

**CITY OF EUHARLEE
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES
NOVEMBER 14, 2017**

Mayor Dennis Thayer called the meeting to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

City Clerk, Carolyn Banks called the roll and the following were present: Mayor Dennis Thayer, Council Members Craig Guyton, Ronald Nesbitt, David Duncan, Joe Turner and City Manager James Stephens. City Attorney Boyd Pettit was not present.

Council Member Craig Guyton motioned to amend the agenda to add the comprehensive plan under new business. Council Member Ronald Nesbitt seconded the motion. The motion was carried with Council Members Guyton, Nesbitt, Duncan, Turner and Mayor Thayer all voting in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

SPLOST 2020 Projects - James Stephens

Mayor Dennis Thayer said, the first page shows the document to be turned in to the county for the vote on the 2020 SPLOST. As you can see the breakdowns we made the adjustments from our last meeting. We broke all the categories down a little bit simpler to 6 categories: water sewer, downtown development, road improvement, capital equipment, infrastructure and recreation fund. And those amounts represent the agreed upon amounts from the last meeting. He asked, if they had any questions about the discussion. Council Member Joe Turner said, he liked the simplicity of putting things together. The downtown development can cover a lot instead of specifically putting items down. He liked putting them in categories and they can use it as they need it.

NEW BUSINESS

1st Reading Alcohol Ordinance - James Stephens

City Manager James Stephens said, he was approached by a business owner to give consideration to amend the alcohol ordinance for distilled spirits pouring. He said, the council have in front of them two pages that is just an insert of the original ordinance which is about a 30 page ordinance. They had the section in front of them that they had been asked to consider. Currently the city's distilled pouring license is \$5000. We do not presently have anybody with that licensed. The City of Cartersville and Bartow County charges \$1500 for the distilled pouring license. He said, he is not recommending they go down to \$1500. All we have been asked is for consideration if the Council would consider moving off the \$5000. The feedback he received was to put it on the agenda. He wanted to point out, they have been approached by a specific potential business owner, but once the sewer project is completed there will be others to follow. He does not think this is a decision based on one request or application. The \$5000 was common and customary for distilled spirits package sales. He is not suggesting that they change that if someone ever approached the council for a package. This is just to see if there was any consideration to lower the \$5000 for pouring in a restaurant setting.

Mayor Dennis Thayer said, he knew a few years back some of these fees were adjusted but he didn't think this was one that was adjusted back then. Council Member Craig Guyton said it was not.

Mayor Thayer asked, if anybody knew the history of our why it was so much higher than everything else. Council Member Joe Turner said, a couple of places around town was talking about it and they didn't think it was appropriate, so they set it high enough to make it harder. It is not necessarily still true with the people, that he is aware of, that is looking at this.

Mr. Stephens stated we do not know who the next applicant will be.

Mayor Thayer said, he is not of the mindset that they should make policy on who might or might not apply. The policy should be based upon the right thing to do.

Council Member Turner said, it was not necessarily at that time in Euharlee. They just did not want it, but things have changed. He said, with the development of the sewer a lot of things is going to change.

Mr. Stephens said, the process by which an applicant would receive the license involves background check and the police department has a process they go through in addition to them simply just paying the fees. If we had 5 applicants, 2 of which we really had little information about, the process would involve a background check and a thorough investigation before this council would be given a recommendation for a license.

Council Member Turner asked, what Cartersville fee was and Mr. Stephens said \$1500. Council Member David Duncan said, he would not have a problem dropping it to \$1500. Mayor Thayer said, they need to make it competitive with everybody else.

Council Member Turner said, he guess Carterville is the only one that has one.

Mr. Stephens said, Bartow County has one and he think it is also \$1500. Adairsville's may be at \$2500, but we would be competing more with Cartersville. The \$1500 is not out of line by any means. If that is the councils' wish we would simply strike the \$5000 to \$1500, this would be the 1st reading and we would follow up in December for the 2nd reading. Mayor Thayer said, even at \$1500 it would still be almost double. Actually to be truthful of everything else, it is still almost triple than everything else. He does not think it is anything wrong with being competitive and being consistent with what is going on around us. He thinks \$1500. is reasonable and not excessive. He does think \$5000. is excessive and not realistic. He does not personally have a problem going to \$1500. He asked Council Member Ronald Nesbitt if he wanted to abstain altogether. Council Member Nesbitt said, he would abstain altogether because they know how he feels about it. Council Member Guyton said he had no problem with \$1500.

Mayor Thayer said there is no reason not to change it to \$1500 per item number 5 on section 20 - 40.

Mr. Stephens said, they will prepare it for the December meeting for the 2nd reading.

2018 Budget- James Stephens

Mayor Dennis Thayer stated council had 2 sheets in front of them. The 1st sheet was the revenue sheet and it shows you the FY15 revenue, FY16 revenue with the amended budget, revenue to be for FY17 and the projected revenue for 2018. The revenue is not overly cautious, but is not overly aggressive. It's flat in a lot of areas to be safe. Our projected revenues for 2017 was \$1,073,886. The projected revenue for 2018 is \$1,706,800 which is a difference of about \$65,000 roughly.

City Manager, James Stephens said, 2017 total includes the appropriate funds of \$234,000 from the original appropriated funds. There actually is a projected increase in revenue. Mayor Thayer stated, \$1,073,886 includes the \$234,000 coming from fund balance. There is a significant, about \$170,000 increase in revenue projection. Mr. Stephens said, it is still conservative based on LOST and our insurance premiums which are, predominantly, what constitutes that increase. Mayor Thayer said, he has been preaching all year long and the last 3 years, we've had since the beginning of the operation of the park. We have had a decrease in revenue with an increase in expenditures which has caused to have to pull from our fund balance to make a balanced budget. They are at the point where they need to not do that. So if you look at the 2nd page, Euharlee 2018 proposed budget, the proposed budget has an increase of 12%. Much of that is due to increase in insurance premiums and some low projections on expenses from this year. Our proposed budget for 2018 is \$1,979,277. You take away the projected revenue of \$1,706,800, we have a shortfall which is a little red number in the amount of \$272,477. This budget includes absolute no raises for employees and it does include the increase in insurance by 7%. There is some increase in the right-hand column. Increases in recreation with the cost of lights. The street and highways wouldn't have enough money to cover what we needed for this year. We have put very little to no money in our streets and highways for several years now and we need to start. We need some money for repairs and maintenance. The other increase is a projected request from the police department of 2 cars and rifles for all the cars. To address that, if you look over at the bottom where it starts off with furloughs for the city manager, below that, for the police department we have an amount of \$63,000 and

that can be SPLOST monies. We can pull \$63,000 off of the \$272,000. The other items you see here is what it's going to take to get down to a balanced budget without pulling from reserve. Our projected fund balance at the end of this year is \$657,431. A 30% fund balance is only \$650,000. We will have just over 3 months of fund balance of reserve at the end of this year. He does not propose they take any more money out of fund balance to make a balanced budget. We either increase our revenues significantly by a millage increase or we cut services. What we have proposed here is a one-day furlough for all employees with the exception of police officers. It includes office and command staff at the police department. A decrease of \$13,000 in public works equipment, \$5,000 decrease in recreation equipment, a decrease of police camera equipment of 14,000 and either both the library and museum have equal funding in the amount of \$70,000 - \$73,000 range for the year. Either we cut out two-thirds of the museum funding or we cut out two-thirds of the library funding. Those are the items necessary to get us to the \$272,477 which would give us a proposed balanced budget.

Council Member David Duncan stated, we are going to have to put training in this year's budget because we have newly elected officials. Where will that go and officers are going to have to go to training.

City Manager James Stephens stated, he added training back in and it predominantly is the 16% increase on the council line item. It is \$2,500 for council training.

Mayor Thayer said, he has proposed to the city manager that the furlough is done on the Monday following Thanksgiving. It is a holiday and will not cut city services for that day. At that time, council may decide to do a millage increase to the point where that is not necessary. We are down to bare minimum. There is no fat in this budget. We are meeting the basics. We have to do away with the library funding, which he is not sure 100% they can do that legally or doing away with the majority of the museum funding. Council Member Joe Turner said, he agreed he does not think they can do away with the library and he couldn't tell them because it has been so long. He said, we are stuck with the library.

Mayor Thayer agreed with Council Member Turner. He said, they will need to go back and look at the original agreement. He would find it hard to believe the county would write an agreement for them to be able to pull out. With that said if that is the case, then you are cutting \$53,000 out of \$73,000 or \$77,000 of the museum budget which is basically cutting a staff position.

Council Member Craig Guyton asked the city manager to explain the furlough days again.

Mayor Thayer said, it is one 8 hour day off for all employees with the exception of patrol officers.

Mr. Stephens said it is one a month. Mayor Thayer said, 1 day a month per employee.

Council Member Joe Turner said, there is a bunch to think about and Council Member Duncan agreed. Council Member Duncan asked, with the police department it would not be the officers but the admin would be on furlough. Mayor Thayer said, administrative, chief and deputy chief both would be furloughed. It would pull away from the admin, but would not pull away from the street protection of the public.

Council Member Duncan asked, would they be setting the days. Mayor Thayer said, it would be up to the city manager to set the dates. Council Member Duncan said, they couldn't just pick a day they wanted to take off. Mr. Stephens said, it would be coordinated with department heads. Council Member Duncan said, they are going to have to do something to cut funds down and hates taking money away from the people. Mayor Thayer said, there is a burden here is, we have ridden on the reserves for 3 years and we can't go any further. Either we put the burden on the backs of employees making them do the furloughs or we spread it out and do millage. He knows it's not popular and nobody wants to do popular. We do not have a millage and it is not fair to put this on the back of employees. Personally I think it's not reasonable in today's world to say that you can live here for free and not pay property tax and expect to get what you get. He asked the city manager, to get to the \$272,000, even if you get to the \$209,000 no matter what we do the \$63,000 can come out of SPLOST which would be helpful. So you are looking at about \$209,000 minus the police SPLOST issue. He asked, what it would be in a millage increase.

Mr. Stephens said just about 2.8 mills. Mayor Thayer asked, what it would come out to be on a \$200,000 home. Mr. Stephens said, on a \$200,000 home with a homestead exemption of a 40% assessment, which will come out to \$79.20.

Mayor Thayer said, he will mention all the exemptions that were on the ballot did pass.

Council Member Duncan said, most of the houses in Euharlee are not \$200,000 homes, just over in Shaw Woods.

Mr. Stephens said, the correct amount will be \$23.76 with 2.8 mills on a \$200,000 home with all the exemptions. He explained to Council Member Duncan the way it would work, take the \$209,000 divided by \$77,000 which 1 mill would generate, based on the current tax digest. Even though some houses are \$350,000 and some are \$75,000, the \$77,000 is what the 1 mill is generated on. Council Member Duncan said, that is the average basically.

Council Member Craig Guyton asked, if the digest is including all of the same exemptions you spoke about. Mr. Stephens said yes and Council Member Guyton asked was he positive on that. Mr. Stephens said he was pretty sure.

Mayor Thayer said, the \$77,000 is the number we have been going with all year.

Council Member Guyton said, he may be wrong, but thinks that was involved in 100% valuation not the 40%. Mr. Stephens said, he can get the digest and calculate the new exemptions.

Council Member Guyton asked, on a \$200,000 house without the 40% and using 100% how much is that. Mr. Stephens said, the 40% comes from state code. If the houses are \$100,000 you only tax \$40,000 of it if there are no other exemptions. So a \$2,000 homestead exemption, the tax would be based on 40% assessment. You would take \$100,000, take the 40% exemption and then you take the tax off of that. Council Member Guyton said, maybe he is wrong. Mr. Stephens said, he is correct. It won't be a tremendous difference but you probably yield a little less than \$77,000.

Council Member Guyton said, on this budget we would be looking at an approximate 2.8 mills if we wanted to do it that direction. If we do that based on our agreement with the County water department, if the SPLOST does not pass, how much more mills will we have to add. Mr. Stephens said, 1.2 and will be looking at a total of 4 mills. Council Member Guyton said, so we will go from 0 to 4 mills if in the event that happens, that is in the written agreement we signed off on. Mr. Stephens said, that would be funding it over the full 20 years. We would not pay off early if the SPLOST failed. Council Member Guyton said, we got 1.2 mills regardless of what we do. He said, they have talked about several things over the last few months in regards to the budget when we talked about millage rate. The thing that we have talked about the most is the Joe Cowan Park. Since 2012 there have been several, when he came aboard and he can't speak before that, there have been several decisions that we made that have affected this. Number one, we took the museum budget from basically nothing, very little and run on volunteers to adding museum curator and bringing that budget up to where you see it today at 70+ thousand dollars. We opened Joe Cowan Park which roughly this year expenditures minus the revenue we brought which is another \$90,000. Mr. Stephens said it is probably going to come in at another \$120,000. Adding those two together comes to \$190,000. Council Member Guyton continued. Then, this council also made the decision for police department to have 2 officers on duty at all times. Mr. Stephens said with benefits that is about \$105,000. Council Member Guyton said, so altogether now were looking at \$400,000. So starting in 2012, and then adding Joe Cowan Park, then adding the police officers over the last 3 years we have been dropping an extra \$400,000 over what we were doing back in 2012 when we had surpluses in our fund balance was going this direction. Mr. Stephens said that is correct. Council Member Guyton said, we are at a point now, where Mayor Thayer has spoken about it and several council members have spoken about it, we are at a point now where the citizens of Euharlee have to decide do they want services, that they do have to pay for or do they want to cut some of that. That's where we are at. You can speak to all your constituents that you want over the next few weeks. The fact of the matter is we will have to add a millage rate or for expense purposes a lot of discussion has been about selling Joe Cowan Park, the county is not going to pay for that, we can give it away. He said, they might take it off our hands. So, that would take that away but also take our revenue away. Those 2 things are not going to come to \$200,000. He asked if they got his point. We can drop the museum curator and take that budget back down to doing volunteers. He said, that probably increases our participation at our next meeting from the museum and the historical society and they need to be represented here, to be quite honest, to discuss things that affect their budget. And last but not least, the police department. We can take that back to one officer at certain times. To do that, he thinks, we are very wrong if we even consider that, and if we got consider it, if that's

something that we deem is best for the budget, then what we've done, is put our officers at risk and that would be a shame. So where we are at, the things that we've done over the last 6 or 8 years have been moving Euharlee toward growing, toward the future and we have been able to do it because for so long we didn't spend money, just to be honest. We got monies in and just socked it away. You can debate whether or not if that's the right thing for the city to do in this day in time. But that is where we are.

Mr. Stephens said, the \$400,000 you were looking at, we start trying to cut to \$272,000. So we actually added \$400,000 but we are not at 400,000 in the hole, we are \$272,000 which is still a big gap. He said that was a very good summary given by Council Member Guyton. Council Member Guyton said back in 2012, we actually had a surplus that was adding to the fund balance. He has heard people talk under their breath about what we should do and we most certainly can have \$1,000,000 in our fund balance in 4 years. All we got to do is give away Joe Cowan Park, which he thinks is a mistake, turn around and cut the museum which he thinks is a mistake and go back to one officer on duty, which he thinks is a mistake. He said, he guarantees in 4 years they will have \$1,000,000 in fund balance and maybe even a million two, but he does not think that's a responsible government in his opinion.

Council Member Ronald Nesbitt stated, he can agree with everything Council Member Guyton has said, but he believes a lot of the flaws was they never considered inflation. If you look at inflation from 2012 to today, he think its equivalent of 4 mills if not more than that. He also thinks, you spent \$7,000,000 on a park. We didn't consider how much it would actually take to maintain that park. So now here we are 7 years later, saying we need to give \$7,000,000 away. We didn't consider the whole matter when we were doing it. Saying that, he thinks if SPLOST pass, and he believes it will, they need to really consider what they are going to do with that money. You can always get money to fix roads, you can do that. You need to look at how you can generate revenue in the city. We can do, we can fix this, we can repair that, but there is nothing saying you can take the SPLOST and do something to generate revenue. If it pass, that's what we should be looking at and if you talk to a lot of citizens, that's what they would say. Let's figure out ways to generate revenue with the money that we are getting. He said, on his road he has seen, in 5 years, not a paving truck go down his road and there are bumps everywhere. He said, he could go another couple of years if the city can maintain and the city is in good shape. It can maintain the police department, maintain these people and the positions that they are in. We can look at our actual budget and the SPLOST we are getting and say okay, let's made the right adjustments that will impact our future, not 6 years later and have a council scratching their heads wondering if they need to go up another mill. He agreed, but they should really consider what they are doing with what they got. It really looks bad to even talk about giving the park to the county. That looks really bad. His suggestion would be really consider what we're about to get. Mayor Thayer said, he has advocated the whole time he has been there, items that are basic functions of government and those items need to be the number 1 priority. In law enforcement, public safety is ultimate there. Any decision to try to go backwards with staffing the police department is a huge mistake. It decreases their ability to function, it decreases their safety, it decreases the safety to the public and that is the wrong direction to go in. That needs to be off the table no matter what. He said, he hates and he is not of the mindset that we put this issue on the backs of the employees. There are some hard decisions to be made here, but that is what we are elected to do. To make those hard decisions and take the consequences one way or the other. But putting this on the backs of the employees and tell them once every month you are doing to have to stay home today and not get paid. It's one thing when the economy crashed, and the economy is the best it's been 20 years, is not a reason to do that. It would be nice to have a million dollars sitting in the bank, but what will a million dollars to sit in the bank and does absolutely nothing. Best practices is enough to get us through if something goes wrong and we are in a good place there. We have just over 30% budget in the bank and that's a great place. It's more than what a lot of people do. It is a safe place to be. Three times that much, if this is really a functionally way to operate. In 2016 was a perfect example. We spent a lot of money 2016, more than we have the years before. But if you will remember, 2016 we tried to get some of the things back up to where the need to be. The police department they didn't have things that they needed, no cars and those type of things. That's when we added the officers back then. You got to maintain things if you, he sees this at his job right now, have not been given the money to maintain like they should over the years. Now we are in trouble

because it is going to cost so much money to get to where it needs to be. We need to maintain what we got.

Council Member Joe Turner said, he has sat there a long time. We have never advocated an ad valorem. We also know the cost of operating this city is going up. He don't like cutting stuff we already have and worked for years to get built up. He still does not like the ad valorem tax and don't know what he can say about the way it is going. He asked about the election exemptions on the ballot. What is the timetable for the state of Georgia for them? Mr. Stephens said, we had them on the on referendum so that they would be eligible for people to qualify for them should the council put a millage rate in effect 2018. The local assessor will be the one to actually update the digest and for him to get the updated numbers Council Member Guyton was speaking about. The election was certified on Monday so the exceptions are in place. The assessor office will get them posted and he can get an updated digest to see what a mill will bring in. Council Member Turner said, he was under the impression it was going to take a few months for them to get the paper work and the assessment together and we would have more time. Mayor Thayer said, no matter what, the funds for this budget will not be collected until October. So even if it took time for them to get it together it would be okay. Council Member Turner said, maybe that is where he got the date from. Mayor Thayer said, you are okay. We have already collected funds for this budget. It is a matter of this being addressed for 2018 tax digest. These funds taxable will go through September. Mr. Stephens stated, the millage rate will need to be set by council by the middle of August.

Council Member Duncan said, it would not go into effect until August. Mayor Thayer said, it will be on next year tax bill. But we need to decide what we are going to do to put a budget in place before January 1st. We need to decide what avenue we are going to take. You will have to start furloughs and make cuts on January 1st or you got to let them keep going and bring in the millage increase. Council Member Duncan said personally he would rather see a millage rate than taking money out of our employee pockets. Mayor Thayer said he agrees. Council Member Turner said, they have been given a pretty comprehensive spread out to take and look at. He said, he wants to take it home. Mayor Thayer said, that would be fine. He will give dates in the next meeting that they will have to vote on. Council Member Turner said in December and Mayor Thayer said yes. Mr. Stephens said, for the public hearing we will have what the tax would be on several homes and have it publicly distributed and for the council pending the timeframe the accessors will have them available. We can get a close calculation.

Council Member Guyton asked if he could get them an outlook without exemptions. Mayor Thayer and Council Member Duncan wanted to know why would you do that and where he is going with that. Council Member Guyton said if a millage rate is good for the city, is necessary for the city, if it does things for a better government and property taxes are better, all the people across the board will benefit. He is of the opinion if a millage rate is the way to go, there should not be many exemptions. Just one man's opinion. He said, such as the over exemption. The school board is dealing with that now and they currently do not have that. The argument is when you are 65 and over you are on a budget. He said, he is on a budget. If it is good for the city and it is going to increase property values it is going to benefit everybody. He said that knowing full well citizens just approved those things by 90 something percent. Mayor Thayer said, they are already there and you cannot undo them. Council Member Guyton said, you do not have to approve them. Mayor Thayer said so the council can set the millage rate and do it without exemptions. Council Member Guyton said correct. He is just wanting both options. Mayor Thayer said he thought once they were voted on. Council Member Guyton said, he does not believe that is the case because the school system has the ability, but do not have to. Mayor Thayer said if that is the case to go ahead and get both options. Mr. Stephens said, he put the document together based on conversations and instructions he received from him. He wanted to point out the furloughs are listed because he is not under the impression we are over staffed. While working on the budget our head count has increased significantly since 2011 but he is not under the impression they are over staffed. That is why the furlough is on the caption rather than cutting positions. Council Member Joe Turner said again he goes back to when they had one or two people in this office and it is not fun. Mayor Thayer said he agrees and the city is not overstaffed. This was not a first reading but brought to everybody's attention so everybody could see it. Mr. Stephens asked if he wanted to get a consensus on the dates. Mayor Thayer said it is on the next meeting.

2018 Comprehensive Plan - Julianne Meadows

Julie Meadows, stated she had 5 copies of the comprehensive plan to give out to council. This is the draft of the plan. The plan was prepared for the county and each of the cities with input from the city's staff, as well as, members of a steering committee. Euharlee was represented well on the steering committee. The names are included in the package. The plan was prepared according to the 2014 minimum planning standards set by the Department of Community Affairs under the Georgia planning act of 1989. The overall statute asks that each city in Georgia prepare and update the comprehensive plan so they remain qualified for state grants, loans and permits. That is the overall driver for the update of the comprehensive plan. On this February 28, 2018 is the day they must have the draft plan in place for Bartow County and each of the cities. At this time, the draft plan is prepared and we will ask that the city review the plan but also at the same time prepare a letter of transmittal allowing the plan to be sent to the state for review. During this review period, DCA will review the plan, give any advisory changes they see need to be made but at the same time we can make any changes that the city see that need to made to the plan as well. During the review process it helps them to keep on track. When DCA has reviewed it and all the changes and revisions, they will present the final pan to the county for adoption by resolution. It will be hopefully, between January and possibly February of next year, but well before to make that February 28th deadline. The plan includes, vision and mission statements for the city, a report on the accomplishments from the 5 year work program, a new 5 year work program, as well as, the needs and opportunities the city and the steering committee identified and set up projects in that work program. There is a transportation element that use the land use map for the city and each of those requirements is in accordance to the 2014 amendments. They do feel the plan needs those requirements. Again the city can make any changes they feel are needed. Mayor Thayer said, they will have a chance to look at it and in the next meeting coming up shortly they will vote on a transmittal letter. Council Member Joe Turner said thank you for all the hard work. Mayor Thayer said, thank you to Ms. Meadows for her leadership and congratulations because it is a big project.

Public Comments

Fred Werner, resident of Euharlee said that Council Member Ronald Nesbitt addressed some of his issues dealing with the SPLOST. 2007 was the first year SPLOST went for an extension. The residents ran a campaign in Euharlee to get it passed. He thinks SPLOST is a wonderful taxing system. One of the big complaints as Council Member Nesbitt brought up is that the city has to be a little bit slower in our projects and everything else. The big complaint was the city can't take care of what they have now and the city is building something new. We need to stop. He said, it went through a marathon of about 4 or 5 projects at one time. One project that was started and has not been completed. Phase 1 was, but Phase 2 the Euharlee Five Forks project. It was designed to deal with the traffic flow with Joe Cowan fields, safety for traffic and residents on that street, plus put sidewalks in to give residents a safe access to Joe Cowan fields. Nothing has been done and it has been over 5 years. They just replaced the bridge. The other subject is the Jolly building. He said, there are a lot of groups coming in and want to use the city's facilities. The girl scouts came in and wanted to use it. Why don't the city try cleaning up the Jolly building and using it for something like that? The building has a lot of history too. It is just sitting there. It is something else you can look into using. Mayor Dennis Thayer said, the building needs a complete renovation to be able to be used. Mr. Werner said, that is something with the complaints back in 2007 with the SPLOST. The city can't take care of what they have now. The big thing was Joe Cowan Fields at that time was designated \$2.65 million back in 2007 and a lot of people's complaint was Osborne Park. Frankie Harris Park needs to be updated the downtown needs to be updated; the old buildings. He thought the Jolly building is a nice size building. If it can be cleaned up because that building has history from years and years ago. You can use it for organizations that meet our charity for groups or something. That building just sits there. It's a shame that building has history. I hope in the future the council will look at it and also look at what they will do with the Five Forks project too. Council Member Craig Guyton said the Five Forks project, if he is not mistaken, was not a SPLOST project. They were doing that with a DOT grant. Mr. Werner said the DOT

grant was for the trail and not Five Forks. City Manager James Stephens said there was 2 years of DOT grants utilized for that. Council Member Guyton said the Five Forks project was not a SDPLOST project. Mr. Werner said that was supposed to be to ease the traffic, plus make it safer for residents. Council Member Guyton said he is with him. Mayor Thayer said there is URA bond monies now just sitting there. There is almost \$1 million dollars, \$700,000 that doesn't look like it is going to go towards the mill so the money is there to be used. Mr. Werner said that corner was to be re-cut, down by the restaurant because that is a tough corner there.

With no further discussion the meeting was adjourned at 7:56 pm.