

City of Donalsonville  
Council Meeting-July 10, 2017

**Official Minutes**

Mayor Dan E. Ponder, Jr. called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM in the Council Chambers at City Hall. After which Mayor Dan E. Ponder, Jr. gave the invocation, then all joined in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America.

Councilmembers present for the meeting included, Mayor Dan E. Ponder, Jr., Mayor Pro Tem Ed Bond, CP Lindsey Register, CP Mitch Blanks, CP Flossie Smith, and CP Travis Brooks. CP Tony Buczek was absent. Staff present were City Manager Steve Hicks, City Clerk Christina Corvers, Public Works Superintendent Don Gambrell, Fire Chief Dean King, Police Chief Woodrow Blue, and City Attorney Billy Grantham. Guests present were David Maxwell, Shelia Williams, CJ Hodge, and Barbara Barber

Approval of the Agenda: Mayor Pro Tem Bond made a motion to approve the agenda with CP Brooks making a second; motion carried. Next, the approval of the minutes from the Council Meeting held on June 6, 2017, Called Council Meeting held on June 19, 2017, and Called Council Meeting held on June 29, 2017. Mayor Pro Tem Bond made a motion to approve all three sets of minutes from the June Council Meetings. CP Smith seconded, motion passed unanimously.

INTERNAL BUSINESS: The Financial Statements for May 2017 were presented and reviewed with comments made by City Manager Hicks on the current status, along with discussion on year-end close.

**OLD BUSINESS**

OLD BUSINESS: An update on the SoZo Wireless project was given by Mayor Ponder, where he indicated the City had received a report back from Mid-State Consultants relating to the LTE channel search for the Educational Spectrum. After some discussion in regards to there being limited spectrum available at this time, the Council agreed to continue to work with the consultants at Mid-State to see if there would be enough spectrum to allow the system to succeed.

The next item on the agenda was action on the permit request by Mobilitie for a Cell Tower. City Manager Hicks stated after working with GMA and Mobilitie an agreement has been provided which allows for Mobilitie to build a 75' cell tower for a rental fee of \$2,500.00 yearly. The agreement also states that if Mobilitie decides to construct the cell tower less than 70', then the fee would go back to the originally stated cost of \$1,365.00 yearly. City Manager Hicks recommended authorizing the permit request for Mobilitie as per the revised agreement. CP Blanks made a motion to approve the permit request as per the revised agreement, with CP Brooks making a second. Motion passed unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS**

City Manager Hicks recommended to approve the adoption of Resolution 07-10-17 providing for the authorization to execute a \$300,000 interest free loan through Three Notch Electric Membership. CP Brooks made a motion to approve Resolution 07-10-17 with CP Register seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Next, City Manager Hicks recommended to approve an upgrade to the internet connection and telephone system. This would upgrade the internet connection with Earthlink from 10 mgbps to 100 mgbps at an additional cost of \$314.16 per month by extending the current contract for an additional 6 months. This additional speed and bandwidth would allow the City to solve some Financial Software issues, incorporate the New Fire Station, and handle our internal IT needs for many years to come. The primary benefit the City would receive immediately by converting the current phone system to an internet based system would be the elimination of the current costs associated with the current analog equipment. The estimated net effect of the changes are as follows:

Earthlink cost for 100 mgbps	\$1,295.45 per month	\$15,545.40 annual
Earthlink cost for 10 mgbps	\$981.29 per month	\$11,775.48 annual
<b>Change</b>	<b>+\$314.16 per month</b>	<b>+\$3,769.92 annual</b>
Envision Technologies Phone Conversion to VOIP	\$323.57 per month	\$3,882.84 annual
Current Phone Service (Windstream)	\$775.00 per month	\$9,300.00 annual
<b>Change</b>	<b>\$(451.42) per month</b>	<b>\$(5,417.16) annual</b>
<b><i>Net Projected Savings</i></b>	<b><i>\$137.27 per month</i></b>	<b><i>\$1,647.24 annual</i></b>

Mayor Pro Tem Bond made a motion to approve the upgrade to the Internet Connection to 100 mgbps, along with the Telephone System upgrade. CP Brooks seconded; motion carried.

Chief King then gave an update on the status of the Pre-Fire Plans, as well as an update on the blighted property list. Next, an update was given on the status of the grants that were applied for which if granted would allow for the purchase of Extractors to clean the harmful/cancerous bacteria from the turnout gear. Finally, an update on the New Fire Station Complex was given, along with the status of the New Fire Truck.

Next, Chief Blue updated the Council on the completion/graduation of Officer Zenobia Williams from Officer School, and informed them that Officer Williams is currently enrolled in the Resource Officer Training.

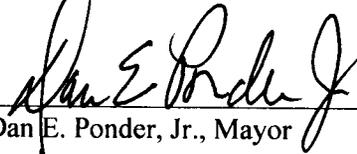
City Manager Hicks gave an update on the following items:

- (1) J. Wallace Drake/Corner of Broome & Crawford Property- Received a proposal from Mr. John Drake in regards to selling a piece of property located at the corner of Crawford Avenue and Broome Avenue (adjacent to the Public Works property) for \$8,000.00. The property contains approximately 1.05 acres and is appraised for a tax value of \$13,537.00. After some discussion, CP Blanks made a motion to accept the proposal of \$8,000.00 for the property from John Drake, along with the authorization for City Attorney Grantham to prepare all necessary documentation with City Manager Hicks and Mayor Dan E. Ponder, Jr. executing those documents. CP Brooks seconded; motion passed unanimously.  
David Taylor Construction Company- Mr. David Taylor of David Taylor Construction Company has completed the sidewalk project. He has requested an additional \$8,436.92 for additional grading and associated equipment rental, along with an additional \$3,500.00 for rubber handicap pads. No additional work was authorized in writing before it was completed and the City provided materials to accommodate the additional grading. The Contractor contends has was told to install the handicap pads. After speaking with Engineer Stacy Watkins and Public Works Superintendent Gambrell, they do not recommend additional payment since the work was done without proper authorization and the amount is not justified. City manager Hicks recommended a change-order be submitted for consideration at the next Council Meeting to include the work for the handicap pads plus an amount that the engineer proposes that is in line with the grading work that was completed. In the meantime, City Manager Hicks and Engineer Stacy Watkins recommend paying the current balance due of \$13, 681.95. After some discussion, Mayor Pro Tem Bond made a motion to go ahead and pay the balance due of \$13,681.95 and allow a change-order to be submitted at the next Council Meeting for the additional charges. CP Smith seconded; motion passed.
- (2) Sidewalk Project-A request has been made requesting the right of way to the sidewalk on 7<sup>th</sup> Street be sodded. The estimated cost associated with sodding this project totals \$18,000.00. Recommendation was made by City Manager Hicks to sod the areas in front of the homes and grass in other areas where needed. After some discussion, CP Blanks made a motion to authorize City Manager Hicks and Public Works Superintendent Gambrell to work together in finding the best option in restoring the area to how it was before the sidewalk was installed. Mayor Pro Tem Bond seconded; motion carried.

With there being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, at 6:56 PM, Mayor Pro Tem Bond made a motion to adjourn with CP Brooks making a second, and the motion carried.

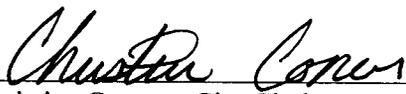
ADJOURNED

City of Donalsonville

  
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Dan E. Ponder, Jr., Mayor

Attest and Certification:

I, Christina Corvers, do here Attest and Certify that  
The above written is a true and correct representation  
of the business and actions conducted during the July 10, 2017  
meeting of the Mayor and Council of the City of Donalsonville.

  
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Christina Corvers, City Clerk