the Christmas parade and all said they would.
- Mayor Dunbar also asked if each Council member would donate one big bag of candy to be thrown out during the parade and all agreed, with Daniel committing to several bags they may have left over from Halloween at Foreman Memorial Baptist Church.
- Assistant City Clerk Moseley asked if all donations could be given to her by Monday, November 26.
- Councilwoman Rogers stated that business licenses no longer come before Council for approval and she feels they should. She further stated that Council should know when a business comes to town before it opens.
 - Mayor Dunbar agreed with Councilwomen Rogers stating that although Assistant City Clerk Moseley is appointed as the Business License Official, she is appointed by Council who has the ultimate responsibility for business licenses.
 - Assistant City Clerk Moseley stated that she understands both concerns, however, in training she learned that Council should not be handling business licenses as the City Zoning Ordinance regulates whether or not a business is approved. The City cannot deny a license if the type of activity is permitted within the Zoning Ordinance. She further stated that she

would make it a point to notify Council from this point forward of applications for business licenses as they come in, asking how Council would prefer she deliver that information. Council agreed an email would be sufficient.

- Attorney J.D. Mosteller arrived in the middle of this conversation and was asked by Mayor Dunbar how business licenses should be approved. Mr. Mosteller confirmed that business licensing is an administrative act only and Council cannot object to the issuance of a license provided it meets City Zoning Ordinance regulations. He further stated that if Assistant City Clerk Moseley fails to issue a license at Council's instruction, Council would be liable.
- Attorney J.D. Mosteller reviewed the Tax Anticipation Note with City Council. He also stated that he had been in communication with Police Chief Alesia Parks in reference to his services during jury trials for traffic tickets or DUIs. Police Captain William Cook confirmed that his legal services are desired for jury trials only, not for regular monthly traffic court cases.

No action was taken on any of the items discussed.

Clerk's Signature/Date