**SPECIAL CALLED MEETING**

**NOVMEBER 15, 2022 – 7 P.M.**

**CITY HALL AUDITORIUM**

**Present: Jonathan Pou, Chris Peck, Tim Wyatt, Roger Fortson, Ray Thomas, Dale Perry, Tony Mattox, Kerri-Lynn Phillips, Elisa Grimes, Janine Duncan, Mike Bledsoe, Jeremy from Garrett Paving, attached list**

**Call to Order and Opening Prayer**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Swearing In of Newly Elected Mayor, Tim Wyatt**

**Swearing In of Newly Elected Councilmember, Chris Peck**

**Adoption of Special Meeting Agenda**

**Motion: Jonathan Pou Second: Chris Peck All Approved**

**Approval of August and September Minutes**

**Motion: Jonathan Pou Second: Ray Thomas All Approved**

**NO PUBLIC INPUT ON NEW BUSINESS AT THIS TIME.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Mike Bledsoe Meadow Avenue Update (ARP Project)**

Mike Bledsoe, the City Engineer, discussed options for the Meadow Avenue drainage improvement project. He discussed two options he had found. The first of the two options would not be feasible as there are gardens, shed, and the property owner did not approve of disturbing their private property. The second option was to redo the piping structure with new piping and ditches. The plan would be to go down the alleyway to Fifth Avenue, turn left, go towards the church, and on down to the next low point. Bledsoe stated that this plan did have enough fall for a natural flow, and city property, however there are some large trees with exposed roots in the alleyway that would possibly have to be taken down. Dale Perry stated the trees should be taken down if the project proceeds. Bledsoe stated that the project would be expensive and that he would need to reverify the route and price as the quote made was more than thirty days old. Motion to proceed with alleyway plan made by Jonathan Pou and seconded by Chris Peck. All approved.

**Garrett Paving LMIG Street Repairs**

Jeremy Nation with Garrett Paving was present to discuss road patching and paving projects to be funded by LMIG and possibly other funds later. Discussion was made about handling the smaller street resurfacing and patching the larger streets. The Council was presented with a $45,772.56 patching and overlay bid; Chris Peck made the motion to patch Hardman Morris Road, Church Avenue, Fifth Street, and Barnett Street. Jonathan Pou seconded the motion. All approved. Repairs to Shoal Creek Road and Meadow Avenue were not included in this project.

**Mike Bledsoe Fifth Avenue Update (ARP Project**)

Mike Bledsoe discussed the areas of concern on Fifth Avenue where, during heavy rainfall, water swirls and runs over the road. Before the growth in the city, the area was mainly commercial property with hay fields. There is a concrete pipe clear of debris and not clogged, however there is too much water for the size of the pipe to handle it. Since the issue began, the soil and edge of the asphalt have become undermined. To address the problem, Bledsoe recommended adding a 30-inch pipe with protected inlet similar to the Third Street drainage, which would be serviceable to the City. Jason Smith is to be drawing up another quote since his first one is now more than thirty days old. City Attorney Dale Perry advised to Council to get the bid in as quickly as possible and move on the project as it may become a hazard.

**Annexation Applications & County Approval**

Jonathan Pou discussed having been in contact with the County Board of Commissioners after their second meeting to discuss the annexation of properties owned by Edwin Hart Jr. and Randy Michaels. The Council agreed to schedule a Public Hearing for December 5th on this matter.

**Contracts-Red Canna Park, Fire Department, Lion’s Club, vendor field**

Janine Duncan of the Red Canna Park committee spoke briefly about the 501(c3) status of the Park, its legitimacy in the eyes of the IRS, fundraising, and grants. Some grants mentioned were grants that the City of Monroe, Piedmont Park in Atlanta, and the City of Savannah have received. Since the Red Canna Park is an established 501(c3) Non-Profit organization, the committee encourages donations for funding from any person or entity as those funds are specifically designated for the Park improvements and upkeep. Councilmember Chris Peck questioned whether these grants were for full-funding, or if they were matching-fund grants. Duncan stated that some were matching-fund grants, but that in some cases the Cities did not have to match the entire amount. Upon reviewing of the park agreement, Chris Peck added that the agreement should state that the Committee must provide a quarterly financial statement to the Council. Representative Michelle Cole agreed that would be added, and stated that in the event of the dissolution of the 501(c3) status of the Park that any funds remaining would be turned in to the City of Colbert and budgeted specifically for Park Improvements. Motion to accept the agreement made by Jonathan Pou and seconded by Roger Fortson.

Councilmember Jonathan Pou recently became aware that the City pays for the Fire Department’s cable and/or internet services. Chris Peck stated that Mr. John Waggoner had agreed to do that years ago for a better rate. Discussion was made between Councilmembers about the benefits of funding the volunteer fire department. Dale Perry advised to continue paying it the rest of this year and to amend the contract next year to include the City paying that bill for them.

Concerns were raised about the contract the City holds with the Lions Club by Councilmember Jonathan Pou due to the amount the City has been paying for utilities. From what could be gathered, a verbal agreement had been made years back where the Lions Club would pay the City $900 per year for utilities. When that agreement was made, the $900 may have been enough to cover the utilities. However, the amount that is paid annually by the City is roughly $3,000, and it is stated in the contract that the Lion’s Club be responsible for paying electricity-power and gas-natural or propane, for the building. Discussion was made about the benefit of the Lions Club to our community and the repairs they paid to have completed on the part of Colbert Municipal Complex they use, and that they are subletting (which is included in the contract) to the Lighthouse Pentecostal Church, where most of the usage most likely is coming from. Jonathan Pou made the motion to have the Lions Club put the electric meter in their name and assume paying that bill. Chris Peck seconded the motion. All approved.

The contract the City has with grass cutters Lawn-in-Order will be up for renewal in 2023, and the City may renegotiate its terms.

Councilmember Jonathan Pou raised concerns over the vendor field being private property, and whether the City should be funding its maintenance and upkeep for the July 4th celebrations. Councilmember Chris Peck reminded the Council that the City pays the City Property Taxes in return for use of the field. City Attorney Dale Perry stated that there had been an oral contract for fifty years with the property owner and the City.

**2023 Budget Proposal**

Councilmember Jonathan Pou discussed the new format of the budget for the upcoming year, and that there will be a Public Hearing on December 5th at 6:30 p.m. to consider the public’s input. The auditor for the City, Wayne Tuck of Walker, Pierce, and Tuck out of Gainesville has approved of the layout. Mr. Tuck is also in the process of completing the 2021 audit that the prior auditor could not complete.

**Work Session**

A Work Session will be held on November 16, 2022 at 7 p.m. at the Auditorium.

**Bank Accounts**

Jonathan Pou made a motion to have the new Mayor, Tim Wyatt, added to the banking accounts at The Commercial Bank and United Citizens Bank, as well as recently hired Assistant Clerk, Elisa Grimes. Chris Peck seconded; All approved.

NO PUBLIC INPUT AT THIS TIME

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Street Renaming Request**

A written request from the Pinckard family has been received by the City Council to publicly recognize George Pinckard by way of renaming Pinckard Street. Tim Wyatt recommended a memorial for the street, as it would affect residents, businesses, and most importantly the local 911 Center. The request was tabled until a further date.

Jonathan Pou made a motion to amend the agenda; Chris Peck seconded the motion. All approved.

Agenda amended to add searching out a bid to replace and update the lighting in the auditorium.

Department Reports

None

Next Scheduled Council Meeting – December 5, 2022 – 7 p.m.