

Mon., February 19, 2018

**CITY OF BRISTOL
SPECIAL MEETING**

6:30 P.M.

Chairman Durwood Stewart called this meeting to order with Council-members Ellen Lewis, Brigham Shuler, John Ritter, and Vice-chairman Tom Clemons present. Mayor Steven Cutshaw, Attorney D. Jackson Summers, and City Clerk Robin M. Hatcher were also present.

Reverend Coy Collins offered the Invocation. Councilman Shuler led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC LIBRARY SITE PLAN HEARING

Chairman Stewart reconvened the Public Library Site Plan Hearing to consider approval of a Site Plan submitted by the Liberty County Board of County Commissioners proposing to relocate the Liberty County Public Library to a lot located on the SE corner of CR12 S and Michaux Rd., in Bristol, FL, lying in Section 6, Township 1 South, Range 7 West, on a 2.18 acre vacant parcel/currently used as pasture, that is designated Rural Village Land Use, which allows public buildings and grounds.

Chairman Stewart invited Commission Chairman Dexter Barber, acting as representative of the applicant, the Liberty Co. Board of Co. Commissioners, to say a few words concerning the Site Plan Application.

Following Chairman Barber's comments, Chairman Stewart reopened the Public Comment Period. Comments were received as follows:

1) Chris Vowell, adjacent property owner, expressed opinions regarding whether information he had previously heard about the Maxwell Harrell trust fund was a true representation of facts; he informed the Council that the Library had a 99 year lease at its current location, with a large number of years remaining in that lease, and did not believe it was expedient for the library to relocate; he discussed other properties that were considered for relocation and options that were "thwarted"; he stated that although the Commission indicated that adjacent property owners had been contacted and approved of the proposed library site, adjacent property owners had not been contacted prior to the County taking action regarding this proposed location; he plead for the Council to consider the value of their children and grandchildren rather than worrying whether they were holding up a multi-million dollar project. He urged the City to withhold taking action until the county takes real effort to determine who spread the rumor that adjacent property owners were notified and agreeable to the LCBCC's selected relocation site.

There being no further Public Comments, Chairman Stewart closed the Public Comment Period.

Chairman Stewart gave each Council-member an opportunity to speak regarding the proposed Site Plan Application and their feelings/recommendations regarding same. During Council discussion, a representative of the Bay County Public Library System did confirm that the Library would be willing to limit the Wi-fi hours so that Wi-fi would be cut off at a reasonable time each night, but also indicated they were not willing to restrict Wi-fi hours to coincide strictly with the Library Hours of operation. She also rejected the idea of having closed gates after hours stating many valid reasons that access to be building was necessary after hours.

The Project Developer, Roberts & Roberts Contracting, along with Commission Chair Dexter Barber and Commission Attorney Robin Myers indicated they believed the LCBCC would be willing to work personally with adjacent property owners to reasonably address their concerns regarding privacy, lighting, noise, etc. by strategically placing privacy fencing or other buffering along a portion of the property line in order to shield their property and to prevent others access to the lot behind the library.

Councilwoman Lewis moved to approve the Public Library Site Plan submitted by the Liberty Co. Board of Co. Commissioners, with the following recommendations:

- 1) that the Project Developer/LCBCC work directly with the adjoining property owners in strategically placing privacy fencing along the property as a buffer to shield from lighting and noise, as well as protect the privacy of the adjoining residence as much as reasonably practicable,
- 2) all outside lighting be installed in a manner that will not intrude on the adjoining property, and
- 3) the Bay County Public Library System restrict the Wi-fi hours so that Wi-fi is cut off at a reasonable time nightly. Councilman Clemons seconded this motion. Motion carried 4:1 with Councilman Shuler voting nay.

Chairman Stewart closed the Site Plan Hearing at 7:28 p.m.

Clerk Hatcher requested that the City donate \$250 towards the cost of helping the VFW provide lunch to approximately 150 wounded veterans, first responders and other support staff cycling thru Bristol on March 5, 2018 as part of the Project Hero Gulf Coast Challenge 2018 which consists of “cycling for health” from Tallahassee, FL to New Orleans, LA. Chairman Stewart also requested permission to utilize inmate labor and other city resources, including city vehicles, maintenance personnel, etc. to assist with setting up tables at the Veterans Memorial Civic Center to prepare for this event. Councilman Clemons moved to contribute \$250 towards the cost of providing Subway sandwiches and to authorize the use of other city resources, including inmate labor, to assist with setting up and preparing for this event, seconded by Councilwoman Lewis, all voted in favor.

There being no further business, Councilman Shuler moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Clemons, all voted in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Chairman: Durwood Stewart

City Clerk: Robin M. Hatcher