

**CITY OF EUHARLEE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 01, 2022**

Mayor Craig Guyton called the meeting to order, Council Member Tim Abbott led prayer, followed with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following were present: Mayor Craig Guyton, Council Members Tim Abbott, Greg Free, David Duncan, Joe Turner, and City Manager James Stephens.

Georgia Diversified Industries, Inc. – Butch Emerson

Executive Director, Butch Emerson said thank you to Mayor, council, and the staff of the city of Euharlee for their assistance with the Euharlee resolution 5-k run. On behalf of the Georgia Diversified family, he read an appreciation letter expressing their extreme gratitude for everything the city did to make the 5-k run a tremendous success. The 5-k run was successful financially, and from a public standpoint. He again thanked Chief Matthews and police department, Mayor Craig Guyton and Council Members Tim Abbott and Greg Free for their participation the day of the race.

He shared some history on the Georgia Diversified organization, formally known as the Good Shepherd Foundation. They provide services to the mental and physically disabled which enables them to live, work, and play as productive, and contributing members of the community. They look forward to building a partnership with Euharlee. He shared numbers from the race, including they reached their financial goal. He again said thank you to the city of Euharlee.

Approval of Minutes

Council Member David Duncan motioned to accept the minutes for the City Council meeting held on January 4, 2022, and City Council Work Session held on January 18, 2022. Council Member Greg Free seconded the motion. The motion carried with all voting in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

2ND Reading of tb International Maintenance Codes – Don Matthews

Code Enforcement Officer, Don Matthews shared he had ordered the material for the International Maintenance codes, and had received some of the books with updates for compliance with the most recent publication from 2018. There was no additional information or edits since the 1st reading. Council Member David Duncan motioned to accept the 2nd reading. Council Member Greg Free seconded the motion. The motion carried with all voting in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

Historic Research Survey Grant Resolution – Katie Gobbi

Museum Director, Katie Gobbi provided council with a copy of the resolution, and the budget which was part of the application to be submitted to the Department of Community Affairs Historic Preservation Division for funding for historic research survey. An updated survey is needed to stay compliant with the local government status under the historic preservation division as a certified local government. The grant totaled \$7,744.17 with a 60/40 match. It is for research for buildings 40 years or older. Mayor Craig Guyton discussed the resolution which named the city clerk, Carolyn Banks as the fiscal agent. Ms. Gobbi said yes, and Ms. Gobbi would be the grant program manager. If awarded, the resolution supports that the city will participate in the 40% match.

Council Member Tim Abbott motioned to approve the historic survey grant resolution. Council Member Greg Free seconded the motion. The motion carried with all voting in favor.

JCP Tennis & Basketball Courts Repair Quotes – Becky Pruitt

Parks & Recreation Director, Becky Pruitt stated council had before them a quote for repairs to the tennis and basketball courts at Joe Cowan Park. The quotes are to resurface (3) tennis courts and (2) basketball courts. They will fill all the cracks, the low line areas, and apply three coats of the Laykold brand full acrylic over the concrete. They will re-stripe with white paint, sand and paint the net posts, and re-hang the nets. The total amount is \$31,163, and with the discount \$28,278 with a 5-year warranty. They were highly recommended by the neighboring parks.

Mayor Craig Guyton stated this was bid out two-years ago, if he was correct, and received multiple quotes and this company was the best. So basically, it is just an updated bid. Ms. Pruitt stated it is an up-dated bid and they did have the best price during the previous bid process. She did reach out to a couple of other companies, but did not receive a call back. With the timeframes they need, the company had been really good with getting them what they need. They have discussed the repair with the school system, and the work will be done after tennis season.

Council Member David Duncan motioned to accept the bid in the amount of \$28,278. Council Member Joe Turner seconded the motion. The motion carried with all voting in favor.

Approval of K-9 Unit- Chief Jody Matthews

Chief Jody Matthews provided council with additional information not included in the last meeting demonstration with the K-9. The cost of the dog is \$750. There is K-9 kennel that will go in the already purchased 2021 F-150. It is being outfitted by Blue Line Solutions, LLC and the cost is \$5,512.99 which includes installation. It will not come out of the city budget. He is prepared to pay for it out of the school zone citations. He also reached out to a local organization to partnership, and assist with the cost, but there was no response from them at that time.

Council Member Greg Free asked with the last K-9, if they used Euharlee veterinarian. Council Member David Duncan said, the vet will also assist with food. Chief Matthews said yes, they used the Euharlee Animal Hospital but he had not at that time, reached out to them.

Council Member Joe Turner motioned to approve the purchase of the K-9 for \$750. Council Member Greg Free seconded the motion. Council Member Joe Turner motioned to amend, to include the cost of the kennel up to \$5,512.99. Council Member Greg Free seconded the amended motion. The motion carried with all voting in favor.

Approval of (3) Lease Renewals – Mayor Craig Guyton

Mayor Craig Guyton stated they had (3) leases before them, and suggested reviewing them one at a time.

Council Member Tim Abbott motioned to approve the General Mercantile Store lease with Gwen Goss for one-year. Council Member Greg Free seconded the motion. The motion carried with all voting in favor.

Council Member Greg Free motioned to approve the Old Museum lease with Bradley Farms for one-year. Council Member David Duncan seconded the motion. The motion carried with all voting in favor.

Council Member Greg Free motioned to amend the lease to a fair market value cost, in the amount of \$150.00 a month for one-year, with The Just Believe Christmas for Kids Foundation, Inc. Council Member Tim Abbott seconded the motion.

Council Member David Duncan stated he did not know about the fair market deal, and how it was derived. He did not want to see the Festival of Trees leave. He was not in favor of raising the amount to \$150. He does not want to run her out. She was not present at the meeting.

Council Member Joe Turner said he kind of agreed with Council Member Duncan. He wanted to offer a lower acceptable amount.

Council Member Greg Free stated the \$150 is probably on the lower end. He knows the facility does not have air conditioning or heat, but look at other facilities that may be comparable to that, it at least makes it fair. For the record, he doesn't think any of the council is trying to remove the Festival of Trees. What he is trying to do is use a taxpayers funded building in a fashion that benefits all the citizens of Euharlee. This makes it fair that Ms. Bibbings can do whatever she needs to do with the festival, and lets her keep it there. Based on her current situation she can definitely afford to keep it, and not be in anyway inconvenienced, in his opinion based on what she had told them. Again, the festival is great, and he doesn't think anybody wants to see it go away. It makes it a very structured business type agreement between the city and Ms. Bibbings, and she is able to move forward.

Mayor Guyton stated that he and the City Manager, James Stephens met with Ms. Bibbings last week, and had a great conversation about things she could do to make the festival better, and the things the city could do as well. They will implement some of those ideas next year. He agreed with Council Member Free, he doesn't think anybody wants the festival to go away with any kind of stretch of the imagination.

Council Member Turner said he did not either. When it gets around to a vote, if they can't be a little lenient, he will vote for it. He didn't know if she was aware of how much they wanted to add to it since it had been provided like a city tradition.

Council Member Duncan asked if they presented her with the \$150. Mayor Guyton said no, because they didn't have a vote on it. Council Member Duncan asked if they presented her with, they were probably going to raise it to the fair-market value. Mayor Guyton said no sir.

Council Member Tim Abbott stated the city manager would inform her after they finished the vote.

Council Member Turner said when it comes to a vote, he will vote for it in order not to take it away from her. He just didn't think they needed to go that high that quick.

Council Member Free stated as they discussed in the work session, a lot of it is storage, and they understood that. It is not a storage facility, but if you were to go rent a storage place that size, the amount would be comparable. It would be somewhere in that area, and he thinks it keeps it fair. There are a lot of buildings that do not have heating and air that rent for more than that. He doesn't think from his perspective, as a city are looking at it as a money-making tool. They are just recovering something that's there, and they all want the festival to continue to be successful. He said, it helps them in good faith, be able to help her do that. After discussion, they all voted in favor.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Council Member Tim Abbott motioned to adjourn. Council Member Greg Free seconded the motion. The motion carried with all voting in favor.

With no further discussion the meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.