

REGULAR MEETING

FEBRUARY 7, 2006

A Regular Meeting of the Arcadia City Council was held on February 7, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. in Room D of the Way Building at 23 N. Polk Avenue. Councilmembers attending were: Heine, Johnson, Goodman, Whitlock, and Fazzone. Also in attendance were: Administrator Strube, Attorney Holloman, Marshal Lee, Special Projects Coordinator Hewett, Ms. Way and Recorder Baumann.

Mayor Heine called the meeting to order.

The Invocation was given by Council Member Goodman.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The minutes of the Regular meeting of January 3, 2006 were adopted on motion of Johnson; seconded by Goodman and carried.

Goodman moved that the City of Arcadia Council endorse the merger of the City and County Fire/ EMS Merger Proposal as presented today at the 5:00 PM meeting and that we move towards a countywide merged Fire/ EMS Program and that the City and County Administrators work out the details of the merger with staff to help move through the countywide Fire/EMS merger; seconded by Johnson and carried.

Proposed Ordinance No. 918 was presented on first reading. Each Councilmember had previously been given a copy for study. Goodman moved to waive the rules and read the proposed ordinance by title only; seconded by Johnson and carried.

ORDINANCE NO. 918

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ARCADIA, AMENDING THE CITY OF ARCADIA POLICE OFFICERS' AND FIREFIGHTERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM, ADOPTED PURSUANT TO ORDINANCE NO. 897, AS SUBSEQUENTLY AMENDED; AMENDING SECTION 1, DEFINITIONS; AMENDING SECTION 3, BOARD OF TRUSTEES; AMENDING SECTION 10, OPTIONAL FORMS OF BENEFITS; AMENDING SECTION 16, DISTRIBUTION OF BENEFITS; AMENDING SECTION 24, DIRECT TRANSFER OF ELIGIBLE ROLLOVER DISTRIBUTIONS; AMENDING SECTION 28, DEFERRED RETIREMENT OPTION PLAN; ADDING SECTION 29, REEMPLOYMENT AFTER RETIREMENT; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY OF PROVISIONS; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HERewith AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Fazzone then moved to approve Ordinance No. 918 on first reading; seconded by Johnson. Mayor Heine called for comments from the public, there were none. The motion carried on roll call vote. Ayes: Johnson, Fazzone, Goodman, Whitlock, and Heine. Nays: None.

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Mayor Heine proclaimed the month of February as "Black History Month" and urged all residents and businesses to support the activities surrounding it. Whitlock moved to endorse this action; seconded by Fazzone and carried. Goodman invited everyone to attend a Black History Celebration at Elizabeth Missionary Baptist Church, Sunday at 3:00 PM.

Jerald Newberry, President of the DeSoto County Historical Society, Inc. addressed Council to request the use of the Tree of Knowledge Park on Saturday, March 4, 2006 for the Second Annual Pioneer Day. He is also requesting the closing of Oak Street between Monroe Avenue and DeSoto Avenue and has received approval from Marshal Lee. Johnson moved to grant the request for the Historical Society to use the Tree of Knowledge Park on Saturday, March 4, 2006 and for the closing of Oak Street between Monroe Avenue and DeSoto Avenue; seconded by Whitlock and carried.

Pam Ames, President of the Arcadia Main Street Program, Inc. and Martha Craven addressed Council to request the closure of Oak Street from DeSoto Avenue West to Orange Avenue in order to host the Antique Extravaganza on March 25, 2006 from 6:00 AM to 4 PM. They would like this section of Oak Street closed in order for vendors to set up in the middle of the road. It was noted that DeSoto Avenue, Polk Avenue, Monroe Avenue, and Orange Avenue would remain open. They did send a survey to the local merchants to see if there was opposition to the street closure. Response from the survey showed 24 in favor of the closing and 7 against. Fazzone moved to grant the request as presented to close Oak Street on March 25, 2006; seconded by Whitlock and carried.

Ms Ames then addressed the Council to request the closure of Oak Street from Highway 17 South to Orange Avenue as well as side streets DeSoto Avenue and Polk Avenue, from Hickory Street to Magnolia Street in order to host the 2nd Annual Downtown Watermelon Festival on Saturday, May 6, 2006 from 6:00 AM to 10:00 PM. The Fire Department requests that Monroe Avenue remain open in order for emergency vehicles to have access. Goodman moved to grant the request to close Oak Street as presented with Monroe Avenue to remain open on Saturday, May 6, 2006; seconded by Whitlock and carried.

Ms. Ames then addressed Council to request Council approval to cover asphalt with brick pavers at the Tree of Knowledge Park. She reported that Tremron, Inc. is contributing resources to help with this project. Special Project Coordinator Hewett asked about the funds Main Street was going to use to install brackets and flags on the light poles and was informed that they can not be done using grant funds; however grant funds can be used for pavers in the park. Fazzone moved to authorize the Main Street Program to install brick pavers in the Tree of Knowledge Park; seconded by Whitlock and carried.

The Police Activity Report for the month of January 2006 was presented.

Marshall Lee noted that in addition to the 310 ordinance violations the department has been busy writing local parking tickets.

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The January 2006 report of Arcadia Golf Course receipts and number of play was presented.

Fazzone reported that the Annual Canadian Tournament will be held tomorrow.

The Public Works report for the month of January 2006 was presented.

Fazzone inquired why Public Works Supervisor Reed was not attending Council Meetings. Administrator Strube will get with Mr. Reed to request that he be in attendance.

Martha Craven requests that the public bathrooms located at the Tree of Knowledge Park be locked, Marshal Lee will check this out. Ms. Craven also requests that the "No Skateboards" sign be put back up in the park and a "No Loitering" sign also be placed in the park.

Stan Abram representing the Arcadia/DeSoto Beautification Committee asked for "No Littering Signs".

Reverend Joseph Cannon with the Pentecostal Church addressed Council regarding a problem with the sidewalks in front of the church. Mayor Heine stated that in the past the City has provided labor and the church would provide the materials. Special Projects Coordinator Hewett stated that by City Code the sidewalks are the responsibility of the property owner. Goodman moved to follow the procedure as in the past with the City supplying labor, the church to provide materials and requests that Public Works Supervisor Reed oversee the project; seconded by Johnson and carried.

Special Projects Coordinator Hewett then inquired who is responsible to pay for sidewalks in connection with new home construction to which Administrator Strube replied that it is the home owners responsibility.

Jerald Newberry, President of the DeSoto County Historical Society, Inc. addressed Council again to report that the Society now owns the Brownville School and will be seeking grants to renovate it. He asked for letters of support from the Council for the project.

Keith Markey addressed the Council regarding his rezoning request which was approved on April 5, 2004. He acknowledged that he did receive a response from Administrator Strube on the matter. He then asked about the time delay and if this was typical. Administrator Strube stated that the City can not amend the Future Land Use Map until the Evaluation Appraisal Report (EAR) is complete. The City did contract with the Central Regional Planning Council to prepare the EAR, however due to the hurricanes of 2004 the work on the report has been significantly delayed. The Planning Council has also lost several key employees who were working on the City's report. The City has received the EAR, held a Public Hearing on December 13, 2005 and has sent the report to the State. The State will review the report, recommend any changes and then the City must resubmit the report and hold another public hearing. Administrator Strube stated that if everything goes well we are looking at June or July 2006. Mr. Markey's rezoning was changing from a residential zoning

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to a business zoning which is why it affects the Future Land Use Map. Zonings from one form of residential to another do not affect the map. Goodman thanked Mr. Markey for his patience with this process.

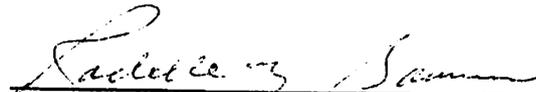
Mayor Heine addressed the Council stating that there is a problem with communication between the Administrator and Council. He was not aware that the City was seeking a contractor for a new building for the Fire Department. He feels that the Council should have been informed of this. Steve Weeks Grant Administrator stated that the ad in question was his doing and that it was part of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) grant application that the city advertise for an architect for the Public Safety Building. An ad had been run in December; however there was no response which required that a second ad be run. Mayor Heine stated that this is not the first time this has happened. Goodman stated that this is not about the article; she has asked to be informed and needs to be respected by staff. Goodman then stated that the Council was to be called in order to give a ranking of the Fire Chief, she was not called and had to initiate the meeting. Goodman stated that she is fed up and has considered walking off of the Council. She asked what has happened to having a review of the City Administrator. She then stated that when the Council makes a motion it should go forth. Fazzone stated that the Council has a responsibility to get with the Administrator and work things out and not air it in a public meeting. Goodman then stated that this is not an attack on the City Administrator; however we need to communicate and operate across the board.

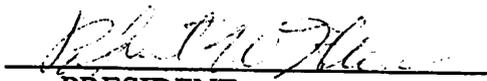
Administrator Strube addressed Council stating that the reviews have been done and a new Fire Chief has been selected. He then announced that C.W. Blosser will be the next City of Arcadia Fire Chief. C.W. then addressed the Council thanking them for their support and stated that he will do the best job he can.

Goodman wanted to clarify that she is not battering the City Administrator, she is battering the Council. She stated we have dropped the ball citing the review of the City Administrator and Mr. Markey's request.

Johnson stated that communication is a key in being successful as a Council. He would like to have a procedure for follow up of Council action. He then reported that he will be attending the Ridge League Meeting.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.


CITY RECORDER


PRESIDENT