

MINUTES
OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL
JANUARY 11TH, 2021 5:00 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Mike Brening

Mayor Pro Tem Solomon Ferguson

Councilmember Judy Foster Pike

Councilmember Quardez Warrior

Councilmember Jimmy Dyer

STAFF PRESENT:

City Manager Doug Westberry

City Clerk Lea Spell

City Attorney Nathan Lee

Chief Gray Couch

Mayor Brening called the meeting to order at 5: 00 p.m. in City Hall. Councilmember Quardez Warrior gave the invocation and Mayor Brening led the pledge of allegiance.

Motion was made to approve the agenda by Solomon Ferguson and seconded Quardez Warrior. Vote was unanimous with 5 ayes.

Motion was made by Jimmy Dyer, seconded by Solomon Ferguson (with correction as noted) to approve the December 14th public hearing minutes. Vote was unanimous with 5 ayes.

Motion was made by Solomon Ferguson, seconded by Quardez Warrior (with correction as noted) to approve the December 14th regular meeting minutes. Vote was unanimous with 5 ayes.

Motion was made by Judy Foster Pike, seconded by Jimmy Dyer to approve the December 2020 Treasurer's Report. Vote was unanimous with 5 ayes.

Fire Chief Roderick Jolivette addressed the Mayor and Council in regards to his recent letter of resignation. He thanked the citizens for allowing himself and the department to serve the needs of the community.

Manchester citizen, Robbie Jones, came before the Mayor and Council to inquire about easements within the city limits. City Manager Doug Westberry explained to Mr. Jones that easements were established but their specifics varied based on certain criteria. He asked Mr. Jones to meet with him at a later date for them to determine what easements were in place in the area of concern for Mr. Jones.

Motion was made by Mike Brening, seconded by Solomon Ferguson to reappoint Doug Westberry as City Manager, Nathan Lee as City Attorney, John Gilson as Municipal Court Judge and Lea Spell as City Clerk. Vote was unanimous with 5 ayes.

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An update on the pending contract with Amwaste for sanitation service was provided to the council by the City Manager. He noted that the contract had been reviewed by the City Attorney with any changes in wording having been resolved. He also stated a work session was scheduled for January 13th, 2021 to discuss specifics with the Mayor and Council and representatives with Amwaste.

Motion made by Judy Foster Pike and seconded by Solomon Ferguson to adopt the Resolution Setting the 2021 Qualifying Fees. Vote was unanimous with 5 ayes.

In the Mayor's comments, he congratulated the Council, City Manager, Department Heads and City Staff for their efforts in budgetary restraints in light of a difficult year. He noted that many governing authorities have to borrow money at certain times but Manchester has been able to avoid this situation.

Mayor Brening thanked Inmate Detail Officer Phillip Denure, State Prison Workers and Amwaste for their prompt and diligent work in staying on top of the City cleanup during the transition from Dependable Waste to Amwaste. Also noted in regards to sanitation services was that recycling services would no longer be provided.

In his final remarks, Mayor Brening informed the Council that recent plans for a Senior Village Apartment Complex had been delayed due to the federal funding source not being approved. However the developer, Olympia Construction, plans to apply again for the funding in the current fiscal year.

Councilmember Judy Foster Pike, who is also a member of the District 4 Board of Health, informed everyone that the vaccine for COVID-19 would be available to individuals 65 and older beginning January 19th, 2021. The vaccine is to be offered by appointment only and administered at George Washington Elementary School.

Motion to enter into executive session to discuss personnel at 5:53 PM was made by Solomon Ferguson and seconded by Judy Foster Pike. Vote was unanimous with 5 ayes.

Motion to exit out of executive session and reconvene the regular meeting was made at 6:41 PM by Solomon Ferguson and seconded by Quardez Warrior. Vote was unanimous with 5 ayes.

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Motion was made by Judy Foster Pike to appoint Ben Williams as Interim Fire Chief and seconded by Jimmy Dyer. Vote was unanimous with 5 ayes.

Motion was made to adjourn at 6:43 PM by Solomon Ferguson and seconded by Judy Foster Pike. Vote was unanimous with 5 ayes.

City Clerk Lea Spell

Mayor Mike Brening