

MON., NOVEMBER 8, 2021

CITY OF BRISTOL
REGULAR MEETING

6:30 P.M.

Chair Margaret L. Rankin called this meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with Councilmembers Chris Vowell, Mary Bracewell, and Vice-chair Tom Clemons present. Attorney D. Jackson Summers and City Clerk Robin M. Hatcher were also in attendance. The mayor seat and one council-seat remained vacant at this time.

Vice-chair Clemons offered the Invocation. Councilman Vowell led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Vice-chair Clemons moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Councilman Vowell, all voted in favor.

Public Comments: Retired Public Works Supervisor Rocky Peddie recommended that the Council promote Richard Mims to the Public Works Supervisor position. Sr. Operator Michael Wahlquist agreed. Ray Glisson removed his name from consideration for appointment to the position of Councilmember.

Vice-chair Clemons moved to approve the previous month's minutes, seconded by Councilman Vowell, carried by all.

Vice-chair Clemons moved to approve the monthly bills for payment, seconded by Councilman Vowell, approved by all.

Councilman Vowell moved to appoint Mr. Coy Collins to fill the vacant seat on the City Council, seconded by Vice-chair Clemons, carried unanimously. Councilman Collins was sworn in by Attorney Summers, then took his seat among the Council.

Vice-chair Clemons moved to appoint Mr. James Kersey to fill the vacant Mayor seat, seconded by Councilman Vowell, all voted in favor. Mr. Kersey was sworn in by Attorney Summers and took his seat at the Council table.

Vice-chair Clemons moved to accept the proposal submitted by Dewberry Engineers to provide CDBG DR and CDBG MIT Engineering Services, contingent upon receipt of funding and each contract for professional engineering services not to exceed \$250,000. This motion was seconded by Councilman Vowell, carried by all.

Chair Rankin recessed the Regular Council Meeting.

LOCAL PLANNING AGENCY PUBLIC HEARING

Chair Rankin opened the City of Bristol Local Planning Agency Public Hearing on Proposed Comprehensive Plan Amendments Changing the Use of Land, and adopting a new Property Rights Element.

She turned the floor over to City Planner Tony Arrant to facilitate the Hearing. Following his comments, Chair Rankin opened the floor for Public comments. There were none. She closed the Public Comment period.

Vice-chair Clemons moved for the Local Planning Agency to recommend to the City Council that they adopt the new Property Rights Element of the City of Bristol Comprehensive Plan, amending the use of land and to authorize City Planner Tony Arrant to transmit the proposed language to the State for review and comments. Councilman Collins seconded this motion, all voted in favor.

Chair Rankin closed the Local Planning Agency Public Hearing.

Chair Rankin reconvened the Regular Meeting of the Bristol City Council.

CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING

Chair Rankin opened the Bristol City Council Public Hearing on Proposed Comprehensive Plan Amendments Changing the Use of Land, and adopting a new Property Rights Element.

She turned the floor over to City Planner Tony Arrant to facilitate the Hearing. He advised the Council that the Local Planning Agency recommended that the Council adopt the new Property Rights Element of the City of Bristol Comprehensive Plan, amending the use of land and recommended authorizing City Planner Tony Arrant to transmit the document to the State for review and comments.

Chair Rankin opened the floor for Public comments. There were none. She closed the Public Comment period.

Vice-chair Clemons moved to accept the Local Planning Agency's recommendation to adopt the new Property Rights Element of the City of Bristol Comprehensive Plan, amending the use of land and to authorize City Planner Tony Arrant to transmit the proposed language to the State for review and comments. Councilman Vowell seconded this motion, all voted in favor.

Chair Rankin closed the Bristol City Council Public Hearing.

Chair Rankin called for the Council to appoint a committee to review employment applications received in response to the City's solicitation for applications to fill the vacant Public Works Supervisor position, interview prospective applicants, and make recommendation to hire for Council's consideration. Rather than recommend a hiring committee, Vice-chair Clemons moved to promote from within, recommending that Public Works Maintenance Tech Richard Mims be promoted to this position. Prior to a second on the motion, a lengthy debate ensued related to nepotism and whether Public Works Maintenance Tech Richard Mims was eligible to be promoted to the Public Works Supervisor position since his son Emmitt Mims was recently hired for employment within the Public Works Department. Attorney Summers advised that promoting to this position/filling this position was not an agenda item for tonight's meeting and recommended that the Council proceed with appointing a committee to review all applications and begin the interview process while he took a few days to determine if there was an appropriate legal and ethical avenue available that would make Richard eligible for promotion to the Public Works Supervisor position. Despite Chair Rankin's repeated appeal for a committee to be appointed to review applications and interview applicants while Attorney Summers researched this, no committee was recommended for appointment.

With the approval and under the direction of Attorney Summers, Councilman Clemons moved to amend the Agenda by deleting Agenda Item 15: Appointment of a Committee to review employment applications, interview applicants, and make recommendation for hire to the Council; replacing it with a new Agenda Item 15A: Move Public Works Maintenance Tech I position that is currently under the direct supervision of the Public Works Supervisor from the Public Works Department to the Water/Wastewater Operator Department to be under the direct supervision of the Sr. Water/Wastewater Operator; and Agenda Item 15B: Fill Public Works Supervisor position. Councilman Vowell seconded this motion to amend the agenda, carried by all.

Councilman Clemons motioned to relocate the Public Works Maintenance Tech I position from the Public Works Department to the Water/Wastewater Operator Department designating this position to be under the direct supervision of the Sr. Water/Wastewater Operator (Michael Wahlquist is the current Sr. Operator. This move was made at Michael's recommendation, and with the assurance that Michael would report to City Hall each weekday morning and as needed to provide all direct supervision to the Public Works Maintenance Tech I position currently filled by Emmitt Mims.). This motion was seconded by Councilman Vowell, all voted in favor.

Vice-chair Clemons moved to promote Richard Mims to the Public Works Supervisor position at the rate of pay that the previous Public Works Supervisor received (\$19.10/hr), seconded by Councilman Vowell, carried by all.

Vice-chair Clemons moved to advertise for a Public Works Maintenance Tech I, full time position with benefits, with a starting pay rate of \$12.00/hr., seconded by Councilman Vowell, approved by all.

Vice-chair Clemons moved to donate \$100 to the LCHS Basketball Boosters to assist in providing uniforms, training supplies, etc. for the youth participating in the LCHS basketball program, seconded by Councilman Vowell, carried by all.

Vice-chair Clemons moved to donate \$200 to the LCHS FFA and Love for Liberty LIGHTS OF LOVE fundraiser which will assist in providing Christmas gifts for underprivileged children in Liberty County, seconded by Councilman Vowell, all voted in favor.

Clerk Hatcher presented a proposal received for a Citizen Notification and Alert System. No action was taken.

Attorney Summers advised the Council that nuisance code complaints could no longer be made anonymously per a recent change in Florida Statutes. He suggested that the nuisance policy be revisited at the next council meeting.

Operator Wahlquist informed the Council that he expects to be out of work due to surgery in the near future and recommended that the Council hire Page Wahlquist to serve as the City's substitute inspector during this absence at the rate of \$150/day.

Vice-chair Clemons moved to approve distribution of payroll on November 24th, the last working day prior to the Thanksgiving holiday, seconded by Councilman Collins, carried by all.

There being no further business, Vice-chair Clemons moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Collins, all voted in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Chair: Margaret L. Rankin

City Clerk: Robin M. Hatcher