

**CITY OF EUHARLEE  
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 17, 2019**

Mayor Steve Worthington called the meeting to order. A prayer was led by Council Member David Duncan followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

City Manager James Stephens called the roll and the following were present: Mayor Steve Worthington, Council Members Craig Guyton, Tracy Queen, David Duncan and Joe Turner. City Attorney Boyd Pettit was not present.

Council Member Craig Guyton motioned to amend the agenda to add item #4 concerning the Euharlee police department. Council Member Tracy Queen seconded the motion. The motion was carried with Council Members Guyton, Queen, Duncan, Turner and Mayor Worthington all voting in favor.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Commissary Flooring - James Stephens**

James Stephens, City Manager stated he had preliminary numbers for the flooring at the commissary a 1200 square foot facility. It is a historic building and he would like the council to consider putting a floating floor or putting what is considered a luxury vinyl instead of just putting linoleum because of the shape and condition of the sub floor. It would be close to \$4,000 and would have to take bids. He wanted to know before taking bids if it's something council would like for him to pursue. He strongly encouraged it but didn't want to go to the trouble of 3 bids without discussing it in a work session first. Council Member Tracy Queen asked if they ever got a list of the repairs needed. Mr. Stephens said he has his list. He will have the building inspector, Mike Cheeks to inspect all the buildings on his list. He will coordinate it with the upcoming budget.

Council Member Joe Turner said he had not had a reason to be in the commissary in quite some time. He would have to rely on the city manager or Leeroy Shepherd's, building maintenance, recommendation of what to put down. Mr. Stephens said they polished what is down and it had really aged. He can get numbers on the linoleum or the luxury vinyl to compare. With the sub floor as is, you would not want to do the hardwood look because of the walls, but it would be planks which is similar to flooring that looks like hardwood. He can get quotes on the linoleum that he feels would be short lived. Council Member Tracy Queen asked if they were bound by the historic society on what they can do. Mr. Stephens said not for the flooring.

Council Member Craig Guyton asked when the last time it was changed. Mayor Steve Worthington said 20 plus years. Council Member Guyton said he didn't know why he thought it was more recent. Mr. Stephens said they did carpet in the old library in 2016. Council Member Turner said he would rather do it right and get it over with and use something that is going to last for a long period of time. As far as getting prices and bids he did not see a problem with that. Council Member David Duncan said he didn't see a problem with getting prices. Mr. Stephens said, as Council Member Queen acquired, he would have a list of inspections from Mike Cheeks for them to cultivate into the upcoming budget in addition to the flooring. Mayor Worthington asked if anyone had a problem with him moving forward with getting bids. He said it is an old warehouse and it is hard to keep linoleum on it.

**Cyber Liability Insurance Quote - James Stephens**

James Stephens, city manager said council may be aware of the recent random ransom ware attacks affecting state and local government. It is not just the state of Georgia but throughout the country. There have been some local governments that have been impacted recently that you may not be aware of in Bartow County and have been a victim of this. The state patrol agency is currently experiencing

some inconveniences from ransom ware attacks. The current liability insurance coverage that is annually approved gives the city \$25,000 worth of coverage. He recently upgraded the firewall system. As they are aware, the city migrated the email to Microsoft which are steps taken to have a stronger infrastructure to avoid these types of attacks. Based on how widespread they are, he wanted to get it before the council due to the current insurance policy with only \$25,000 of coverage. On the 4-page document they had in front of them, on page 3 included 3 options. One with coverage up to \$250,000 which would cost \$1,313, the second would give up to \$500,000 at \$1,500. He did not recommend the 3rd option for 1-million-dollar coverage. He recommended the \$500,000 coverage. It is in addition to the annual insurance policy. Where they are in society, he recommended council to give that some consideration between now and the October meeting. He said if they had questions, and he had discussed it with the agent, he could answer questions now or before the October meeting. Just give him a call and he would be glad to answer any questions. He said for the record, they currently have \$25,000, they have taken measures to increase protection from a very dangerous world and for \$1,500 he would like for council to give it some consideration.

Council Member Tracy Queen asked if there was a deductible. Mr. Stephens said it was a \$5,000 deductible for a ransom ware attack. Mayor Steve Worthington asked if the \$1,500 was annually, every year. Council Member David Duncan asked why not the million-dollar policy. Mr. Stephens said he would be glad to go with that, but he recommended an amount he thought would be prudent. He is very conservative, but if they wanted to go with more insurance, he was not uncomfortable with it for \$300 more dollars. Council Member Duncan said if he thinks the \$500,000 will cover, he was okay with it. Mayor Steve Worthington said they need to decide the coverage they want to have. Mr. Stephens said, give it some thought and if they want the million-dollar coverage he was okay. Council Member Craig Guyton said with an additional \$319 and doubling the coverage with no deductible, he said when they met again, he would make a motion for option 3. Council Member Duncan said that is what he was thinking. Council Member Guyton said it can cost you a lot more and cost you a million-dollars to fix it. If they only have coverage for a half million the city could be on the hook. Mayor Worthington said he didn't have a problem with either one of them. Council Member Queen said he was okay for only \$300 more for a million-dollar coverage. Mayor Worthington asked if they had \$300 additional dollars in the budget. Mr. Stephens said they could find it. Also, if they had any other questions he could have answers from the agent before the October meeting and he appreciated the strong consideration.

Council Member Guyton said he would check with other city managers to see what amounts they have. If they say the million-dollars is overkill then they save \$300, but if not, he would be willing to spend the extra.

### **Old Library - Joe Turner**

Council Member Joe Turner asked the reporter not to include the discussion in the paper. He said it is about a city council member that was there for over 20 years and he hoped to be able to recognize him. He said to council he had not talked with the historical society about this. He said, he found out through James Stephens, city manager and initiating Katie Gobbi, museum directors help, a sign to honor Terry Cantrell and Johnny Montgomery at the pot house would come to under \$400. He thinks it is appropriate for Terry. He is the only council member, healthy and still alive that worked with Ms. Emmie Nelson on the council side by side for several years. He thinks it will be appropriate to put his name on the old library. It is originally the Emmie Nelson library on the plaque out front. Before he goes to the historic society with questions he wanted to know if they had any objections.

Council Member David Duncan said he did not have a problem with it. Mayor Worthington said he had a question, what are you going to tell the historical society when you take a building dedicated to Emmie Nelson. Are you going to take up the marker and move it and dedicate somewhere else?

Council Member Turner said they do not call it the Emmie Nelson library. Mayor Worthington said they may not call it that but there is marble in the ground dedicated to Ms. Emmie Nelson. They had the ribbon cutting when he worked at the fire station; it was built in her honor and dedicated to her.

Council Member Turner said what he was trying to include in this; Terry was a council member on the council when she passed away. He is not thinking about changing the name of the library. He was thinking that would be the closet things to honor the two of them together. He wanted to put a plaque out front with the years he served as council member and one year as Mayor. Mayor Worthington said he did not serve a full term he served 18 months. Council Member Turner said he was one of the original council members that were sworn in on the steps of the old courthouse near the jail. He asked, if there was something else he would rather do, but he was not talking about changing the name.

Mayor Worthington said he believed the council will start hearing some slack if they start messing with that. Council Member Turner said that is why he wanted to go to the historical society. It was pointed out to him it would be proper to talk with them first. Council Member Craig Guyton said he would be interested to hear their thoughts. He liked the idea of honoring Terry in some way. Terry Cantrell has been in the community a long time. He has done a lot for them and does not see a problem to honor him in some kind of way. Mayor Worthington said he didn't think anybody would have a problem with honoring him. Council Member Guyton said to get recommendations of how they would like to see them honor him. Council Member Turner said he did not have a problem with that. He was thinking the green signs they have throughout, to include his name, years of service, what he had done and when he was first sworn in. It came to him that Terry and Ms. Emmie served together. Council Member David Duncan said to check with them and come back to council. Council Member Turner said he did not have a problem if council or Katie would put one of the signs in front of the old courthouse where all (4) of the people were sworn in, but he would talk to the historical society. James Stephens, city manager said he thought Katie had that information. Mayor Worthington said there is a brass plaque somewhere with those names on it. He remembered and shared all the original names that were sworn in.

#### **Euharlee Police Department K-9 Dog - Chief Jody Matthews**

Police Chief Jody Matthews stated, police K-9 is not new in law enforcement and the city of Euharlee had a K-9 before. He had the opportunity in his career to work with officers and K-9's in many different breeds. He also has an acquaintance who is one of the top K-9 trainers in the state of Georgia. He is about to retire from the agency he works for. He rescues dogs and make them police K-9 dogs. He recently trained (2) in Cobb County and one of them was a black lab. One dog was named Sonic and recently passed away. He had been talking to him about a K-9 for the city of Euharlee. The trainer contacted about a yellow lab. Council had a picture in front of them. The dog was a worker for the Georgia Department of Agriculture. It is currently with the Cherokee humane society. The assessment by his acquaintance stated he was healthy and would be a good K-9. The fees will be waived by the humane society. The police department would own the dog. The vet said they would provide annual service at no charge. The only charge would be if the dog is sick. It is a 14-month old male retriever. It has a ton of energy. Chief Matthews said he enjoyed working with labs, but not so much with the germen shepherds. He is not interested in a bite dog which most of them are. The labs are great with kids and love water which is an added feature here in Euharlee. The officer that agreed to assist will be coming on as a part time officer. He will train the dog, certify himself and train in narcotics and tracking. It may take 6 to 7 months. It will save the city a ton of monies from \$8,000 to \$12,000. The dog will be donated to the police department. They do have the kennel used by the prior K-9 handler which is an \$800 purchase they already have. It will go in a Ford explorer for the dog to travel in.

Chief Matthews is asking council to allow the dog to be donated to the Euharlee police department to be used as a K-9 for narcotics and tracking.

Council Member Joe Turner asked if he knew how much training the dog had. Chief Mathews said he did not. He worked at the Department of Agriculture and is not sure at what capacity. He had been assessed and had some training but not a whole lot. He was going be trained in narcotics and once the trainer starts and see he's had some training, it could be a lot quicker to be useful.

Council Member Joe Turner said if they bring the dog to the department was he going to assign the dog to a handler. He does not see the dog living up to the potential if he has 7 to 8 people telling it what to

do. Chief Matthews said it will be assigned to a handler and there will be a process of who it will be. The dog will live with the handler which is part of the agreement. If that officer leaves, the dog stays with the department. Council Member Turner said he didn't like the dog being in the cage at night. Chief Matthews said at some point the dog will be able to walk around but for the most part he will be with the handler.

Council Member Craig Guyton asked if there was any idea of why the Department of Agriculture gave the dog up. Chief Matthews said from talking with the humane society the fact that he is only 14 months old and has ton energy. He suspects they could not keep a hold of him. It's 14 months old and with proper training will be a good dog.

Council Member Turner said that most dogs are trained in the first months. Is there any chance the dog is too old to be trained? Chief Matthews stated the trainer he spoke with said it is the perfect age to get them started in narcotics 14 to 16 months. He was very eager and said he would be a great dog. One of the rescue dogs he trained turned out to be one of the best narcotic dogs in Cobb County.

Council Member Guyton said the only thing that scares him is the dog may be too strong, but the trainer felt like he would be a good dog. The other question would be about the person from our agency that would be handling him; what is involved in their training and what will be the cost. Chief Matthews answered; the trainer would do the training with the handler and the dog. They would not have to pay for the officer to travel. The state of Georgia does not require a K-9 certification; however, there are 2 types of certification police departments typically use which are the rules and guidelines and is kind of a coverall used when they go to court and things like that. They can take the dog and the handler to the certification or if they wanted to pay more, they could come to them to do the certification. It is not required by the state of Georgia. He had all the information. The trainer is training the officer to pass the certification. It is about \$250 to get the yearly certification. The certification is a national certification. Council Member David Duncan said he knew they had the cage for the vehicle, but did they know the price to put it back in the vehicle. Chief Matthews said he did not have a price but could acquire it.

Chief Deputy Yee said he thought it would be about \$200.

Council Member Guyton asked about the current certification the department is going through; in the SOP will you have to write a separate section? Chief Matthews said it will have to be included in the SOP. He understood there was a canine before and asked if there was something already drafted. Deputy Chief Yee said they do have a canine policy. It was suspended under Chief New since the last K-9 left. They can merge the policy, but it will have to be edited.

Mayor Worthington said, the council can't vote at this time but can retroactive if needed. Council Member Joe Turner asked how quick he needed to pick up the dog. Chief Matthews said the dog is ready. Mayor Worthington asked if anybody had a problem. Council Member Craig Guyton said, Chief New suspended the policy, a new Chief should be able to re-enact it. Mayor Worthington said the vote would be to receive the dog. Council Member Guyton said he didn't have a problem with it, and they can do that retroactive. Mayor Worthington said they would agree to receive the dog and do a retroactive vote at the next meeting because it may not be there if it is a good dog. Chief Matthews said it is a beautiful dog and he went and saw it that morning. James Stephens, city manager asked Chief Matthews if he was sure they had officers who would be interested to handle the dog. Chief Matthews said yes.

Council Member David Duncan motioned to adjourn the work session. Council Member Tracy Queen seconded the motion. Council Members Guyton, Queen, Duncan, Turner and Mayor Worthington all voted in favor.

With no further discussion the meeting adjourned at 7:33 pm.