

**CITY OF EUHARLEE
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 20, 2016**

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.

OLD BUSINESS

Georgia Power Lights - Council Member Joe Turner

Council Member Joe Turner stated that council had discussed putting lights on Euharlee Road and down Covered Bridge Road when building the sidewalks and he agreed it would look good. However, he said there are 6 to 8 side streets, in the winter when it is dark and kids are catching the bus, you can't see them until you get right up on them. Georgia Power will put lights on their power poles throughout the city with no material or installation cost and each month we pay the power bill. He wanted to bring this to the council's attention. He said he is looking at the city as a whole. The lights down Euharlee Road will look good and he agreed when the discussion started, but he would like to see them scattered around the city to benefit the citizens.

City Manager James Stephens stated, the 2 lights on Euharlee Road, the power company will have to pull wire to accommodate and the cost will be \$614.00 to pull the wire. Council Member Turner stated when you come down Euharlee Road, there are no lights and if you are not familiar with the road, you will come right up on the bridge before you know it, if you don't know it's there. Mayor Dennis Thayer said, that many people don't even know a bridge is there. Council Member Turner said that is why he was bringing it up. We proposed 25 to 26 locations and most are intersections. He would like council to consider and discuss. He would like to do that rather than pay the money for the other lights. He did agree it will give a good impression on the city. City Manager, James Stephens said, the monthly estimate from Georgia Power for the locations will run around \$560.00 a month, a little less than what was expected. Also, it will not be LED's at the initial installation but, will be changed within a 20 month period. Mayor Dennis Thayer asked if that was 17 lights and Stephens stated 17 locations.

Mayor Thayer said he has not seen the list, but it's less than \$700.00 to put them in, less than \$600.00 a month and Mr. Stephens is confident we can afford. Therefore, he doesn't have a problem with it. He does have a problem with replacing the other plan and does not agree with that. He does not think this is a bad idea and thinks both plans can be accommodated. He said, he did not have a problem with moving forward with this plan.

Council Member Ronald Nesbitt said he likes the idea as well, and it is much needed for safety. He said, he went downtown Acworth and the lighting system Mayor Thayer is talking about, the small lights do light up the city for about a half of mile stretch. It really makes the city look good. He is in favor of both ideas if we can make it happen.

Mayor Thayer said, we are nowhere near ready for the other plan so he does not have a problem making this one happen by the next meeting and especially before daylight savings is gone.

Council Member Craig Guyton said, it may not hurt to inform the residents at those intersections who have had the pleasure of sleeping in the dark for such a long time.

Council Member David Duncan asked if they could give an estimate of when they could do it. Stephens stated, it would be a pretty quick turnaround. He has until October 15th to tell them the proposal has been

accepted, so the next council meeting will be in that time frame. Council Member Turner stated, that Council Member Duncan had pointed out the corner of Harden Bridge, on the upper end of Euharlee Road that we probably need to add a light there. There are a lot trees at that intersection so not sure where they will put a light.

Mayor Thayer said, it would be safe to contact Georgia Power to tell them we will vote in 2 weeks so they can begin preparation.

Paint Streets - Council Member Joe Turner

Council Member Joe Turner said several months ago we agreed to put down the plastic paint throughout the city. We actually agreed, voted on it and he voted for it. However since then, he went to one of the stores in town and you can buy a 5 gallon bucket of paint for \$125.00. 2 or 3 buckets should paint everything in the city. We also have work crews, personnel who works year round for the city. The grass cutting season is almost gone. The employees will earn their daily salary anyway. So he is reconsidering and thinks they can paint everything in the city for around \$500.00 versus the plastic paint. The concern he has is the way the budget has gone on based the information the city manager has provided us. The last 3 or 4 years the fund balance has gone down. He is suggesting that we paint them another time or two until the economy turns around. He remembers that it was \$15,000.00 versus \$500.00. He said he was not objecting the project, but thinks we should wait until the economy picks back up.

Mayor Dennis Thayer said to Council Member Turner, if you are figuring the total cost the labor needs to be included. He asked, how long will it to take them to do it. They are not going to be sitting around doing nothing. They are having a hard time trying to keep up now. There's a standard for the intersections and how it is suppose to be done. They can't do the same thing with the paint that they can do with the heat process.

Council Member Joe Turner stated, it has been done this way for the last 15 years. Mayor Thayer said, it looks like crap and it's not holding up. We are trying to do it the right way. Sometimes doing it right is better than doing it and trying to save a buck. It's a mistake. They have enough work to do. The park needs a ton of work. We have already voted on this once and the only reason it didn't get done is because they didn't take the initiative to get it done and that is going to change. It is going to get done very quickly. Council Member Turner said, it would be nice to have that amount in fund balance. Mayor Thayer said, it was budgeted last year. It is encumbering on us to do the right thing and have it done right up to code. Council Member Turner said, you keep mentioning code. He visited Dellinger Park and the measurements were different sizes and nobody is paying it any attention. Mayor Thayer said, he wasn't responsible or concerned with Dellinger Park. Council Member Turner said it would save money in fund balance until things go up not down.

Council Member Craig Guyton said, he personally is not in favor of the reconsidering the hot stripping discussed. He thinks it will look better and last longer.

Council Member Ronald Nesbitt said he has not seen it hot striped melted on or painted and not an expert at either. When it's down, they both look good and he has not actually looked at either. If it was voted and incorporated into the budget it is what it is. He said he could go one way or the other.

Council Member David Duncan said he didn't know about one or the other but we need to get some of the intersections marked pretty quickly. Council Member Turner said, the roads striped too. When it is dark and raining you can't see anything. He asked if the total included everything. Mayor Thayer said it included the lettering, crosswalks and the striping.

Mayor Thayer said City Manager, James Stephens has heard and he promised it would be started by middle of October. Mr. Stephens said, he believes the conversation was it would be soon after October 15th or soon thereafter.

Sewer & Lowry Mill Update - James Stephens – Item Tabled

The sewer and Lowry Mill item was tabled. Mayor Thayer stated there are some new information that came in the last 24 hours which will give us some new opportunity for funding.

Mr. Stephens is not prepared to make a full presentation but we are moving forward.

Council Member Craig Guyton asked if it would be presented the next work session or the council meeting the 1st of October.

City Manager, James Stephens said, he had a meeting with Gene Camp yesterday. He had a rate study we have been waiting on. It's very thick and we will be thoroughly evaluating. Not trying to side step the question but, he does not think we will have all the answers from the county for the October 4th meeting. We came to them stressing our need to prepare our budget thoroughly including the finance of this project. Council Member Guyton said so it will more than likely be a month from now. Stephens said hopefully.

Golf Cart Ordinance Update - James Stephens

City Manager, James Stephens shared that Charles Reece, Planning and Zoning Director reached out to GDOT when the county advised that they didn't have a traffic engineer or staff capable to do the study for the application for the golf cart off Milam Bridge Road and other surrounding streets. Because the area doesn't involve a state route, GDOT will not participate. The total is \$3,000.00. Stephens stated he will have 3 quotes for approval at the council meeting to move forward on the engineer.

Mayor Thayer said, the way the ordinance is written we don't have a choice but to do it and the cost is on us. We may consider rewriting the ordinance where the cost is not on us. I'm not sure if we are liable for the cost every time someone puts an application in. He is not sure if that is the right way to go. If someone wants it, they need to be liable for the cost. City Manager, James Stephens said, it's a new state code that was adopted and signed by the governor subsequent to the ordinance Euharlee originally passed.

Council Member Craig Guyton asked that Charles, Planning and Zoning Director, would check some ordinances around the surrounding counties and cities so that this does not fall through the cracks and we see this 2 years from now when another neighborhood comes up and wants to do the same thing.

Water Sprinkler Survey Results - Council Member Ronald Nesbitt

Council Member Ronald Nesbitt stated a survey for the water sprinkler system for Euharlee was done online and a written one distributed at one of the Food Truck Friday events. The results are as follows:

431 respondents; 428 online. This summary reflects the online results.

Restricted to one entry per IP address (no multiple responses)

- 427 identified as a Bartow County residents. Of those:
 - 73% regularly visit Euharlee parks
 - 76% participate in Euharlee events and activities
 - 76% think a water play area would be a good addition to Euharlee's parks.
 - 29% would be willing to help raise funds (through donations or volunteering) to build the facility.
- 261 identified as a Euharlee resident (61% of total). Of those:
 - 73% regularly visit Euharlee parks
 - 77% participate in Euharlee events and activities
 - 71.92% think a water play area would be a good addition to Euharlee's parks.
 - 31.6% would be willing to help raise funds (through donations or volunteering) to build the facility.
 - Are you resident of Bartow County 96% Yes – 4% No
 - If yes, are you a resident of Euharlee 62% Yes – 38% No
 - Children in household under 13 52% Yes – 48% No
 - Do you regularly visit parks in Euharlee 72% Yes – 28% No
 - Do you participate in activities and events in Euharlee 76% Yes – 24% No
 - Do you think an interactive water play area will be good in Euharlee 76% Yes – 24% No

- Would you be interested in helping raise funds to build interactive water play area through monetary contributions or volunteering at an event 29% Yes – 71% No

Of those who answer yes to the water play area, many of the respondents stated that it would be a good activity for youth in the hot weather. Some stated that they were already going to other communities to use similar facilities and voiced that it would enjoy one close to home. They also thought it might benefit businesses in the city.

Some vendors said they would like to look in the area to maybe open up a sandwich shop or some type of shop downtown if we had something that actually drew more of a crowd.

After sharing the results, Council Member Nesbitt continues to say, by doing this he thinks the city is being a little more transparent with the City Of Euharlee instead of sitting in a council meeting with the same crew here every meeting voicing our opinions. Overwhelmingly, the city of Euharlee would love to see an interactive park. I had several people come up to me and ask about it after the survey that was somewhat confused because they thought it was a park where you would emerge in water. In reality there is no standing water at all. Council Member Nesbitt showed slides of pictures taken and it is the model actually considered. Council Members Nesbitt and Joe Turner visited the park in Cedartown. When the park is not active you can do about anything on it. You can just walk around. It's a place to relax when the water is not active. It also has its own seating arena and an area to have lunch. The model the city has will not have a restroom. It has a pumping and filtration system. There is a timer set for times of operation. It does not run continuously. You can do so many other things during the off season to include a concert. Council Member David Duncan wanted to know if the question of doing away with the tennis courts was included in the survey because the school uses the tennis courts. He is not in favor of doing that. Council Member Nesbitt said, it was being addressed and possibly considering moving the courts to the unused basketball courts. That space is not being used. Council Member Duncan repeated, the schools use them and the citizens use them. He knows we have the other ones he but are not used as much. Council Member Joe Turner said, there are no nets on the goals and no activity at the basketball courts at all.

Council Member Ronald Nesbitt said the last meeting we begin discussion about the agenda and would like to be a little more transparent with the citizens. So he would like to create an avenue to get the public more involved in the meetings. He suggested:

- Create signs throughout the city like we do Food Truck Friday
- Post a link on Facebook and website
- Post on website on Wednesday to for citizens to sign on Thursday
- Critical items send out in back packs at schools
- Banners, flashing signs and post flyers in local business
- Mail out flyers to resident

These are things to help get the citizens involved.

Council Member Joe Turner said each city limit we have metal signs. We could possibly change it to a welcome to Euharlee with additional information, a brick sign or one with flashing lights.

Mayor Dennis Thayer said, he suggested that 3 years ago to let people know what's going on. He said these are some valid and very easy to accomplish. The postage part kind of scares him because you would need staff to do that. Also concerned about sending stuff home every 2 weeks in backpacks. Council Member Nesbitt said, only for critical items. Council Member Turner said of lot of the students do not live in the city.

Mayor Thayer said he also mentioned setting up a video to stream the meetings live or post on the website the next day. It's not too expensive to do.

Public Comments

Fred Werner, resident said in response to Councilman Nesbitt this has been an ongoing problem. A lot of the suggestions mentioned like a newsletter going out monthly about what's going on, that was back when Frankie Harris was here. Years ago a momentum type style sign or regular sign, was said it was violation of the sign ordinance. He said, not to long ago he was talking with Councilman Guyton and Steve Worthington down by the corner of Covered Bridge, and they were talked about putting up a monument sign letting people know of the different events. Frankie came up with postcards and website. It's a going thing and we need to figure out what to do. It keeps sliding off and never promoted anything. Council Member Nesbitt said, he was going to push for our next meeting putting up some signs. Werner said, you can incorporate signs at the Presbyterian Church and Covered Bridge Road. People are coming and going to work. He said, he worked with Frankie getting the cost to do something like Cartersville, a black and white newsletter but the cost was not feasible for Euharlee and mailing at that time was costly. Never seems to get anything going. He would love to receive more information about what's going on and see more people come out to the meetings. Information is golden. Maybe something permanent at key locations.

Council Member Nesbitt said, the smaller sign is a jump start until we can create something bigger. Werner asked what size were the mosquito spraying signs. Guyton said 18 x 24. Werner said, that size is not bad. Council Member Nesbitt said he will keep pushing it until something is done.

Sandra Johnson, resident said there is a problem at Dobson Drive and Euharlee Road. The foliage is so high. Can we get some round up. You can't see the bridge when you take a left turn. It's taller than she is. Also, she said they can get letters from council or mass email. The seniors receive a newsletter monthly about what's going on and birthdays. A mass email can get sent out.

With no further discussion the meeting was adjourned at 7:49 pm.