

**City of Temple
Monthly Council Meeting
March 9, 2017, 6:30PM
Temple City Hall**

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm by Mayor Lester Harmon.

Council Members present constituting a quorum:

Lester Harmon, Mayor
Richard Bracknell
Penny Ransom
Todd Rothwell
William Simmons
Howard Walden

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance: Mayor Lester Harmon gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approve the published agenda of this date's City Council Meeting, as presented- Motion to approve by Councilmember Bracknell, second by Councilmember Walden. Vote 5-0.

Public Comments:

Deborah Tighe- Ms. Tighe came to the council to ask permission to place a geocache in Temple. It's a world wide game where people find the location by GPS coordinates and once they find the container they sign a log. She stated that this would bring more people into the community. Councilmember Bracknell made a motion to add this item to the agenda under New Business, #1A so that the council could take action on this request tonight, second by Councilmember Walden, Vote 5-0.

Approval of Minutes:

February 6, 2017 Regular Council Meeting.....Mayor Lester Harmon
February 23, 2017 Special Called Meeting.....Mayor Lester Harmon

There was a motion by Councilmember Walden to approve the meeting minutes from February 6th and February 23, 2017. Second by Councilmember Bracknell. Vote 4-1, Ransom abstained.

Old Business:

1. Staff reports on the City of Temple Police Department's Training Program, including planned changes in the operation of the Training Program.

City Administrator Bill Osborne stated that he and Chief Lee have had three meetings on this and have updated and made revisions to the training program. They are still working on a few aspects of this and will be moving forward in the next few days and will have the City Attorney go over it so that the Chief can sign it into Executive Order.

2. Select the company or companies to provide field maintenance services on the fields in Temple's City Park for the period of March 10 through December 31, 2017, in accordance with the bid solicitation issued in December 2016 and to provide grass cutting services on these fields for the period of April 1 through the fall season for athletic activities.

Two companies submitted sealed bids: River Bottom Farms in the amount of \$11,107.80 and Peach State Turf Care in the amount of \$5,480. After a lengthy discussion, Councilmember Rothwell stated that on the recommendation of Joe Wilson, Recreation Department Director, he made a motion to go with River Bottom Farms, second by Councilmember Walden. Vote 3-1-1, Ransom opposed, Bracknell abstained. Motion carried.

City Administrator Osborne then stated that he needed a motion for the grass cutting for River Bottom Farms. After a brief discussion, there was a motion by Councilmember Bracknell to pay \$12 an hour for up to 900 hours, second by Councilmember Rothwell. Vote 4-1, Ransom opposed.

New Business:

1a. Request for a geocache box in Temple

Councilmember Bracknell made a motion to establish a geocache box, second by Councilmember Ransom. Vote 5-0.

1. Updated staff report on the completion of the Land and Water Conservation Fund grant to the City of Temple from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources for improvements in the City Park.

City Administrator Bill Osborne stated that the State is trying to get approval to pay the City. Back in 2013 when the grant was originally done, there was an error made by the state on the agreement showing the City would get back \$50,000, but it should have been \$100,000. Last week we signed the correction and the reimbursement should be issued in the near future.

2. Consider approval of an agreement with the Georgia Rural Community Assistance Program for a Water and Sewer Rate Study to be conducted for the City of Temple, including rates for residential, small commercial, large commercial, and industrial customers.

City Administrator Bill Osborne stated that the GA Rural Community Assistance Program works for small communities at little cost. They are going to do a rate study along the lines of the draft RFP to determine the rates we need to establish and charge. He is asking to authorize the Mayor to sign to have this done and stated that each Councilmember would be able to talk to Mr. Read of GRCAP to give their input. After a brief discussion, by Councilmember Walden to authorize the Mayor to sign, second by Councilmember Bracknell, Vote 5-0.

3. Report on the City of Temple's 2016 Water Loss Audit, prepared for the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division, by Hughes-Ray Engineering.

Howard Ray gave a brief report on the water loss audit which is filed every year by the end of February.

4. Consider approval of an agreement with Hughes-Ray Engineering for preparation and filing of a Water Loss Technical Assistance Program grant application to the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority.

Howard Ray discussed grants the City can apply for that will help address some of the items out of the water audit. He stated that no matching funds are required. There was a motion by Councilmember Bracknell to proceed with applying for these grants, second by Councilmember Simmons. Vote 5-0.

5. Updated report concerning assistance to the City of Temple from the University of North Carolina's Environmental Finance Center.

City Administrator Bill Osborne said that it will be next month before we have an agreement with UNC's Environmental Finance Center. It will be at no cost to the City.

6. Adopt a resolution to provide that tap fees for new water and sewer connections be earmarked for retirement of the bonded indebtedness on the City of Temple's water and sewer system.

Councilmember Simmons stated that City Attorney Mike McRae said that we need to wait until the water rate study is complete before doing anything on this. Mayor Harmon reminded Mr. Simmons there was an ordinance to that effect in 2003. City Administrator Osborne said that whatever revenues the City gets on tap fees, we will make sure they are not spent.

7. A report on the newspaper advertisement concerning revenue & expenditures of the City of Temple's SPLOST funds in Calendar 2016.

Mayor Harmon stated this should have run in December 2016; City Administrator Bill Osborne said that the advertisement will be in the "Times-Georgian" next week.

8. Staff reports concerning the start of development of a proposed Capital Budget amendment to be presented to the City Council within the next month and concerning the transfer of services from Harris TBS.

City Administrator Bill Osborne stated we are not asking for any action on this tonight.

9. Report on the "Customer Payment & Payment Arrangements" section of the City of Temple's Utility Services Policies.

After a lengthy discussion, City Administrator Bill Osborne stated that no action needs to be taken tonight that it would be best to wait for the rate study to be completed.

10. Consider approval of a staff recommendation to change one of the part-time jobs at the City of Temple Senior Center to a full-time position.

Senior Center Director, Sandra Stilwell, requested to change a part time employee to full time, so that they could help out beyond cooking and help in the office as well. It was questioned as to whether there was a job description and whether or not there was money in the budget for this. City Administrator Osborne confirmed that there was money in the budget for this change. There was a motion by Councilmember Bracknell to change the employee from part time to full time, subject to the money being in the budget, second by Councilmember Simmons. Vote 5-0.

11. Adopt a resolution establishing a Roadway and Infrastructure Permit Fee for the Webster Lake residential subdivision currently being developed, in accordance with the ordinance previously adopted by the City of Temple.

City Administrator Osborne stated that last month this was done for the three active subdivisions and Public Works Director Dwayne Eberhart and Codes Officer Ricky Watts determined that Webster Lake subdivision also needed to be done. It would be an \$800 permit fee per lot. There was a motion by Councilmember Bracknell to adopt the resolution, second by Councilmember Walden. Vote 5-0.

12. Consider approval of the purchase of a heavy-duty 52-inch lawnmower for the City of Temple Public Works Department.

It was determined that there would need to be bids for this purchase. No action taken.

13. Consider the employment of a certified police officer who is an applicant to fill a patrol vacancy in the City of Temple Police Department.

City Administrator Bill Osborne stated that we have not done the interview process for this officer. We had it on the agenda in case we were ready to move forward, but we are not. No action taken.

14. Report concerning an announcement by the Carroll County Sheriff's Office that the inmate work detail program will be discontinued after June 30, which includes the crew assigned to work in the City of Temple with this municipality paying for the guard.

City Administrator Bill Osborne reported that because of personnel shortages at the jail, the inmate work program will be discontinued after June 30th. We will come to you at your next meeting with a plan, this was not budgeted, what is in the budget right now is to pay the guard. No action taken.

15. Report on construction and the planned operation of the City of Temple's new impound lot, located adjacent to the City Hall.

Chief Creig Lee reported that by mid week next week, they should have a building on the lot. Everything is already taken care of and open for operation. They are waiting for the lights to be put up and then the cameras will be installed.

16. Report on the City of Temple being recognized as one of the State of Georgia's 50 Safest Cities.

Mayor Harmon presented a plaque to Police Chief Creig Lee honoring the City of Temple being recognized as the 40th safest City in the state of Georgia.

Break:

***At 7:53PM, there was a request by Councilmember Ransom that there be a five minute break. The meeting resumed at 7:58PM.**

17. Updated staff report on contacts by the City of Temple with the Georgia Attorney General's Office concerning a workshop on Georgia's Open Meetings law to be conducted by that State agency.

City Attorney Mike McRae reported that the consent order has been signed and sent back but are still waiting to hear back from the Attorney General's Office.

18. Report by the City Attorney concerning recommended amendments and revisions to the Temple City Charter pertaining to personnel matters, the current requirement of two readings for all proposed ordinances, and the respective powers of the mayor, city council, and city administrator; and a report by the City Attorney on the recommended process of reconciling differences in the Temple City Charter, Personnel Policies and Procedures, and Employee Handbook.

City Attorney Mike McRae stated that agenda items 18 & 19 could be done together. He stated at the last meeting there was a request for a moratorium on the mayor's authority to be involved in personnel matters and he didn't think that was the correct way to handle the matter. He stated that he was going to discuss some matters before reading the ordinance. He said that the Charter is an administrative form of Charter and the first change is to change it from you "MAY" appoint to you "SHALL" appoint a City Administrator. Mayor Harmon interjected and said that changing may to shall changes the government substantially. He said the Georgia Constitution forbids cities to make drastic changes (Home Rule) and that these changes have to go through the Georgia General Assembly. The City Attorney asked in light of the Mayor's objection does the council want to continue the review of this or table for the future? There was a motion by Councilmember Rothwell to read the ordinance, second by

Councilmember Simmons. Vote 4-1, Ransom opposed. After a brief discussion, City Attorney McRae read the ordinance. Mr. McRae suggested that the elected officials provide him any changes, suggestions or additions they had regarding the ordinance, and then for there to be a work session.

19. Review of the proposed City Charter changes set forth in a proposed Ordinance as presented by the City Attorney, consider approval of the first reading of said proposed Ordinance, and consider directing the City Attorney and City Administrator to schedule a public hearing and the second reading of said proposed Ordinance during the City Council's regular monthly meeting in April.

Please see item 18. The City Attorney stated that both items 18 & 19 could be done together.

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Closing Comments:

Penny Ransom- Stated she would like to call for an ordinance, similar to the one in Clarkston Georgia, where the fine for less than an ounce of marijuana is reduced from the current fine of \$1,000 or 180 days in jail, or both, to a fine of \$75-\$150. She has concerns about who currently gets the fine and who doesn't. She would like to hold hearings for the public and hopes the City can do something that is progressively forward.

Mayor Harmon- Stated that the Easter Egg Hunt will take place on Saturday, April 15th and we need volunteers.

Adjournment: There was a motion by Councilmember Bracknell to adjourn, second by Councilmember Walden. Vote 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:31PM.

Mayor Lester Harmon

City Clerk