

January 31, 2020

The Work Session of the Mayor and Council of the City of Madison was held Friday, January 31, 2020, at 8:30 AM at the City of Madison Public Safety Building Meeting Hall, located at 160 N Main Street, Suite 400. Present were the following: Mayor Fred Perriman; Mayor Pro Tem Rick Blanton; Council Member Chris Hodges, Eric Joyce; and Ed Latham; City Clerk Hawk; and Attorney Jimmy Carter. Absent were the following: Council Member Carrie Peters-Reid, and City Manager David Nunn. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Perriman and he welcomed those in attendance. Opening prayer and Pledge of Allegiance were led by members of council.

### **Topics For Discussion**

#### **Recycling Issues – Council Member Hodges**

Hodges said recycling fees will change, per a message from Nunn, with the current recycling provider. She asked that action be taken to review the current process, roadblocks, and potential solutions. Hodges asked Stapp if she was aware of the reasons for the change and Stapp said the conversations have taken place between the manager and recycling provider. Hodges suggested reaching out to Carl Vinson Institute of Government regarding assessment of current recycling practices.

Christine McCauley Watts, with the Madison-Morgan County Conservancy, reviewed research gathered by the Junior Conservancy regarding recycling. The research outlined the process, what can be recycled, and how it should be stored. She suggested working with the county so that the entire county recycles the same products. Hodges and Watts asserted education could help with recycling issues.

Ken Kocher, Information Officer, said education is offered throughout the year via the city Facebook page and newsletters.

Elected officials discussed reasons individuals may choose not to recycle. Latham suggested recycling bins with lids in order to keep the recycled goods dry and in one place. Others agreed that new containers may be helpful. Joyce asked Stapp if she knew how much the fee would increase would be city wide and Stapp said \$1500 to \$1800 per month. It was determined that Watts would follow up with Nunn and provide the contact information for Carl Vinson Institute of Government and their assessment services.

#### **Schedule of Fees Update**

Stapp reviewed the proposed changes to the water tap fees. She said current fees have been in effect since 2004 but material and labor cost have changed. She said Nunn reviewed the fees and calculated the new fees based on services. Joyce asked Stapp to review the previous price and the proposed prices. Stapp said fees depends on the size of the meter. Stapp explained that ¾ inch meter currently is \$1295 and will increase to \$1500; 1 inch will increase by \$235; a ½ inch meter went down by \$400; and a 2-inch meter increased by \$35. She said the \$500 meter set fee is an increase from \$150 due to the need for more equipment on meters. The item was added to the consent agenda for Monday, February 10, 2020.

### **Surplus Property – Finance Officer Stapp**

Stapp reviewed the resolutions to declare property surplus and sell GovDeals.com. The item was placed on the consent agenda for Monday, February 10, 2020.

### **Alcohol Ordinance – Arts & Entertainment District – Potential Revision – City Clerk Hawk**

Hawk said she was tasked with researching ways in which the alcohol ordinance could be expanded to allow more businesses in the art and entertainment district to apply for a yearlong alcohol license with the city and the state. She explained that currently business that wish to offer complimentary beverages must apply for a special event license while the register is open, and sales are being made. She reviewed the current ordinance and businesses allowed to apply for a yearlong alcohol license in the district. She then reviewed the many steps involved in applying for a onetime special event license with the City and the State.

Hawk reviewed alcohol ordinances for the City of Suwanee, Monroe, Gainesville, Tifton, and Clayton. She explained that Suwanee offers an Amenity permit to any business that holds and occupational tax certificate. The permit allows the businesses who are licensed the ability to offer complimentary beverages to customers.

Similarly, Tifton allows for an Amenity permit however the permit is limited to beauty salons, barbershops, nail salons, and hotel/motels. She said the application is three (3) pages long and requires a background check. She explained that Tifton also offers a Bottle House ordinance which allows customers to bring alcohol into an establishment.

Hawk also reviewed the “gifting” license type for the City of Clayton which is like the amenity permit however each event would need a permit and permits are limited to once every ninety (90) days.

Hawk said the city of Gainesville offers a 60/40 license meaning 60% of sales must be retail and 40% retail. Finally, she reviewed ordinances that allow patrons of downtown district the ability to leave one establishment with a drink in hand so long as the drink is decanted.

Latham asked if non-profits would be included in the proposed changes. Hawk said this would require a different type of research. Joyce said he asked Hawk to research creative ordinances and asked if this is something council would be interested moving forward with. Other members asserted that it would be helpful to lessen the fees and perhaps expand the ordinance in the arts and entertainment district. Planning Director Callahan inquired about the ability to give away a drink without a fee, and Hawk said it would be permissible through the state as their license types are very broad. She said the city ordinances are more specific and restrictive. Karen Wibell said it would be less restrictive and more business friendly if the ordinance allowed for a permit such as the Amenity License.

Hawk asserted that the best option would be an Amenity permit but limited to a certain number of events throughout the year. Staff and elected officials then discussed the unintended consequences and other state requirements and whether the license type should be limited to the downtown district or expanded to the entire city. Joyce again asked if this type of license is something the elected body is interested in exploring. Perriman asked for Hawk and Attorney Carter to move forward with drafting an ordinance. Latham suggested forming a committee with

varying business types in order to receive external input. Hodges suggested including the Carter, Hawk, Ann Huff, Latham, and someone from a nonprofit on said committee. Perriman asked Hawk to move forward with the committee.

### **Pedestrian Safety – Mayor Perriman**

Perriman expressed concern regarding pedestrian safety in the corridor and suggested another conversation take place with Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT). Hodges recounted the last meeting that took place with representatives of GDOT. She reviewed suggestions that were mentioned in the meeting including the addition of a roundabout, making the entrance to the city narrower and the addition of a pedestrian element. She asserted that the city does not have the authority to make changes, only GDOT has the authority. Hodges suggested another meeting with GDOT to discuss options that are possible as they have already said they cannot add a crosswalk or traffic light.

Joyce recounted a conversation two years ago, initiated by Jamie Williams, in which pedestrian safety and roadblocks with GDOT. He asserted that two years later nothing has changed and there has been a pedestrian fatality. He asserted that elected officials and citizens should reach out to GDOT and voice all concern. Hodges said the pedestrian committee should meet with the Nunn and plan a course of actions. Jamie Williams, a member of the Pedestrian Safety Committee, commended the pedestrian crossing improvements in downtown. However, she said crossing the road between the Baptist Church and Wal-Mart is treacherous and asserted it is time to make a change.

Hodges suggested another Town Hall with representatives of GDOT. Callahan asserted that a Town Hall might not be effective, so Hodges suggested going to their bosses and reaching out to Representative Dave Belton and Senator Burt Jones. Carter then reminded elected officials of Home rule. Joe DiLetto said other cities have built pedestrian bridges to help protect citizens. Latham also discussed the lack of safety crossing over they bypass on 441 as a pedestrian. It was determined that Nunn would contact officials with GDOT upon his return.

### **Adjournment**

With no further business, Mayor Perriman adjourned the work session.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Fred Perriman, Mayor

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Ashley Hawk, City Clerk

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

