



City of Trinity
CITY COUNCIL MEETING

May 13, 2024
Trinity City Hall Annex

MINUTES

PRESENT

Mayor Richard McNabb
Mayor Pro Tem Bob Hicks
Councilman Tommy Johnson
Councilman Robbie Walker
Councilman Ed Lohr
Councilman Jack Carico

OTHERS PRESENT

City Manager Stevie Cox
City Clerk Darien Comer
Finance Director Crystal Postell
Public Services Director Rodney Johnson
Planning Director Jill Wood
Planning Jay Dale
Attorney Bob Wilhoit
Sgt. Ric D'Angelo

Mayor McNabb called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Mayor McNabb led the Pledge of Allegiance and gave the Invocation.

Review, amend if needed, and approve Proposed Regular Agenda

Councilman Johnson made a motion to amend the agenda to add 8d Planning and Zoning Contract with Dennis Pinnix. The motion was seconded by Councilman Carico with a unanimous vote of 5 ayes and 0 nays.

Public Comment Period

Allen Miles at 6974 Winners Circle, requested that the City fix a water drainage problem that he has on his property.

Lisa Hayworth, Executive Director of Randolph County Partnership for Children, explained the need for childcare in our area. She extended an invitation to the Council for an event that the Partnership is hosting on May 22 regarding the childcare crisis.

Jeffrey Brown at Cedar Post, was present for a rezoning request that has been withdrawn at this time.

Curtis Connor at 3814 Crescent Avenue, extended an invitation and explained an upcoming event for the Memorial Day Parade in Thomasville.

Consent Agenda Items

- a. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of April 8, 2024.
- b. Approval of Budget Workshop Meeting Minutes of April 10, 2024
- c. City of Trinity- Monthly Financial Position Review (*Finance Director Crystal Postell*)
- d. Hospice Donation - In Memory of Robert Labonte (*Finance Director Crystal Postell*)
- e. Information Purposes: Internal Governmental Loan from the General Fund to the Sewer Fund to Decrease the Financial Burden on the Sewer Fund (*Finance Director Crystal Postell*)
- f. Steeplegate Lift Station and Force Main Project Sewer Rate Break Even Analysis (*Finance Director Crystal Postell*)

Mayor Pro Tem Hicks made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda Items. The motion was seconded by Councilman Johnson with a unanimous vote of 5 ayes and 0 nays.

Recognitions and Presentations

Proclamation - 100th Anniversary of Trinity Baptist Church (*City Manager Stevie Cox*)

City Manager Stevie Cox presented the Proclamation for the 100th Anniversary of Trinity Baptist Church.

Public Hearing

Public Hearing for the Proposed Fiscal Year 2024 - 2025 Annual Budget (*City Manager Stevie Cox*)

Mayor McNabb opened the Public Hearing for the Proposed Fiscal Year 2024 - 2025 Annual Budget.

City Manager Stevie Cox presented to the Council and Residents of the City a statement for the Proposed Fiscal Year 2024 - 2025 Budget.

Speaking For:

None

Speaking Against:

None

Mayor McNabb closed the Public Hearing.

Action Agenda

a. Utility Audit (*Finance Director Crystal Postell*)

Finance Director Crystal Postell presented to the Council a utility audit that was performed on all active sewer and/or trash customers through April 2024. The findings were that there were several outstanding accounts since 2010. The utility audit took about one week of countless hours. The auditing process has identified 70 accounts that have been delinquent from 2011 through 2021, totaling \$55,225.57. Due to challenges in enhancing the utility process, there is an outstanding balance of \$55,225.57.

The Finance Department has been working on payment plans and the termination of services to keep these under control. These two actions will allow the City to effectively collect these outstanding balances and improve the City's fiscal integrity by exercising due diligence and control over the City's assets and resources.

Mayor Pro Tem Hicks made a motion to approve the use of write offs, remove billing errors, and liens of property for outstanding sewer and/or trash accounts to improve the overall status of the City utility operations. The motion was seconded by Councilman Johnson with a unanimous vote of 5 ayes and 0 nays.

b. Gravity Sewer Extension Study (*Davis-Martin-Powell Randy McNeil*)

Randy McNeil with Davis-Martin-Powell was asked to reevaluate the possibility of making some gravity sewer extensions. He discussed all the sewer possibilities for the study that Davis-Martin-Powell would perform. The study would consist of a 20-year budget.

Councilman Walker made a motion to pursue with Davis-Martin-Powell the sewer extension study for the future. The motion was seconded by Councilman Johnson with a vote of 3 ayes and opposed by Councilman Carico and Councilman Lohr.

c. Trinity Parks and Recreation Master Plan Contract Award (*City Manager Stevie Cox*)

Planning Jay Dale presented a summary to the Council. In August 2023, the City Council instructed City Staff to move forward with applying for a Strategic Planning Grant from the Randolph County Board of Commissioners. City Staff stated that this grant application would be to secure funding for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. In October 2023, Councilman Robbie Walker and City Manager Stevie Cox made a formal presentation before the Randolph County Commissioners for the Strategic Planning Grant. After the City's presentation, the County Commissioners approved and awarded the City of Trinity an \$80,000 grant award to be used for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. In November 2023, the City Council approved to accept the Strategic Planning Grant and instructed City Staff to move forward with going out for bids for this project.

In February 2024, City Staff moved forward with preparing and releasing a request for qualifications for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. This would include a citywide plan, a site-specific plan and preparing grant applications for additional funds to move forward with the development of a new park. In March 2024, the City received formal bids from the following firms: McGill and Associates, Withers Ravenel and the Wooten Company. Interviews were conducted with all three firms. The City moved forward with negotiations with Withers Ravenel to secure a contract for this project. In April 2024, Withers Ravenel submitted a complete quote of \$97,000 for the entire project.

Mayor Pro Tem Hicks made a motion to approve and award the contract to Withers Ravenel for this project contingent upon the final approval of the contract by the City Attorney and to appropriate \$17,000 from the general fund to cover the remaining balance in the current fiscal year and for staff to apply for GAP funding from Randolph County Strategic planning Grant. The motion was seconded by Councilman Johnson with a vote of 4 ayes and opposed by Councilman Lohr.

d. Planning and Zoning Contract (Dennis Pinnix, MSI)

Dennis Pinnix with MSI, asked the Council to consider a three-year contract for Planning and Zoning. The contract does not include a price increase, but he would like to have an option to add a 3% increase for the next year if it is needed. He also informed the Council that the contract can be cancelled at any time with or without cause. The contract will be reviewed by the City Attorney and placed on the June Agenda.

Hector Diaz with MSI, was present to talk to the Council about the City's IT. Mr. Diaz was asked to perform an evaluation on the IT equipment that the City currently has and provide quotes. The quote is \$1,100 per month. It includes monitoring 24/7 every PC that belongs to the City.

Mayor, Council and City Manager Updates

City Manager Stevie Cox informed the Council and residents that push notifications on the website are available if you would like to receive alerts. Mr. Cox thanked Public Services Supervisor Rodney Johnson and all the workers for the City Haul event. He reminded everyone that there is a Farmers Market every Saturday and that we are working on drawing more attention to it. The Sheriff Substation Open House is scheduled for June 12, 2024. There will be an email sent out with all the information.

Councilman Carico made a statement **FOR THE RECORD**. At the April meeting, I was going to address an issue, but the opportunity was not there. Tonight, I'm going to respond to a false statement that the City Manager quoted at the March Budget Retreat. When talking about the park, the City Manager said and I quote "that Mr. Carico stated that he did not want any local dollars used for a park." No City Council Member or anyone heard me say this, because it was never said by me. I talked to the City Attorney about this and told him that I wanted to sue for defamation and that is what I'm going to do. The City Attorney says, "well you are an elected official." This was on YouTube for all persons to hear. This doesn't matter to anyone but me and I'll be damned if I'm going to let it go. A City Manager should be professional, when talking about issues with the City Council and/or the public. I have found nothing professional about him and I'm tired of his dirty tactics toward me.

Adjournment

Councilman Walker made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilman Carico with a unanimous vote of 5 ayes and 0 nays.

Attest:

Richard McNabb, Mayor

Darien P. Comer, City Clerk