MINUTES

GREENVILLE TOWN COUNCIL

 Emergency Session, Thursday, March 21, 2019, 6:00 PM

CITY HALL, 154 SW OLD MISSION AVENUE, GREENVILLE FL 32331

ALSO PRESENT: Edward Dean, Town Manager

 John Reid, Town Attorney

 Kimberly Reams, Town Clerk

 Wayne Malone, Public Works Director

1. Call to Order: Mayor Brown called the meeting to order at 6:05.
2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance: Mr. Burnett led in pray and Mr. Malone led the pledge.
3. Roll call by the Clerk: Mayor Brown, Councilmember Bobby Burnett, Councilmember Teresa Harville, Councilmember Cynthia James and Councilmember Calvin Malone were present.
4. Citizens’ Comments: Citizens asked Council to be allowed to speak after the council opened discussion.
5. Discussion and possible action to delay completion of Grant application specifically pertaining to real property issues: Mayor Brown stated that the reason for the emergency session is that new information was discovered after the last meeting. Mr. Reid, Town Attorney stated that we are governed under the state ethics code. Mr. Reid stated that there are two prohibitive acts and there are exemptions. Mr. Reid stated that he had talked with the Ethics Commission and that the sale of property by a Town employee was a prohibited act but there was a soul source exemption. Mr. Reid then sited the case opinion from the ethics commission on soul source that closely relates to what the town is doing. Mr. Reid stated that the Town Manager had done an exceptional job in documenting the steps taken to procure property for the grocery store. Mr. Reid stated that we needed to have some independent documentation and he believed that was what Mr. Dean was working toward and would possibly have in the next week. Mr. Reid went on to state that the Ethics Commission stressed the need to have that independent documentation. Mr. Reid stated that at the last meeting he was asked to execute the document and he felt that he needed to advise them of the additional information he received from the Ethics Commission. Mr. Reid went on to state that he felt there should be a bit of a delay in executing the document until this issue could be worked through. Mr. Reid stated that this would protect the sellers as well as the Town.

MOTION: Mr. Malone moved to delay the process until Thursday; second by Mr. Burnett

At this time Mayor Brown opened the floor for comments from citizens. Ms. Hinton stated that she felt this was a wise move by council. She went on to state that we did not want to run into criticism down the road. Ms. Hinton stated that we haven’t seen the feasibility study and don’t want to have legal issues down the road. Ms. Hinton went on to state that she recommended heeding the advice of the Town Attorney. Ms. Clemmons stated that she did not know all the details but felt that the process should be fair and equitable for all. She went on to say that we want a grocery, but we want to be sure to do things right. Ms. Pritchett stated that we need to be sure things are done in decent and in order. Ms. Pritchett said to get the grocery store. Ms. Thomas stated that we need a grocery. She reiterated the need to do things in order and correctly. Ms. Dansey asked if there are other properties that are being looked at. Mr. Dean stated that he looked at four different properties. Mr. Dean stated that he looked at properties that would be feasible for the citizens but also feasible for the grocer. Mr. Dean stated that the architect was putting together a presentation. Mr. Dean went on to state that he had looked at the property that the carwash was located on at the corner of highways 90 and 221. He stated that he had looked at property near the sewer plant on Greenville Hills Road and the old hardware store. He stated he looked at the property on highway 90 by the restaurant. Mr. Dean stated that he had a preliminary study that would show the property was soul source. Mayor Brown stated that she had asked the architect to come to the meeting scheduled for Thursday to present his study. Council members were given an opportunity to comment and ask questions. After a very long, in depth discussion, the vote was taken.

 Yay Nay

Mr. Burnett X

Mayor Brown X

Ms. Harville X

Ms. James X

Mr. Malone X

Motion passed with a 3-2 vote.

Mr. Malone moved to adjourn; second by Mr. Burnett.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

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Kimberly M. Reams

Town Clerk