

City of Donalsonville  
Council Meeting-October 3, 2017

**Official Minutes**

Mayor Pro Tem Ed Bond called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM in the Council Chambers at City Hall. After which Councilmember Lindsey Register gave the invocation, then all joined in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America.

Councilmembers present for the meeting included, Mayor Pro Tem Ed Bond, CP Mitch Blanks, CP Flossie Smith, CP Lindsey Register and CP Travis Brooks. Mayor Dan E. Ponder, Jr. and Councilmember Tony Buczek were absent. Staff present were City Manager Steve Hicks, City Clerk Christina Corvers, Public Works Superintendent Don Gambrell, Fire Chief Dean King, and City Attorney Billy Grantham. Guests present were Amanda Moulton, Douglas Barber, Iona Barber, Karen Kimbrel, David Maxwell, Billy Shingler, Mitzy Moye, CJ Hodge, Millie Rambeau, and Bryan Husky.

Approval of the Agenda: CP Blanks 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 September 5, 2017. CP Register requested to add to the September 5, 2017 Minutes the discussion on Ray Cheng being responsible for all the records prior to his discharge from the SoZo/eDonalsonville Project. CP Register made a motion to approve the minutes from the September Council Meeting with the above stated changes; CP Smith seconded, motion passed unanimously.

APPEARANCES: Karen Kimbrel gave an update for the DDA, stating that Mrs. Virginia Harrison has taken over the responsibility of watering all the plants/flowers for the downtown area at this time. She also stated that the DDA has been working on purchasing Historical Plaques, which will benefit the Historic Walk for Donalsonville.

Next, David Maxwell gave an update on the status of painting the Fire Hydrants around town. Karen Kimbrell then requested street closures for the Big Fish Festival to be held on October 21, 2017. The street closure request includes Second Street for the Festival, and Tennille Avenue, Fourth Street, and Wiley Avenue for the Festival Parade. Karen Kimbrel stated that the Parade route will be the same as last year. CP Brooks made a motion to approve the street closures as requested, and CP Blanks seconded. Motion carried.

Amanda Moulton then requested Traffic Control from the Police Department to hold the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Veteran's Day 5K Run on November 18, 2017. Amanda Moulton stated that the Police Chief had a copy of the route, which is the same as last year. CP Blanks made a motion to approve the Traffic Control request, with CP Register seconding. Motion passed.

Next, Douglas and Iona Barber voiced a complaint with speeding on Baldwin and Dowling Avenue. After some discussion, Mayor Pro Tem Bond stated that the Police Chief would be informed of the speeding issue and a diligent effort would be made to cease the issue. CP Blanks requested City Manager Hicks to speak with Police Chief Blue about issuing concentrated control in this area.

INTERNAL BUSINESS: Next, the Financial Statements for August 2017 were presented and reviewed with comments made by City Manager Hicks on the current status, along with discussion on the three-month analysis.

**OLD BUSINESS**

OLD BUSINESS: City Manager Hicks gave an update on the eDonalsonville Project and stated that a special meeting would be scheduled later in the month to finalize the Sprint/Huawei considerations.

## NEW BUSINESS

Bryan Huskey representing Stifel, Nicolaus & Company, an investment banking firm, gave a presentation on how the market is in a position to where refinancing the City's debt could net savings. One proposal reduces the City's debt service by \$245,814, by reducing payments over 15 years. The other scenario provides the City with \$155,000 in cash up front and reduces debt service by \$50,515. The proposal would require utilizing the Downtown Development Authority as the vehicle for the debt and the debt would be submitted to banks for funding. After some discussion, CP Blanks made a motion to authorize proceeding with the necessary paperwork for the possible refinancing of the City's debt. CP Register seconded; motion passed unanimously.

Next, City Manager Hicks recommended to adopt Resolution 10-03-17 providing for the adoption of the 2017 Millage Rate at the rollback rate of 17.439 mills. The required notice of this action was published in the Donalsonville News on 9/14/17. The adoption of the rollback rate will result in a reduction of taxes in the amount of \$51,988.00. CP Brooks made a motion to adopt Resolution 10-03-17, with CP Smith seconding. Motion carried.

City Manager Hicks then recommended to adopt Resolution 10-03-17-A providing for the adoption of the final General Fund Budget in the amount of \$3,348,164. This reflects the anticipated reduction in taxes as well as changes in the previously adopted budget:

General Property Taxes-Revenue	\$ (51,988.00)
Expenditures	
Salaries & Wages	\$ (7,685)
Contribution to Insurance	46,185
Other Retirement System	(18,847)
Chamber of Commerce	16,700
Travel & School	(2,971)
Drug Task Force	(3,000)
Repairs-Building & Equipment	(15,420)
Machinery-Lease Purchase	(6,055)
Machinery-Capital Outlay	(5,720)
Other-Various Departmental Adjustments	(55,175)
Total Expenditure Budget Reductions	\$ (51,988)
Adopted Budget	3,400,152
Final FY 17-18 Budget-General Fund	\$ 3,348,164

CP Brooks made a motion to adopt Resolution 10-03-17 A, with CP Register seconding. Motion passed unanimously.

Next, City Manager Hicks stated that a request had been made by the Southwest Georgia Housing Task Force to designate a representative to serve on the Task Force. Established by the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission, the mission is to identify and provide affordable housing opportunities for the community. CP Register volunteered to become the representative for the City of Donalsonville on the Southwest Georgia Housing Task Force. CP Blanks made a motion to approve CP Register as the Southwest Georgia Housing Task Force Representative. CP Smith seconded; motion carried.

City Manager Hicks then recommend the approval of a request by Don Gambrell, Public Works Director, to declare as surplus property a John Deere 590D Excavator and to sell or dispose of as authorized by law. CP Blanks made a motion to approve, with CP Register seconding. Motion passed.

Chief King then gave an update on the status of the New Fire Engine, along with an update on the New Fire Station Complex. Chief King stated that due to Hurricane Irma, the New Fire Engine had been delayed a couple of weeks, but that he would be leaving to pick up the New Fire Engine on Sunday.

City Manager Hicks then gave an update on the following items:

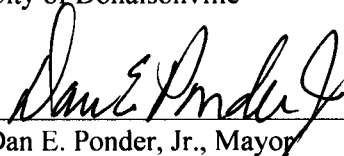
- (1) T-SPLOST Project: The County Commission has scheduled a meeting on October 17, 2017 at 3:00 PM at the Courthouse to discuss T-SPLOST projects. We need to confirm if this date will work for us.
- (2) Sewer Blockage on East 3<sup>rd</sup> Street (Presbyterian Church)- Sewer lines will be replaced by Blankenship Construction starting Monday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>. We will supply the pipe, gravel and backfill material. The cost for the contractor is \$3,600.00 per day (two days, no more than 3). Estimated materials cost is \$2,500-\$3,000.

Next, CP Blanks requested consideration from the Council on the upcoming Chip Grant, with December 2017 being the deadline to apply. CP Blanks also stated that a discussion will need to be made whether to do the project individually or jointly with the County.

With there being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, at 6:58 PM, CP Register made a motion to adjourn with CP Blanks 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 October 3, 2017  
meeting of the Mayor and Council of the City of Donalsonville.

  
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Christina Corvers, City Clerk