Date: 3/11/2024 6:00 PM

# In attendance

Mayor Joyce Corley, Mayor Pro Tempore, Jennifer Riggins, Post 1, Councilmember Willie McDowell, Jr., Post 2, Councilmember Luis J. Vazquez, Sr., Post 4, Councilmember Allison Turner, Post 5, City Attorney Scott Mayfield, Police Chief Matt Polk, City Clerk Tina L. Lee

**Residents present:** Damon Riggins, Brian Greene

**Guest:** Matt Marston

# Public comments and invited guests

Mr. Matt Marston appeared before Council to discuss his plans for the recently acquired property on Springs Road formerly owned by Salem Fitzpatrick. He also discussed his plans for the land on Watts directly across from the bank and behind 90 Springs.

Additionally, he discussed potentially building on Grubbs to replace the current existing trailers if he can acquire them. Although Molena has a 1-acre requirement for building lots, he has discussed it with Mr. Trotter at the health department and learned that it is possible to build on a lot that is at least .5 acres if certain soil tests are passed. He asked Council how they would feel about placing single-family residences on those lots at some point in the future. Mr. Marston also exhibited an image of what a manufactured home would look like if he put it in and detailed the changes he would make to make the home more like a stick-built dwelling.

Mr. Marston offered to pressure wash the sidewalks in front of his currently owned properties and discussed the possibility of pressure washing the basketball pad at the park.

He also offered to assist in obtaining additional fencing quotes.

At the request of Councilmember Willie McDowell, Jr., Post 2, Mayor Corley explained the process to approve an exception to allow a structure on less than one acre.

# Approval of minutes

The minutes from the previous meeting were provided to Council prior to the meeting.

**Motion: To approve the current agenda and the February 2024 Council Meeting Minutes**

*Motion: Jennifer Riggins, Mayor Pro Tempore, Post 1,*

*Second: Councilmember Luis J. Vazquez, Sr., Post 4*

*Vote: Yay 4 Nay 0*

# chief of police report

Chief Matt Polk reported on the number of calls (164) and traffic (103). He discussed status of vehicles and mileage as follows:

Explorer: 42,387

Loan Balance: $20,062.46

Tahoe: 171,690 – no longer being used for patrol

Charger: 10,698

Loan Balance: $30,497.28

Communications Tower is installed. Repeater coming in on Friday. Radios will be reprogrammed soon. Will need a radio for dispatch, and then we will be self-sufficient as far as communications.

**Motion: Authorize up to $1,000 to purchase railroad ties, rebar, and necessary items to correct drainage issues at the police station**

*Motion: Jennifer Riggins, Mayor Pro Tempore, Post 1*

*Second: Councilmember Luis J. Vazquez, Sr., Post 4*

*Vote: Yay 4 Nay 0*

# Reports from council and committees

Councilmember Allison Turner, Post 5 reported for Building, Streets, and Grounds

The trees have been cut.

Jennifer Riggins, Mayor Pro Tempore, Post 1 reported for Public Safety

Nothing new to report.

Councilmember Luis J. Vazquez, Sr., Post 4 reported for Ways & Means and for Technology & Engineering.

Comm Tower

Possibly replace the sign with an electronic sign since we need to move the sign anyway.

Quote for stump grinding – park and police station – around $1,000.

Mayor Corley requested the quote in writing.

Councilmember Willie McDowell, Jr., Post 2 reported on water.

Well rehab at Bagwell is complete.

Water is flowing through the treatment plant once again.

Councilmember Willie McDowell, Jr., Post 2 also reported on progress toward repairing W. Jones Street.

Mayor Corley advised Council

A new ice machine has been installed.

Assistant Clerk Brighte Godfrey is leaving due to moving out of state.

New hire Gabrielle Bulloch will replace Ms. Godfrey.

Formerly employed by Upson County Jail.

Spectrum has finished laying fiber.

Should install soon.

120 Water Call recap.

Advised the reason for the call is the lead and copper survey that must be completed before October.

Any service provided by 120 Water would still require City employees to obtain the information, therefore, the cost would not be justified.

Repairs to Bagwell Pump House Roof will take place this week.

# old business

Council discussed the camera quotes that were previously tabled and re-tabled to attempt to obtain lower quotes or funding. Discussed the current quotes for electrical repairs and tabled. Discussed Broadband related items and the pros/cons of moving from Woodbury to Spectrum.

# New Business

Council discussed the recent overpayment to Dean’s Two-Way. Overpayment will be applied to the future expense of programming the radios. Tabled discussion of the proposed Personnel Policy until it has been reviewed by City Attorney Scott Mayfield. Discussed where to move the dumpster and the basketball goal that was moved during the fire department cleanup. Councilmember financials are due.

# Executive Session

There was no need for executive session.

# Roundtable discussion

Councilmember Luis J. Vazquez, Sr., Post 4 advised Council that the fire department is asking for new remotes for the garage. County public works is using water from the hydrants without consulting Molena, without a hydrant meter, and without paying for it. Do we wish to continue this practice? Debated the request allowing the music to continue one hour later as a one-time exception, and advised they do notify clients up front about the requirement that all music must be before 10 p.m. Councilmember Willie McDowell, Jr., Post 2 advised local residents would prefer not to grant such exceptions due to the noise when they are retiring for the evening.

# Adjournment

**Motion: To adjourn**

*Motion: Jennifer Riggins, Mayor Pro Tempore, Post 1 / Councilmember Allison Turner, Post 5*

*Second: Councilmember Luis J. Vazquez, Sr., Post 4*

*Vote: Yay 4 Nay 0*

Respectfully Submitted by: City Clerk Tina L. Lee

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_