**MINUTES OF CITY COMMISSION MEETING**

**MADISON, FLORIDA**

**JULY 14, 2020**

The City Commission met in a regular meeting at 5:30 p.m. in City Hall. Mayor/Commissioner Rayne Cooks (District 1), Commissioner Ina Thompson (District 2), Commissioner Jim Catron (District 3), Commissioner Terry Johnson (District 4), and Commissioner Judy Townsend (District 5) were present.

City staff present were: Jerome Wyche-City Manager, Lee Anne Hall-City Clerk, Clay Schnitker-City Attorney, Lanee Pike-HR, Tyrone Edwards-Police Captain, and David Floyd-Public Works/Sanitation Superintendent.

Due to the present COVID-19 pandemic, no members of the public, other than those on the agenda, were allowed to be physically present. Members of the public who wished to listen to and/or participate in the meeting could do so via telephone or computer by accessing Go-to-Meeting session 335257285.

The Mayor called the meeting to order.

No one wished to speak during Citizen’s Participation.

Commissioner Cooks moved to adopt the agenda; seconded by Commissioner Johnson. Motion passed 5-0.

Commissioner Townsend moved to adopt the consent agenda: (a) Minutes of June 9, 2020 Regular City Commission Meeting, (b) Minutes of June 23, 2020 Special City Commission Meeting, (c) Department Head Reports, and (d) Financial Report. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Johnson and passed 5-0.

Auditor Richard Powell presented the Annual Financial Report for the Fiscal Year ended September 30, 2019. Commissioner Thompson moved to accept the Report; seconded by Commissioner Catron. Motion passed 5-0.

The meeting was opened to the public for input on the USDA Rural Development Grant Application for the purchase of a fire truck and related equipment. There was no input from the public.

Commissioner Townsend moved to approve and authorize the Mayor to execute the following USDA forms: RD 1942-47, RD 400-1, RD 400-4, AD 1047, AD 1049, and Guide 15. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Johnson and passed 5-0.

Commissioner Townsend moved to tentatively set the Fiscal Year 2019/2020 millage rate at 7 mils and schedule the first public hearing for Fiscal Year 2019/2020 budget for September 8, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Johnson and passed 5-0.

Commissioner Cooks moved to award the bid on the SCOP ER Scott Street Roadway Improvement Project to the lowest bidder, The Scruggs Company, for $449,349.96. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Townsend and passed 5-0.

Commissioner Johnson moved to award the bid on the SCOP College Loop Roadway Improvement Project to the lowest bidder, The Scruggs Company, for $288,410.13. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Catron and passed 5-0.

Commissioner Catron moved to award the bid for the harvesting of the City’s timber to Genesis Timber and directed the City Attorney to prepare a contract for approval by the Commission. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Thompson and passed 5-0.

City Manager Jerome Wyche gave his report.

The meeting was opened for public input on agenda item #14 “Confederate Soldier Statue at Four Freedoms Park”. The following people called in: Rebecca Bassford, Sherry Conyers, Christian Griffin, Bob Weiland, Jason Miller, Jason Shoaf, Jessica Webb, Susan Mohen, Tim Sanders, Margo Dover, Mimi Replogle, Ernie Page, and Mike Woods.

Donnell Davis was on the agenda and addressed the Commission requesting the removal of the Confederate Soldier Statue from the City owned Four Freedoms Park.

Jackie Johnson was on the agenda and addressed the Commission requesting the Confederate Solider Statue not be removed from the City owned Four Freedoms Park.

After hearing from the public and discussion among the Commission, Commissioner Thompson moved to keep the Confederate Soldier Statue in the City owned Four Freedoms Park. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Catron. Motion failed 2-3. (Commissioners Catron and Thompson voted in favor of the motion; Commissioners Cooks, Johnson and Townsend voted NOT in favor of the motion.)

Commissioner Townsend moved to remove the Confederate Soldier Statue from the City owned Four Freedoms Park, and directed the City Manager to research the cost associated with having it removed and provide suggestions on where to relocate it. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Johnson and passed 3-2. (Commissioners Cooks, Johnson, and Townsend voted in favor of the motion; Commissioners Catron and Thompson voted NOT in favor of the motion.

There being no further business, the Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

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ATTEST: Rayne J. Cooks, Mayor/Commissioner

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Lee Anne Hall, City Clerk