**FEBRUARY 17, 2020**

**CITY OF SENOIA**

**MEETING OF MAYOR AND COUNCIL**

**505 HOWARD ROAD**

**7:00 PM**

**VISITORS: Tracy Brady, Rhonda Reed, Robbin Lancaster, John Thompson, Sarah Campbell, Suzanne Helfman, Gail Downs, Suzanne Pengally, Lorraine Romano, Robby Swan, Richard Ferry, Craig & Kathy Bush, Rachel Goorsky, Annie & David Durr, Neta Thompson, Doug Thompson, Robin O’Neal, Robert & Janice Hannah, Jill, Jimmy & Jackson Harmon, Chester Canady, Brian & Carol McMackin, Nancy Roy, Richard Crowther, Kyle Frank, Tom & Karen Nolan, Daniel Fields, Cindy Rhodes, Ray Adams and Frank Zeidler.**

**FULL COUNCIL PRESENT**

1. **WELCOME VISITORS/CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Pro-Tem Eichorst welcomed those in attendance and all stood for the Pledge of Allegiance. MPT Eichorst then declared this to be an open meeting duty convened under the Open Meetings Law after receiving confirmation from the City Clerk that all legal requirements have been met.

MPT Eichorst announced that the amendments to the Building Code listed as item 5-B has been stricken from the Agenda

1. **PUBLIC HEARING-Publix-Consider Request for Variances on Parking, Reduction to Landscape Buffer, Landscaping, Detention Facilities, Building Design, Sidewalks, Lighting, Lot Size and Screening**
2. **Comments from Applicant**

Representing the Applicant, Robby Swan thanked Staff for working alongside the developer with plans for the grocery store and shopping center proposed at 85 & Hwy 16. Mr. Swan asked Council’s consideration in approving the Variances as applied for.

1. **Comments from Community Development Director**

Ms. Rimi stated that in 2005 at the Town Hall meeting, those in attendance voted a grocery store as most desired in Senoia. The Variances applied for were then reviewed and Staff feels that none of the Variances are unreasonable for the project. Ms. Rimi asks that if approved, the variances applied for be applicable to the Publix project only.

1. **Comments from Public-None**
2. **Council Comment and Action**

Councilman Grover asked Mr. Swan the numbers for job creation and tax impact. Mr. Swan expects 70 to 80 FT and 30 PT workers. Publix expects 20 million in sales the first year with an increase of 5 to 10% each year thereafter. Councilman Reeder stated that Staff has done a good job with Variances. Councilman Grover made motion to approve the Variances as applied for to be applicable to the Publix project only. Motion was 2nd by Councilman Reeder and carried unanimously.

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1. **APPROVAL OF JANUARY 6, 2020 CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

Councilman Grover made motion to approve the January 6, 2020 City Council minutes as presented & was 2nd by Councilman Reeder. Motion carried unanimously.

1. **CLAIMS AGAINST THE CITY-None**
2. **ADMINISTRATIVE/FISCAL MATTERS**
3. **Coweta County Service Delivery Strategy-Housing Amendment**

City Manager Harold Simmons explained that the amendment has been requested by Coweta County to list “housing” as a service which will allow the housing authority in each Coweta jurisdiction the ability to apply for CDBG grants as the State requires. MPT Eichorst stated if accepted tonight there will need to be a revision for Senoia regarding funding sources. Mr. Simmons stated that the change can be made and we can add when the SDS is updated. **Richard Crowther** asked for clarification of the amendment & was told that it will allow the housing authorities the ability to apply for grants and other funding, which now they cannot. Mr. Crowther asked what the funds obtained will be used for & was told the City is unsure but possibilities are renovations and the like. After short discussion, Councilman Grover made motion to approve the amendment to the Service Delivery Strategy & was 2nd by Councilman Reeder. Motion carried unanimously.

1. **Consider Amendments to Buildings & Building Code Regulations Chapter 14-Articles 1 & 2-Removed from Agenda**
2. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
3. **Revisit Purchase of K-9 for Police Department**

Chief Edens is requesting authorization to move forward with the K-9 purchase and expenses associated. The total cost for the canine, handler’s training course and 8 to 12 weeks housing for the training as well as leashes, muzzles, collars and reward toys is $19,111.36. Chief Edens added that this is a budgeted item for 2020. **Cindy Rhodes** asked if the dog have a bulletproof vest & was told a vest will be looked into at a later date. C. Reeder asked if we have already invested in the purchase & was told in 2019, his F-150 was designated as the K-9 unit and is currently being outfitted for this purpose. C. Reeder asked if the K-9 officer has been identified and if so, what happens if the officer should resign. Chief Edens stated that an officer has been selected as K-9 officer and in the event the officer should resign, after a month of separation another is sent to retrain with the canine, which Chief Edens has seen happen before without issue. MPT Eichorst asked when we can expect training to be completed & was told the end of June or early July, the classes to begin April 23. Chief Edens added there is also an annual 4-day recertification for the unit and this is the only trainer to guarantee thru warranty the canine for one year (hereditary issues). Councilman Reeder made motion to move forward with the K-9 purchase and all costs associated in the amount of $19,111.36. Motion was 2nd by Councilman Grover and carried unanimously.

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1. **NEW BUSINESS**
2. **Consider Proposal from Utility Management Services for Possible Rate Reduction**

Mr. Simmons presented a proposal from Utility Management Services who will conduct a utility audit from usage information to search for rate savings, billing errors, metering errors and overcharges at no cost to the City. If there are no savings or refunds, there will be no charge to the City. If found, the amount will be split between the City and UMS. The term of the agreement is 48 months. **David Durr** asked how the company would be paid, if the City has gone to other cities and could they suggest change service providers. Mr. Simmons explained that whatever savings is found, the amount is split between the City and UMS. Mr. Simmons has not gone to other cities who have found saving thru the program but has spoken with them over the phone and assured all that we are not going to change service providers, simply compare what we are currently charged compared to other plans. Councilman Grover stated that this would be an “audit on our utilities”. Councilman Reeder made motion to approve the proposal from UMS as presented & was 2nd by Councilman Grover. Motion carried unanimously.

1. **APPEARANCES FROM THE FLOOR**

**Annie Durr of 158 Piedmont** stated that there are a lot in attendance regarding an ongoing dog problem in the Springdale Subdivision adding that dogs are being chained to trees, left out all day in the elements, has more dogs than the ordinance allows and feels that the current ordinance is “sorely out of touch”. Ms. Durr then stated that she has made multiple calls to the City complaining but has been told that there is nothing the City can do. Ms. Durr also mentioned that one of the dogs has recently died; they are left out 24/7 and bark excessively. Mr. Simmons stated that until changes are made the City has to abide by its current ordinance, adding that every time the City has made a visit there has been food, water, shelter, and we do not know what caused the dogs death (Ms. Durr agreed). Mr. Simmons went on to say that we are here to hear you and will consider changes to the ordinance later. **Rachel Goorsky of 201 Shannon Court** stated that the Pit chained to the tree got loose and charged her, the dogs walk around in their own excrement and are chained outside in 32-degree weather. Councilman Reeder asked how long the residents have lived there and what the property owners have said & was told about a year. Ms. Goorsky simply wants safety conditions for the neighborhood and safety conditions for the dogs. Mr. Simmons spoke with the owners who told him that the residents were planning to move to a place with more land in the very near future. **Neta Thompson** agrees with all that has been said thus far and added that the treatment of the dogs is terrible, they are chained with tractor chains, they bark and lunge at everyone and the odor in warmer weather is horrendous and asked Council’s consideration in revisiting the current ordinance. **Doug Thompson** stated that the barking noise is ridiculous and was told by the resident that he in fact told the owner of the property the breed of his dogs. **Robin O’Neal of 66 Piedmont** stated she has concerns with the dogs being tethered to trees, the inhumane treatment of the dogs and added that she carries a stun gun when she walks her dog for protection and feels the ordinance needs revised. **Cindy Rhodes of 348 North Ridge** feels the ordinance needs changed and offered herself and others to serve on a committee to construct the changes. **Kyle Frank of 122 Beech Court** feels all have done a good job of citing concerns

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and suggests that Mayor and Council visit the Coweta County ordinance for an example, as it is much more restrictive. Mr. Simmons asked for examples of what those concerned would like to see. **Kathy Bush** stated she appreciates Mayor and Council listening however would like to know what can be done now to save these animals. Mr. Simmons stated he will get with the Chief of Police and the Code Enforcement Officer to see what can be done with what the City currently has to work with and will start to work on this tomorrow.

1. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

* City Hall will close at 12:00 noon on Monday, March 2nd thru 8:00 AM on Wednesday, March 4th for software conversion and training.

1. **ADJOURN**

Councilman Grover made motion to adjourn the February 17, 2020 and was 2nd by Councilman Reeder. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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Chuck Eichorst, Mayor Pro-Tem Debra J. Volk, City Clerk