

**CITY OF EUHARLEE
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES
JUNE 19, 2018**

Pickleball on Tennis Courts at JCP Discussion – Don Varvel

Don Varvel, Parks and Recreation Director said after measuring the one court, per the discussion in the previous meeting, he found it would be too tight. But he and the city manager, James Stephens reviewed it. The document you have, the white paint is for the tennis courts and the blue paint is for pickleball and this is the route to go. Mayor Steve Worthington said 2 for 1 is the way to go.

Council Member Joe Turner asked if they had the equipment to put the lines down. Mr. Varvel said you would use the same sprayer they use for baseball lines for the grass. You can adjust the sprayer to any width. He just didn't know how soon.

Mr. Stephens said Mr. Varvel is wide open with perfect game, but they do have Ms. Kat's husband and he has experience painting stripes with the equipment. He is not here, but she may have volunteered him for free labor. He said, seeing it on the image concerned him not seeing both courts marked and it may be a distraction. But with the color scheme, he is okay with to move forward with painting the courts. The net is easy to do.

Council Member David Duncan asked if the poles were okay and they said yes.

Council Member Tracy Queen asked if they would be getting a scoreboard. Mr. Stephens said they have no information on that. Ms. Kat volunteered her husband for that. He informed council she was there and asked if she wanted to say anything.

Ms. Kat said the ambassador for pickleball was late getting there. She was coming from Rockmart. Ms. Kat said they had a light morning of pickleball indoors at Lakepointe. They had 3 courts going which is 12 and had 4 sitting out. That is a light day. If they had 5 going and that would be 20 still sitting out if you use one court. People are not going to want to sit, watch and wait to play. And it does not affect tennis at all.

Council Member Joe Turner said he knows nothing at all about the game and would be comfortable doing 2 courts and leaving 1 tennis court. Someone may not be comfortable playing on one of them. He will do all 3 if everybody is comfortable.

Council Member Craig Guyton asked about the nets. Ms. Kat said it is not a problem. You can buy the ones you bring in and out for \$150 and you can set it up double and you can use it on both sides.

Council Member Tracy Queen asked if the other places charge. She said Lakepointe charges monthly or you can do \$5 daily and \$20 monthly. They prefer monthly. You would need somebody to collect the money. Council Member Queen asked are you going to look at it free from the start. Mr. Stephens said they do not charge for tennis. He said, with the current labor being provided the current budget could accommodate the paint.

Council Member Craig Guyton said he was only concerned with the courts being outside and Lakepointe inside, but after speaking with a couple of ambassadors over lunch in a local restaurant, they prefer outside when they can. He was not aware of the many pickleball courts in Bartow County. Ms. Kay said this is where she prefers to play. There is like 10 of them outdoors.

Council Member Guyton said he would be in favor to vote in July for all 3 courts. Ms. Kay said that Chuck and Sandy Spinner, owners of Arby's marked Red Top courts.

Council Member David Duncan asked her if she had a problem playing on the double marked courts. Ms. Kay said no she plays on the one at Coosa and Lakepointe.

Council Member Joe Turner said on the tennis courts it is first come first serve. If it takes off like you expect are they going to create a problem for those that do play tennis. Mr. Varvel said, eventually probably yes. Council Member Guyton said they can reserve courts like baseball fields with a fee attached. They also have a couple of more tennis courts.

Council Member Joe Turner asked would they prefer to do Osborne Park and leave Joe Cowan Park. Mayor Steve Worthington said no because of the schools. Mr. Varvel said there is work to be done also. Mayor Worthington said they can't vote right now but the consensus of the council is yes.

Security at Joe Cowan Park – Don Varvel/Chief Lee New

Don Varvel, Parks and Recreation Director said he doesn't know how to start because it is a problem grown outside of Euharlee. The parents at the games are out of control and then the kids are out of control. They have had several incidents where they had to call police officers and escort families out of the park. He had to call ball games with teams from New York and Florida and suspend the game last year.

It's getting bad. One lady almost went to jail. Council Member Tracy Queen said to increase the price of the tournament fees to pay for the officers. Mr. Varvel said that was his recommendation. Council Member David Duncan asked how many officers he needed. Mr. Varvel said one and have a set fee that will not out price and they do not get tournaments. We include the officer's fee with the tournament fee. Let's say you hire an officer for 10 hours then we would charge them \$150. Council Member Duncan asked how many field you have going at one time. Mr. Varvel said it depends. Some weekends we have 4 perfect game, we have 2 and sometimes 1. Council Member Duncan recommended 2 officers with at least 4 teams. Mr. Varvel said with 2 officers they will price themselves out of tournaments.

Council Member Tracy Queen said they don't currently charge for parking. There is a revenue right there. Charge for parking and that covers the cops.

Council Member Craig Guyton said someone will have to do it. Everything that you do to raise revenue has a cost associated with it as well. He understands exactly where you are coming from. One of the things he has an issue with on this particular topic. When dealing with larger parks, and we are competing with Dellinger Park, for instance on a tournament. Dellinger Park loses a lot of money for Cartersville. One thing good is they have a security guard. I can't say they are losing because it is a service to the citizens. We are not big enough to that without seriously hampering our budget. He doesn't think it is possible to add a security guard or an off duty officer without pricing ourselves out of the tournament business. A lot of the times when you have a tournament going on the weekends and they do have 2 officers available, if it escalates to have a back-up, then both officers are tied up at Joe Cowan Park and not policing the city or servicing elsewhere. His question would be if we there was a call out to Joe Cowan Park that required 2 officers being sent, could we not ask for back up from the sheriff's department as opposed to our second officer on duty so he is free to be to do other things in the city. Chief Lee New said their experience a few times to call for back up from the sheriff's department, there response time is somewhere between 30 and 45 minutes. And usually, like a situation at the park, it is handled before they get here. His concern is the same, if there is a situation at the park and only 2 officers working, then the rest of the city is unprotected. Council Member Guyton said, however at the same time if there was an issue at his home and both officers had to be called, the same thing applies whether they are at the park or at someone's home inside the city. You are still in the same situation. His point being, that is still part of what our police department does, protecting our park and our citizens. So adding a cost that is going to price us outside of tournaments would be his concern.

Council Member Joe Turner said, what he is assuming, the cost of an officer, and you are talking about an off duty officer being at the park, not our working officers. Just the presence of an officer walking around may have affect. He doesn't know. Mr. Varvel said it does because he has called them up for an incident. He gets there and spends 20 to 30 minutes and you can hear crickets because they do not want to be kicked out the park or taken to jail.

Ms. Kay, meeting participant, asked if they have the same umpires and if they do not have control of the games. Mr. Varvel answered, the umpires are dropping faster.

Council Member Guyton said this is becoming a national issue and was recently on the news. Every year, it is declining because the attitude of parents is escalating. He asked Chief New during the week or the weekend when an event is going on at Joe Cowan Park, is that fit in the normal rotation. Do you have

officers that will drive by and walk through and make a presence just like you would do in a neighborhood? Chief New said they do, but thinks what Mr. Varvel has suggested to have an officer already there. A lot of the potential problems will automatically extinguish before they even start. They can't leave one at the park because we only have 2 officers at work. The other one does not have any backup. They do have the entire city to consider and patrol.

Council Member Turner said have you asked the officers and do we have enough that will volunteer to work part time up there. Mayor Steve Worthington said they will have to go outside the city.

Council Member Guyton said, when we have events at Frankie Harris Park and other things that involves alcohol ordinances they have to provide an off duty officer to squash problems. That is generally only a few hours. A tournament can be from 8:00 am to 10:00 pm at night. These can be 12 to 13 hour days. This is some serious stuff to consider. Council Member Turner said this is not going to be an actual expense for the city. Mr. Varvel said he is trying to propose to add it into the cost to rent the ball fields. But we need to do it very cautiously. Like Council Member Guyton stated, if we get too high we are going to price ourselves right out of tournaments.

Council Member Guyton said for instance, this particular week we have 4 or 5 games a day on field 1 with perfect game. They pay us \$105 per game per field and using only one field. With your proposal we would have to increase it. Perfect game is not going to pay that, if he is not mistaken. Mr. Varvel said he thinks a lot of places perfect game go to already have officers at the park. Council Member Guyton said that is his point, if we say because they have 5 games today and we are charging \$100 for the day it is an extra \$25. Perfect game will say, this is how much we are willing to pay do you want us there or not. In a situation like this it will come out of the budget of the city. Mr. Varvel said one of the things he has approached and talked to perfect game about already is, they prefer Joe Cowan Park over most fields because it is so close to Lakepointe. He thinks if we propose that, not this year, they would understand because they have had a lot of other issues at other parks.

Council Member Queen said what will an empty car do? Park it up there because they do not know if there is a cop there or not. They just know there is a car there. How many times do you drive by an empty police car and slow down. It is the same effect. Council Member Guyton said he does not have an issue with them doing a price study based on other parks in the area and talk with perfect game and receive their input. He does not have an issue with the policy, but if it costs us money at the park we are causing trouble for ourselves opposed to helping.

Council Member Turner said if they are having trouble in the other areas, they may be willing to offer some incentive. Council Member David Duncan said since they want to use this park.

City Revenue Discussion - Council

Council Member Tracy Queen said he thinks they got away from the trash company way too quickly. He knows the company backed out of the deal, but the city needs to look into doing it themselves. We will miss out on a fair amount of revenue. He said, Mr. Stephens can punctuate anything he does not say correctly. As far as I can remember we can probably pull in the city around \$200,000 a year if we do it ourselves. Buy the truck, cans and manage it in that area. It will cost a discord in the beginning, but many cities are doing it now and bringing in a fair amount of revenue. It is smart and if you look at the numbers, you can have a tax over here and you get nothing. If you have a water department from the city, you get a service. He'd rather have a service than a tax any day. At least I am provided something. The number he went over shows them making way more than any tax will give them. It will be at least a 4 or 5 mill increase in tax verses getting the trash service from what he looked at. He is not an expert in it but it sure makes sense.

Mayor Steve Worthington said the only problem he has is the city our size and Adairsville one of them, they are running away from this and privatize. The city of Adairsville got out of the garbage business because they could hire it cheaper than they could do it themselves. What they got into up there was

similar to what the people of Euharlee thought we were doing, which we were not doing. They were going to pay this one particular company. They were not getting the garbage business for the city's sake it was a particular company and they were going to mandate everybody go with one particular company and the company was going to turn around and give the city back more money. With that said, the city our size is getting out of the garbage business because they can privatize it cheaper.

Council Member Craig Guyton asked, when you say privatize it, you mean they can get another company to do the work, but it still comes through the city. Mayor Worthington said yes.

City Manager, James Stephens said he is not familiar with the numbers for Adairsville in regards to houses and how the city is laid out verses Euharlee. He knows Emerson conducts it in house. What you are saying is accurate. Most cities are privatized. Most cities are very different from the layout of Euharlee. He believes Euharlee could be more profitable than even Emerson based on the layout of the city. It can be worked in 2 days or possibly one day. We would have to finance the equipment that we do not have. If it was an avenue this council wanted to pursue and put further work in, GEFA is willing to finance this type of equipment. The URA bonds are not equipped to finance this type of equipment. There would have to be 2 staff added to city services. If the council wanted to pursue it, we could get into the activity and price it competitive in the market or the council could make it a city service that was required. Even if the council chose not to do that, he believes if they do it competitive enough it would be wise for citizens to consider opting for the service from the city. With that being said, he did not have sharp numbers to present to the council but he does believe it will generate revenue in excess of \$200,000 a year. He can put numbers together for council to get some comfort with even an opinion letter from the CPA that the business plan made sense. His experience in this is not a pie in the sky information.

Council Member Tracy Queen said we also look at road wear and tear and different vehicles and especially different companies. Mr. Stephens said, 6 different trash trucks have wear and tear on the roads. Mayor Worthington said you can't diminish trash truck traffic if the city does it or someone else does it. Mr. Stephens said if we can charge \$13 instead of \$18 we might be able to diminish some of the traffic but that remains to be seen.

Council Member Joe Turner said if we get our own truck and price the service cheaper than other people so the city residents will have the tendency to take it from the city instead of outside. So would we still be able to mandate that they use our service or would they still be free to go outside if they wanted to. Council Member Guyton and Mr. Stephens both said yeas and the decision would be up to the council. Mr. Stephens says with the competitive market, they do have smart citizens in Euharlee. Council Member Turner said this question was asked to him and he wish Attorney Boyd Pettit was there. The city gets a franchise tax off of electricity and cable, could we say as a city, if you are going to pick trash up in the city and the providers will have to pay the city a franchise tax to operate in the city. Mr. Stephens said he has posed the question to Mr. Pettit and have an answer back from him which he did not actually understand the reason behind the answer. He said to Council Member Turner, you buy your gas from SCANA but the city does not buy from them. You have a contract with Spectrum or Comcast. Mr. Pettit's answer was the service contract between the citizens and the trash companies could not impose the franchise fee. He was hopeful we could and have the same flexibility. Like Adairsville has contracted with one company and they are collecting a franchise tax. They have the contract with the company and the citizens are the city's customers. So to answer your question, the answer was no but he doesn't really understand the difference between them. It also keeps the citizens options.

Council Member Turner said everybody does not get their gas from the same company and all the gas companies pay a franchise fee to the city. Mr. Stephens said he does have confidence in him and not doubting him. Council Member Guyton said, ask the question again and get clarification. Mr. Stephens said there might be a minor charter modification required. There may be a way to accomplish it. The

question to him, he sent him the excerpt from the charter, was the city's charter authorized them to collect franchise taxes that included utilities, transportation, television phone companies and other similar organizations. So would a trash company meet the definition of other similar organizations? He said he would seek further clarifications.

Council Member David Duncan said he had 2 of the trash companies to contact him about this and wanted to come to the meeting. One of them was there and the other said, if he thought he needed to be. He said, if it goes further he would get back in touch with him. He knows Council Member Queen was not here and he didn't see the crowd last week nor did he receive the same number of phone calls he received. He had some irate citizens calling.

Council Member Queen said, unfortunately some of the irate calls was because the paper was printed improperly. A lot of the people did not like the mandatory word. Although it comes to a point in time you have to say what is best for this city and look at it financially. There is no other revenue coming in here. If anybody has an idea of where some more money is going to come from he would sure like to hear and would entertain it. But he hadn't heard anything from any citizen or anybody about revenue. Where are they going to get it? Either we do a millage rate or we find some revenue. We are down to the point where we can't go on nip and tuck and the penny pinching ways. Eventually something is going to hit us. It is just a matter of time and we can't function as a city like that. Yes we have a reserve and we are at our 4.2 months but it's not always going to be there. Eventually something is going to increase in price whether it is police officer, increase in population and hit the 5 to 6 thousand people. It is coming. We can't ignore it. We must figure out a way to put some revenue some place. Eventually we will have to vote on it whether we do a tax or service and find it. He is not that much for the trash service but, at least investigate it and really put forth a solid effort. Yes it will make some people mad but sorry it is part of the council's job to make the hard decisions. Raising a tax is a hard decision, but we will have to eat that if we have to do it. Having a trash service, we will have to eat that if we have to do it. Council Member Queen said, it is their job, he is not afraid to do his job, and he does not like to do it. At some point they will have to find a way. Do they need to outsource it for someone to find a way for the city to make money?

Council Member Duncan said he tried to explain to the citizens when they contacted him, they were just looking into it. The city is trying to avoid a tax. He said his understanding is a citizen would pay 1 mill of tax rather than being told they have to use a particular service. They would rather take their garbage to the dump than pay the city \$45. They do it most of the time anyway. He believes most would rather see a tax than to be told they have to use a certain trash company.

Council Member Queen said it is sad because the few people that take their trash to the dump is less than 5%. If you look at all the neighborhoods in all the subdivisions see how many trash cans are in front of people's houses. It is very few people in Euharlee that takes their trash. He would bet less than 10%. Council Member Joe Turner said the word mandatory. Council Member Queen said it is a hard word to eat but everything is mandatory; your taxes, sales tax and the tax on your gas. There is no way of getting around that. Some people said doing the waste management was a disguise tax. If you want to look at it that way at least you are getting a service out of it provided to you as a citizen. It needs a lot more work to look into or find another route.

Mr. Stephens said the time period to do a millage is probably shorter than the research.

Council Member Craig Guyton said they only have one more work session to discuss revenue before they look at a millage rate. Where they are now, you can turn the clock back 5 years if you want to. As a council we are not going to do trash pickup and we are not going to do a millage rate. We can talk to the county about taking over JCP. We can go back to 1 officer on duty. We can go back to nobody to staff the museum and use volunteers. All three things are not in the city's best interest in the future in his opinion. The question is how they want to look at revenue. He said he had a citizen tell him they would be willing to

pay 1 mill of tax than you to tell him who to use to pick up his trash. He asked him what makes you think 1 mill will work. It may be 3 mills. The city has to provide a number of services to be a city. They are one of the few cities that do not provide this particular service.

Council Member Turner said, Mayor Worthington remembers garbage pickup is one of the services the city provided 20 years ago. The city provided ½ price and the citizens ½ price. He said he would like to check with Mr. Pettit to see if there is something we can do with the city charter.

Ed Hornyak, resident of Euharlee said he didn't look it up himself but had been told there is 20 cities in the state that have a zero millage rate, 19 of them have some type of utility. The city of Euharlee is the only city with a zero millage rate and no service. You can't run anything with no income. It is sad.

Council Member Queen said it was even mentioned down at the GMA meeting. They mentioned only 20 cities without a millage rate and we are the only city that has no service.

Council Member Turner said so the other 19 cities have something that they sale.

Council Member Guyton want to thanked council's before them that they were able to keep the budget safe and this council has done the same thing. But the city has continued to grow at a rate and different policies, like police are important for the safety of the city and the citizens. He would be very interested to have Mr. Stephens look at the feasibility of purchasing their own equipment, hiring a couple of employees and give them numbers to look at in August. It does not mean next meeting they will pass a mandatory garbage pickup. He would be very interested at looking at some numbers because immediately after that, in August, they are going to have to look at a millage rate. The city has come to a point in August when they meet, there is going to be some serious decisions to be made.

Mr. Stephens stated if a decision was made to go with a millage, there is 3 weeks of advertisement that has to occur by the September 1st date. July work session is cutting it pretty close for the advertisement to occur.

Council Member Guyton said they would have 3 called meetings in August to make that happen. He would like to look at numbers to see what is best for the citizens.

Council Member Queen said if anybody has any other ideas they need to investigate that to. And how many mills do they need to raise in tax to make the same amount of money.

Council Member Guyton said 3 mills to make the same amount of money for a year. Council Member Guyton asked if everyone was in agreement for Mr. Stephens to show them some numbers. They said yes. Mayor Worthington said he is a little more positive than they are with the budget. He said talking to Mr. Stephens earlier in the week, right now we are making the bills and we are not behind on the budget. As a city we are a little ahead on budget. Mr. Stephens said we are getting to the tight cash flow time. Mayor Worthington said the cash flow does not start until October. The city is in better shape, the city does not have any extra money and he said that when he took the position. We are going to look at it real hard and he is not certain they have to have a millage yet. He is not sold on it.

Council Member Turner said everybody is saying the economy is going up.

Council Member Queen said if we are going to do anything in the future they are going to have to do something.

Marshall Aiken asked what a mill is on a \$100,000 to \$200,000 house. He said that would be information you give to the paper. Mr. Stephens said it would be \$38.00. Council Member Guyton said for a 200,000 home it would be \$72.00. He said 1 mill of tax will bring the city approximately \$78,000 and change. The city has cut the budget to bare bones. We don't have an issue this year but he doesn't know if they can operate every year on these bare bones. We do not have anything for capital stuff. Your own budget, the church budget; you got to have money for capital expenditures.

Mr. Aiken said in January or February they had the budget work session and discussed all of this. He is not against a millage rate. He is not sure of the trash service and put everybody else out and make it mandatory. The m word gets people's blood pressure up. But being the realist that he is, with the growth in the city; prime example 2007-2008 public works not including Joe Cowan Park. They had 3 individuals, a budget cut and knocked it back down to 2 people. That was before the boat ramp, pavilion, the Presbyterian Church, cemetery and everything else. We have not increased the man power for public works even though we keep adding more stuff to them. He is not blaming public works but they do not have half of the equipment they need to do their jobs. We have been adding more stuff but have not put a millage rate out there. It is going to have to happen sooner or later. Either that or we get residents to start helping take care of stuff along with city employees.

Mayor Worthington said they appreciate Marshall and what he came and did with his mower.

Mr. Stephens said he would like to clarify for the record. A mill of tax on a \$100,000 house is \$38.00 not \$380.00.

Council Member Joe Turner said this goes back to the pickleball and the soccer teams. They already have 14 teams which is about 70 kids signed up with for soccer and if the pickleball goes good. They mentioned about the parking. The green space in between the parking area, what would it be like to put gravel over it and make an overflow parking space.

Mr. Stephens said the improvement would meet the definition of URA monies available to asphalt it if the council wanted to do so. He had talked about the green space and it would help recreation parking. It would be a council decision.

Council Member Craig Guyton said the URA funds he is talking about is the 3/4 of a million dollars set aside for the grist mill which is a dead project because it was going to more than 3/4 of a million dollars. The money would be available for park improvements at Joe Cowan Park. If you want him to take a look at some numbers he can. He said, keep in mind council had discussed just doing the overlook of the grist mill so the history can be looked at from the top and they have not looked into that. As a council they need to look at what they are going to do. If that is all they are going to do for now, they need to take up the fencing so citizens can start back taking pictures like they used to and have access to it. And either use the funding to pay it off early.

Council Member Turner said he had not brought it back up because not knowing where they would need the money and what they were going to do.

Mayor Steve Worthington said it will be best to get a quote if we have the money and let an asphalt company take care of it. Council Member Guyton said, they knew from the beginning if the soccer league took off it would be an issue. Space wise they have for expansion. They also have places for expansion for more tennis; actually another baseball field could go in. There is room for expansion at JCP and that is the way it was designed to begin with.

Marshall Aiken asked if they leave the gate open for overflow to park at the city hall.

Council Member Turner said sometimes they do and sometimes they don't. It depends which officers are on duty.

Council Member Craig Guyton said over near the bridge this past weekend cars were parked everywhere using the river. There is a designated parking. They have handed out tickets, they put down cones and they have monitored it but this past weekend it was alarming. It was a Mercedes SUV parked right in front of the garage door of the EMA house. If there had been a need for a water rescue, they would have had to tow a vehicle and precious seconds are there. Mayor Steve Worthington said that is the pumping station. Mr. Stephens said they will take a look into the parking. Council Member David Duncan said he

was asked about the overflow parking at the school, but they can't legally cross the bridge to walk back. Council Member Tracy Queen said the garbage was terrible at the boat ramp on Sunday night.

Mayor Steve Worthington said for them to tell him yes or no. The regular meeting night is July 3, 2018 the night before the 4th of July. He talked with Mr. Stephens about it, 2 weeks later they have the work session. Would they entertain having a called meeting on July 17 and a work session? They agreed to handle everything on the 17th. They will have the work session at 6:00 pm and called meeting at 7:00 pm.

With no further discussion the meeting adjourned at 8:09 pm.