
The Live Oak City Council met Tuesday, October 9, 2018, 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, Council President Councilmember Bennie L. Thomas, Councilmember Robintina Reed, Councilmember David Burch, Councilmember Mark Stewart, Councilmember Don Allen, Attorney Fred Koberlein Jr., City Manager Ron Williams, and City Clerk John Gill.

Council President Bennie Thomas called the meeting to order.

Mr. George Curtis then led the invocation, which was followed by the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Councilmember Thomas then presented the agenda for additions, deletions, or changes. Councilmember Burch moved to approve the agenda as presented, which Councilmember Allen seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

No one from the public signed up to speak during public comment, so Councilmember Thomas proceeded to the next item regarding the approval of the September 11, 2018 City Council Meeting minutes and the September 25, 2018 Special Called City Council Meeting. Councilmember Stewart then moved to approve the minutes as presented, which Councilmember Burch seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Thomas then turned the floor over to Mayor Frank Davis. Mayor Davis then presented a proclamation designating the week of October 21-27, 2018 Working Forest Week. Mr. Paul Williams with the Division of Forestry was present to accept the proclamation.

Councilmember Thomas then turned the floor over to Councilmember Robintina Reed who discussed retention pond maintenance. Councilmember Reed requested council consideration in maintaining the retention ponds beyond the once a year agreement with CH2MHill/Jacobs. Mr. Williams discussed that staff are attempting to start the process (of maintenance) with treatment. Mr. Williams stated that he would meet with staff and have staff meet with Councilmember Reed concerning options.

Councilmember Thomas then turned the floor over to Councilmember Mark Stewart. Councilmember Stewart then addressed council concerning the development of a street improvement plan. Continuing, Mr. Stewart discussed the roundabout vandalism and what steps could be taken to prevent vandalism. Chief Williams then discussed the liabilities of utilizing barriers to prevent individuals from entering the roundabout center.

Councilmember Stewart continued his discussion regarding street improvement specifically a turning lane for Miller Street. Councilmember Stewart also inquired regarding the removal of the traffic signal at Pine St. and US-90. Councilmember Stewart stated that due to these requests he was concerned with setting priorities for a street improvement plan. Police Chief Buddy Williams discussed that a traffic signal was not needed at the intersection of Pine St. and US-90, but rather drivers needed to be patient and diligent in driving cautiously. It was noted that only three accidents have occurred from Jan. 1, 2018 to present. City Manager Ron Williams then discussed that the city was in the middle of a construction project on Miller St. and were not considering anything additional at this point.

Councilmember Thomas then turned the floor over to Councilmember David Burch. Councilmember Burch then presented for discussion the matter of providing the City Manager with a merit pay increase of 1.5% and (1%) COLA increase along with the city employees.

Mr. Koberlein then addressed the council requesting clarification on this matter. Councilmember Burch discussed that last year Mr. Williams was given additional time off (Paid Time Off-PTO) rather than the COLA increase that was given to employees. This year, it was being asked whether Mr. Williams would be included within the same merit pay increase of 1.5% and COLA increase as city staff, or if additional actions were needed in order for him to be included.

Mr. Koberlein inquired if the time off given last year was reoccurring. Mr. Williams stated it was reoccurring it was added to his base. Mr. Williams then stated it was his opinion that council sets his compensation, and that he does not automatically get the 1.5% (merit) that was approved for the rest of the employees. Continuing, Mr. Williams stated that if approved this would include the 1.5% (merit) increase and the COLA for him as common to all employees.

Mr. Koberlein discussed that per the agreement, council should be considering Mr. Williams compensation every 12-months based on an evaluation. As far as the monetary compensation, council could go above the annual evaluation increase; council would just have to find that it is in addition to anything in the contract, council should then revise the contract, which could be done by resolution. A majority approval would then be needed to move forward with the COLA and 1.5% (merit) increase.

Councilmember Burch then moved to approve the city attorney to draft a resolution providing the City Manager a 1.5% and the COLA increase for Mr. Williams.

Councilmember Stewart inquired whether Mr. Williams could receive anything less than other department heads. Mr. Koberlein discussed that Mr. Williams could only be provided fringe benefits that were equal to the other highest compensated staff member. Monetary benefits would be set by the council and would not be automatically adjusted.

It was then discussed that this would come back before council in the form of a Resolution. Mr. Koberlien stated he would take care of the resolution. Continuing, Mr. Koberlien stated that if the council voted on it he could make it retroactive to this date or whatever the effective date the council wishes to have.

Councilmember Burch stated that he thought it would have to be with his anniversary date. The Finance Director Joanne Luther stated that the COLA should be October 1st, but then stated it was up to the council, they could make the 1.5% his anniversary date and the COLA October 1st, or they could make the 1.5% October 1st too.

Councilmember Burch then amended his motion to approve the city attorney to draft a resolution providing the City Manager a 1.5% and the COLA effective Oct. 1, like the rest of the employees. Councilmember Thomas seconded the motion.

The vote was then taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Thomas then turned the floor over to City Manager Ron Williams. Mr. Williams presented a request from Commissioner Larry Sessions requesting council's consideration in collaborating on a Suwannee

Valley Next Generation Mobility Plan-Rural Planning Build Grant Proposal. Commissioner Sessions then addressed council describing the benefits of the grant to the City of Live Oak.

Councilmember Thomas then referred this matter to the city manager for further review and for the city manager to bring back a recommendation.

Mr. Williams then proceeded to his next item, and turned the floor over to Mr. Curtis who presented the First reading of Ordinance 1422, an ordinance amending portions of Chapter 18, Article III. – Alcoholic Beverages, of the City of Live Oak Code of Ordinances; pertaining to Section 18-71 and Section 18-73, Regulations and Sales, Service, or Consumption. The Clerk then read the title of the ordinance into the record.

Ordinance No. 1422

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LIVE OAK, FLORIDA, AMENDING PORTIONS OF CHAPTER 18, ARTICLE III. – ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, OF THE CITY OF LIVE OAK CODE OF ORDINANCES; PERTAINING TO SECTION 18-71. AND SECTION 18-73, REGULATIONS, AND SALES, SERVICE, OR CONSUMPTION; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

Councilmember Burch then moved to approve Ordinance 1422, which Councilmember Reed seconded.

The floor was then open to public comment.

Hearing none, the vote was then taken and the motion carried unanimously.

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

Councilmember Thomas
City Council President

Attest:
Mr. John Gill
City Clerk