
The Live Oak City Council met Tuesday, October 08, 2019, at 5:30 p.m. in City Hall located at 101 SE White Ave., Live Oak, Florida 32064. The following officials were present: Mayor Frank Davis, Councilmember Robintina Reed, Councilmember David Burch, Council President Mark Stewart, Councilmember Don Allen, Councilmember Bennie Thomas, Attorney Fred Koberlein Sr., City Manager Ron Williams, and City Clerk John Gill.

Council President Stewart called the meeting to order.

Rev. Ben Bush with Westwood Baptist Church led the invocation, which was followed by the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Council President Stewart then presented the agenda for any additions, deletions, or changes. Councilmember Allen moved to pass the agenda as presented, which Councilmember Reed seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

The floor was then opened to public comment. The following individuals then addressed council with their topic of discussion:

Tara Hart: Utility Billing issues.

Carol Quillen: Utility Billing issues.

With no other public comment Council President Stewart proceeded to the next item regarding the approval of the September 10, 2019 City Council Meeting minutes and the September 23, 2019 Special Called Council meeting. Councilmember Burch moved to approve the minutes as presented, which Councilmember Reed seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Council President Stewart then turned the floor over to Mayor Davis who stated he had nothing at this time but wanted to reserve the right to speak at the end of the meeting.

Council President Stewart proceeded to the next item on the agenda, the **First Reading** of Ordinance No. 1440. Mr. Gill then read Ordinance No. 1440 for the record.

ORDINANCE NO. 1440

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LIVE OAK, FLORIDA, AMENDING SECTION 2-116, OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, CITY OF LIVE OAK, PROVIDING THAT THE SALARY OF THE CITY CLERK AND TREASURER SHALL BE ADJUSTED FROM \$51,188.80 TO \$56,000.00; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICT AND SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION: AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Councilmember Reed moved to approve Ordinance No. 1440, which Councilmember Burch seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Council President Stewart then turned the floor over to Mr. Ron Williams, City Manager. Mr. Williams then asked to start with agenda item 6- C, Resolution 19-17.

RESOLUTION NO. 19-17

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LIVE OAK, FLORIDA: AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF 4.73 ACRES OF THE CITY OWNED PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE NORTHERN PORTION OF HALE PARK TO THE LIVE OAK HOUSING AUTHORITY FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSTRUCTING AN AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROJECT: REPEALING ALL RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT: PROVIDING SEVERABILITY AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Mr. Gill read Resolution No. 19-17 for the record. Councilmember Allen moved to approve Resolution No. 19-17 to allow Mr. Williams to negotiate and convey the transfer of City property to the Housing Authority, Councilmember Burch seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Williams proceeded to the next item on the agenda, the **First Reading** of Ordinance No. 1441, an Ordinance concerning an increase in City sewer rates.

ORDINANCE NO. 1441

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LIVE OAK, FLORIDA, ADJUSTING UTILITY RATES REFERENCED IN CHAPTER 78, ARTICLE II, WATER, SPECIFICALLY: SECTION 78-34 TITLED “ WATER TAPPING FEES”, AND SECTION 78-36 TITLED “ WATER RATE SCHEDULE:: AND CHAPTER 78, ARTICLE III, SEWERS GENERALLY, SPECIFICALLY: SECTION 78-84 TITLED “ TAPPING FEE”: AND SECTION 78-86 TITLED “SEWER SERVICE CHARGES”: AND CHAPTER 78, ARTICLE IV GAS, SPECIFICALLY; SECTION 78-124 TITLED “GAS RATE SCHEDULE “, OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES: PROVIDING FOR CONFLICT AND SEVERABILITY: PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION: AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Mr. Williams stated that this is due to a rate study that was generated by Florida Rural Water and the survey they did of the City’s current rates and the costs to the City of the loans for the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The loan was a 20-year loan and the City has been paying on the loan for 11 years. The increase would be a 6% increase over the next 3 years, at which Councilmember Thomas asked the impact to the resident, Ms. Luther stated it would be \$1.11 increase for the first 2,000 gallons.

Mr. Gill read Ordinance No. 1441 for the record; Council President Stewart opened the floor for public comments:

Mr. Tim Wiggins: Opposing the increase of the rates.

Councilmember Burch moved to approve Ordinance No. 1441, which Council President Stewart seconded. The motion failed due to a 3 to 2 vote, with Councilmember Thomas, Councilmember Reed, and Councilmember Allen voting against.

Mr. Williams proceeded to the next agenda item, Resolution No. 19-19, a resolution authorizing a lease agreement with the Suwannee County School Board, Florida relating to leasing space on, and around the City’s water tower for the installation of communications equipment. Mr. Gill read Resolution No. 19-19 for the record.

RESOLUTION NO. 19-19

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LIVE OAK, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING A LEASE AGREEMENT WITH THE SCHOOL BOARD OF SUWANNEE COUNTY, FLORIDA RELATING TO LEASING SPACE ON, AND AROUND, THE CITY’S WATER TOWER FOR THE INSTALLATION OF COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT.

Councilmember Allen moved to approve Resolution No. 19-19, which Councilmember Reed seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Williams proceeded to the next agenda item, Resolution No. 19-18, a Resolution authorizing Suwannee Parks & Recreation permission to pursue two (2) FRDAP grants for John H. Hale Community Park (Phase III & IV) for park development /renovations for the City of Live Oak.

Councilmember Allen moved to approve Resolution No. 19-18, which Councilmember Reed seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Williams then asked Ms. Gabrielle Redfern, CRA Director to come forward and update the council on the relocation of the United States Post Office.

Ms. Redfern informed the council that the Post Office will be relocating to the Old Pic -n- Save Building by May 2020. They have already presented a lease agreement with Mr. Branham, and they have hired Rockford Realty to put the Historical Building on the market for the price of \$465,000.00. They are hoping to have a closing date of October 15, 2019 on the new location.. The Post Office will submit an application to the Historical Register to have the building put on the Historical Register. Councilmember Allen requested that a Resolution be drafted by the City in support of the Post Office submitting an application to add the building to the Historical Register, for next months Council meeting.

Councilmember Reed asked for an update on the speed bumps on Georgia and Anna Ave., she has asked for this and even turned in a petition. Councilmember Reed also requested that a sign be placed on McGee St. for a child that lives in the neighborhood that is deaf. Mr. Williams stated that the Police Department has completed a study and it does not warrant a speed bump. Mr. Williams offered to have the Police Department patrol the streets more often and write citation to any one found speeding.

With there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Councilmember Mark Stewart
City Council President

Attest:
Mr. John Gill
City Clerk