CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, January 18, 2024

Council Meeting - 6:30 PM
CENTER POINT CITY HALL

MINUTES

A. Call to Order

B. Invocation

Pastor Charles Parker, Center Point Church of Christ, led the invocation.

C. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

D. Roll Call

Councilwoman Copeland, Councilwoman Jones, Councilman Williams and President Collins

E. Public Hearing

E.1. Awarding Economic Development Grants

President Collins opened the Public Hearing for comments for and against awarding the Economic Development Grant.
Ms. Tierra Linda thanked the city council for the opportunity. She stated they plan to open a multicultural supermarket and restaurant. It is a family business, and they want to bring their culture to the community. There will also be food items that are usually not at your typical grocery store.
There was no one present to speak against awarding the Economic Development Grant.

President Collins stated she is excited about the new business and the economic growth in Center Point. The public hearing was closed.

E.2. Ordering an Abatement of Nuisance Properties

All items designated as "Consent" are routine and non-controversial and will be approved by one motion. NO separate discussion of these items will be permitted unless a Councilmember, the Mayor, or citizen interested in further discussion or hearing so requests, if so, such item (s) will revert to its normal place on the Agenda Order of Business.

President Collins opened the public hearing to receive comments for and against the nuisance properties. President Collins called out each property. No one was present to speak about the item.

President Collins closed the hearing.

F. Public Comment

Mr. Blake Weaver- My mother, Mrs. Estella Weaver has been residing at 1625 6th Way NW, Center Point, AL 35215 for the last 30 years. However, in recent years, my mother's mobility has significantly declined, limiting her ability to leave her home. Since May 2023, she has been entirely confined due to the inability to navigate the entry and exit stairs. This situation has cut off her access to essential health services and disconnected her from her family and community.

In July 2023, Hearts in Hands, a non-profit dedicated to aiding low-income families, recognized this critical need and committed to constructing an accessibility ramp for her. Construction was scheduled to begin today, January 2, 2024. Despite being an experienced and appropriately licensed organization deeply committed to serving people in need, they faced unnecessary obstacles imposed by the city, and construction was halted midway through.

Mayor Scott - the city takes the health and welfare of our citizens seriously. The reason construction was halted is that the handicap ramp design is a safety issue. The current design ends at the street. Ray Filmore, Building Superintendent, plans to speak with the contractor about redesigning the ramp. Additionally, you will need to apply for a variance. The city is willing to assist, but we have to operate within legal guidelines.

Attorney Blanchard- asked attendees to vote for her in March 2024. She is running for Probate Judge Place 1. She has been practicing law for 10 years. Her platform is efficiency of voting rights act, champion for veterans and advocate for fair voting process.

G. Approval of Agenda

President Collins presented the agenda for consideration. Councilwoman Jones made a motion to adopt the agenda. Councilman Williams seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, the agenda was unanimously.

H. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting

Councilwoman Jones made a motion to adopt the meeting minutes. Councilman Williams seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

H.1. December 21, 2023 Meeting Minutes

All items designated as "Consent" are routine and non-controversial and will be approved by one motion. NO separate discussion of these items will be permitted unless a Councilmember, the Mayor, or citizen interested in further discussion or hearing so requests, if so, such item (s) will revert to its normal place on the Agenda Order of Business.

H.2. January 4, 2024, Meeting Minutes

I. Consent Agenda

Councilwoman Jones made a motion to adopt the consent agenda. Councilman Williams seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

I.1. Resolution No. 2024-4 Travel Advance

I.2. Resolution No. 2024-9 Appointing Maurice Miller to the Zoning Board of Adjustments

I.3. Resolution No. 2024-10 Appointing Elaine Watson

J. Presentation

J.1. Mayor Scott's presentation to the council of roads resurfaced using Rebuild Al. Funds.

K. Discussion/Action

K.1. Resolution No. 2024-5 Economic Development Grants

Councilwoman Jones made a motion for unanimous consent to consider Resolution No. 2024-5 Economic Development Grant. Councilman Williams seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Councilwoman Jones made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2024-5. Councilman Williams seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

K.2. Resolution No. 2024-6 Authorizing Funds for interns travel to NLC

Councilman Williams made a motion for unanimous consent to consider Resolution No. 2024-6. Councilwoman Jones seconded the motion. President

Collins opened the floor for discussion.
Councilman Williams stated at the conventions that other cities have interns with them, so they can learn about local and federal governments. Upon voice vote, the motion was adopted.

Councilman Williams made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2024-6. Councilwoman Jones seconded the motion. President Collins called for a roll call vote.

Yes: Collins, Williams

No: Copeland, Jones

The motion failed because of lack of a majority. President Collins- I was looking forward to the interns attending to learn about government on a national level. They were looking forward to attending the conference.

K.3. Resolution No. 2024-7 Ordering an Abatement of Nuisances

Councilman Williams made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2024-7. Councilwoman Jones seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

K.4. Resolution No. 2024-8 Authorizing the solicitation of bids for street sweepers

Councilman Williams made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2024-8. Councilwoman Jones seconded the motion. President Collins opened the floor for discussions. Councilman Williams stated city employees should keep the streets clean and that cost can be allocated for something else. Councilwoman Jones asked, "Do you have an employee to pick up the trash on the streets?" Mayor- it is a safety issue for the employees to be on the side of the road picking up the trash. It is only a one-year contract to see if it is a benefit to the city.

President Collins called for a roll call vote:
Yes: Councilwoman Jones, Councilwoman Copeland

No: Councilmember Williams, President Collins
The motion failed because of a lack of a majority.

L. Reports- Mayor & Committee Chairs

L.1. Economic Development/Public Safety- President D.M. Collins

The Public Safety Department received $345,000.00 in traffic camera fines in FY2023.

L.2. Park & Recreation- Councilman Glenn Williams, Sr.

No report

L.3. Public Works- Councilwoman Tiffany Moore

L.4. Education & Library- Councilwoman Sharon Jones

No report

L.5. Finance Report-Councilwoman Ebonee Copeland, Chair

No report

M. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting stood adjourned.

Tameeka Vann, City Clerk

Approved:

D.M. Collins, President

Date: 3/8/2024

All items designated as "Consent" are routine and non-controversial and will be approved by one motion. NO separate discussion of these items will be permitted unless a Councilmember, the Mayor, or citizen interested in further discussion or hearing so requests, if so, such item (s) will revert to its normal place on the Agenda Order of Business.