



SAVOR THE WORLD

CITY OF MORROW
MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Mayor John J. Lampl II
Mayor Pro Tem Van T. Tran
Councilwoman Dorothy Dean
Councilwoman Renee Knight
Councilman Khoa Vuong

February 25, 2020

Work Session Minutes

Discussion Items:

1. GMA Presentation of Retirement

Michelle Warren and Randy Briskin went through brief descriptions of the 401A and the 457B Retirement Plans. Michelle Warren went into further detail about the newly established Rule of 85 installed in 2018. Mayor Lampl went on to discuss that he felt the Rule of 85 benefited too few people and that it had little value to the citizens. He described that the cost of the new retirement option was just over a million dollars and not the best decision for our citizens. Mayor Pro Tem Tran asked if the City of Morrow was the only city to have such a retirement option. Ms. Warner explained that several cities throughout Georgia had such options. Mayor Lampl went on to say that while the new rule was great for the employees who took advantage of the opportunity, it was not great for the other employees. He summed up by saying it was important to understand why such decisions were not good ones so that we could avoid making similar decisions in the future.

2. Assistance to Firefighter Grant

Chief Swint presented the opportunity for the grant that would provide for two things: 1. Equipment that would help pull the exhaust from the station; and 2. Tester for face masks to be fitted properly. The grant request would equal \$103,804 and the required match amount would equal \$5,190. No Councilmember had an objection, so the match amount will receive a formal vote at the next meeting on March 10, 2020.

3. Corona Virus

Mayor Lampl asked Chief Swint if he had a plan of action should our first responders come into contact with the Corona Virus or if citizens had questions about how to be prepared to prevent contracting the virus. Mayor Pro Tem Tran and Council Woman Dean expressed their concern for such preparedness. Chief Swint reported that our contacts had not expressed a need for any extra planning other than the measures we already have in place. All Councilmembers encouraged him to take a more proactive approach. Fire Chief Swint and the City Manager said they would get a plan in place.

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4. Jester's Creek Phase III

Ms. Redic explained that there had only been one responsive bid to the RFB published for the construction of Phase III of Jester's Creek Path System. Mayor Lampl suggested that we re-bid the construction because only one choice was not the ideal situation. City Manager Redic stated that she would discuss the matter with the Georgia Department of Transportation to make sure that the grant funds would not be jeopardized by re-bidding.

5. City Attorney

Mayor Lampl encouraged the Council to review the information submitted from potential new attorneys.

6. Capri and Clay Agreement for Consulting Services for General Sales Taxes and Aviation Fuels.

Mayor Pro Tem Tran recused herself from the discussion because of her professional conflict. Mayor Lampl expressed his position that he was not sure there was value in continuing the agreement for the services. Councilwoman Dean suggested that we should stay in the agreement. Mayor Lampl told Ms. Dean that she should have a conversation with the Delta representative Harold Bevis. He directed the City Manager to share the contact for Mr. Bevis with Councilwoman Dean.

~ Adjourn for Regular Meeting

~ Reconvene for Work Session

7. 5900 Reynolds Road

Mayor Lampl wanted to discuss why the property was purchased, the best plan for moving forward, and how the city would pay for the necessary work. Councilwoman Dean explained that the Council bought the property in response to citizen requests for a place to enjoy recreation, and for seniors to have programs, to offer the City of Morrow services that the currently had to get from other cities. Mayor Lampl agreed with the concept and went on to say he had worked in years passed to get a YMCA in Morrow. He further explained that the property needs a formal plan and that while it may ultimately serve many of our residents, he was not sure the benefit of a recreation center should come before street lights and roads. He directed the City Manager to get some lights hung so the property isn't so dark, to fix the door that was broken at the gymnasium, to get some quotes from roofers to fix the leaks, and to figure out ways to get people in the building so it does not just sit empty.

8. Budget Discussion

- a. SPLOST (Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax) will not be used for Capital Improvements but, as Mayor Lampl explains, should be used for something special.
- b. Sanitation Fund – since the sanitation services are no longer going to be billed through the property taxes, this fund needs to be broken out in the budget.
- c. Mayor Lampl asked for the budget document to include more details.
- d. Retreat – Mayor Lampl said he did not want to conduct retreats when the Mayor and Council leave the city, citizens can not be a part, and money is spent unnecessarily. Ms. Redic explained that retreats were held at city hall and Mayor Lampl said that maybe

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something he is willing to consider. He did go on to explain that the Planning and Zoning Board and the Downtown Development Authority and the Urban Redevelopment Agency needed to meet three times a year to discuss how to move the city forward.

- e. The Mayor and Council discussed training and specifically the GMA Conference.
 - f. Sanitation – Mayor Pro Tem Tran and Ms. Redic discussed bringing the sanitation point of service back into City Hall because it was too problematic to have a single person working in isolation at Public Works. Mayor Pro Tem explained that at City Hall, where there is a team of people - vacations, emergencies, and sick time could be handled better without an interruption of customer service. Mayor Lampl directed the City Manager to talk to Council Members Dorothy Dean and Renee Knight to make sure they were on board with the change.
 - g. Finance Director and Public Works Director – Ms. Redic explained that the interviews for Finance Officer and Public Works Director would be completed by the end of the week. She intended to present three finalists to the City Council. Mayor Lampl suggested that the interviews be held during the Work Session on March 10, 2020. He explained that the interviews would be held in public to avoid an unnecessary Executive Sessions.
 - h. Morrow Center – Discussion included ideas about how to improve the use of the Morrow Center to keep from losing money. Ms. Redic explained that there had been many discussions and the city had tried several versions of how to manage the Morrow Center. The current Manager's resume (Warren Thomas) was presented to the Mayor and Council. Ms. Redic explained that the hospitality functions of the Morrow Center required a special consideration to create a reasonable level of service in a way that may look different than the other functions of government. Mayor Lampl asked the City Manager to get a marketing plan for the Morrow Center and share with the Council.
9. Meadowbrook Property – Mayor Lampl asked the city manager to get an engineer to look at the Meadowbrook property to discuss the passageways.

Mayor Lampl adjourned the work session ended at 10:51 p.m.

Approved this 10th day of March 2020.

Attest



Andrea Yates, City Clerk

CITY OF MORROW, GEORGIA



John Lampl, Mayor

