

March 4, 2019

The regular meeting of the New Castle City Commission was held on Monday, March 4, 2019 at 7:00pm at New Castle City Hall. Present were Mayor Bobby King and Commissioners Thompson, Kurtz, Mitchell and Sevier. Also present was City Clerk Lynn Adams, Public Works Director Scot Treece, Attorney Josh Clubb, CEO Joe Durbin, Chief Wesley Benham, Asst. Chief Lorry Hansen and several of the firefighters, Tammy Shaw of Landmark Newspapers, Deputy Josh Jamiel, EDC Tommie Tingle, Magistrate Chuck Smith and several citizens.

The Mayor called the meeting to order.

Commissioner Thompson made the motion to approve the minutes and disbursements for the month of February. Commissioner Kurtz seconded the motion. It carried unanimously.

Deputy Jamiel gave the report for the activity for the month of February. They did conduct more patrols on Church Street before, during and directly after school hours. They found no one speeding.

The material regarding Code Enforcement Boards has been reviewed and it has been determined that further details are needed. This item will be addressed at a future meeting.

Commissioner Thompson made the motion to change the April meeting to the second Monday of the month, April 8, 2019 due to the fact that most of the Commission will be out of town for spring break. Commissioner Kurtz seconded the motion. It carried unanimously.

Commissioner Sevier reported on insurance matters pertaining to a festival and parade. A "day" policy would have to be purchased for a festival, which would run at least \$500. There is no insurance to cover a parade. Each entity in the parade would need their own.

There was also discussion regarding the problems caused by the court house renovation. Safety is a real concern. It was suggested to keep the festival committee in place and plan for a big festival in 2 years when the court house is completed.

Commissioner Sevier made the motion to plan for a festival to be held after court house renovation is complete. Commissioner Thompson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

The Mayor suggested that the Commission continue with the annexation exploration that was started well over a year ago by the previous commission. This is already in the budget and will be on the agenda for April.

Tommie gave the following report:

He is working with two businesses that will hopefully be locating here within the next month or two and he has talked with the realtor who has the George Brown property (21 acres off Sulphur Rd. and already in city limits) listed. There is interest in developing this as residential properties. The Berry Center will have 12 students attending their farming college in the fall. They are looking for student housing. He continues to update the website. The Farmer's Market would like the City to consider letting them use the city parking lot on Carter Street for the market. Leeann Yancey volunteered to put together a committee of citizens that would plant and maintain flowers in the City pots/barrels.

The most pressing issue is the middle floor of the Locker. Jeff had started the process of researching options and pricing. It has been determined that "slick" concrete is the best and most reasonable option. There was discussion.

Commissioner Kurtz made the motion to direct Tommie to obtain quotes for "slick" concrete flooring for the problem area at the Locker. Commissioner Sevier seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Funds for the project will come from the surplus in the line item "mainstreet" of the general fund budget.

Also, Tommie advised that the City no longer has a valid Preservation Board and this need to be reformed. The Board is appointed by the Commission and consists of 5 members, two of which must live within the City. They only meet when there is a need such as an application for a façade grant or a change in signage request. He and the Commission members can provide suggested members to be appointed at the April meeting.

Joe Durbin advised that this Wednesday he will have two cases in court. One case he will ask the Judge to dismiss as they have achieved compliance and the other case is nowhere near compliance and for that case he will ask the Judge to institute the fine. The City will have to contract to clean up the property and then place a lien on it. Another case hasn't reached the court docket yet as the two individuals have not yet been served. The Sheriff's Office is diligently trying to serve them but the persons are being very evasive. All the dog issues but one have been resolved and parking hasn't been a problem lately.

Joe advised that because of some family obligations out of state he would like to offer his resignation effective at the end of March. If a replacement has not been found by then he would be willing to stay on until the end of April.

Scot advised that there was an incident of low pressure during hydrant use (because of a fire). He discovered a valve problem and the issue has been resolved.

Chief Benham advised that the delivery of food for the Help Center is going very well. The new air packs are in service and the tires were put on the city truck last week.

As there was no further business to be addressed, Commissioner Mitchell made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Sevier seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

We adjourned at 8:00pm.