

CITY OF SPRINGVILLE
RESCHEDULED REGULAR
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 24, 2022

WORKSHOP:

The City Council of the City of Springville met in a rescheduled workshop session on Monday, January 24, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. at Springville City Hall. Mayor Dave Thomas presided and City Clerk Lynn Porter served as recording secretary.

Those members answering present to roll call were as follow:

District 1	Councilmember Herbert Toles
District 2	Councilmember David Vinson
District 3	Councilmember Wayne Tucker
District 4	Councilmember Katrina Hennings
District 5	Councilmember Tim Walker
District 6	Councilmember Marshall Parker
District 7	Councilmember Sherry Reaves
Mayor	Dave Thomas

Absent: None

Others present in official capacity: Attorney James Hill
Attorney Charlie Waldrep

City Clerk Lynn Porter stated that bids were opened on financial software. There is a \$10,000 difference in the bids. The demo done by the low bidder was good, but they are somewhat of an unknown entity, as they do not have a large presence in the State of Alabama market. They have larger markets in South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. In calling around, we only found one small Alabama city that has software that is up and running, and this is software that was acquired from another vendor. A few cities use the utility software, and there are a handful of other cities that have purchased the software but it is not up and running yet. One of these cities said they purchased the software in 2019, and it is not fully installed and no training has been done at this point. Others have purchased more recently and are awaiting installation. The other bidder is a known entity with a large presence in Alabama. She stated she was familiar with this software and it is a good software with a lot of controls but is not an easy software to learn. The timeline for go live on the less expensive software is 210 days. The timeline on the other is one year.

Councilmember Reaves asked did we need to reject the bids and rebid the software.

Lynn Porter replied that bid packages were sent to known vendors of municipal software and one was sent after a cold call from a sales representative. Five companies did demonstrations. One bid was received after the bid opening time and date and was not opened, and two vendors did not submit bids.

Attorney Hill stated the Alabama bid law requires that, absent compelling circumstances, bids be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder. He suggested we could structure a contract with a timeline for certain benchmarks.

City Clerk Porter stated we have received a quotation for mosquito control from the vendor that has provided this service in the past. There is a \$900 reduction in the cost for a lump sum payment, rather than monthly payments. They have also made a proposal to provide ant control along the sidewalks in the parks for \$150 per month over ten months, for an annual cost of \$1,500. Park Director Rick Hopkins has been out of the office and this additional service has not been discussed with him.

Fire Chief Richard Harvey gave the annual report for the Fire Department. He stated that the department has had a net loss of six paramedics this year. Their call volume is up by 982 calls. Most of these were EMS calls.

Mayor Thomas asked if he planned to apply for grant funding for an ambulance again this year.

Chief Harvey stated our county-wide ambulance contract has worked well until recently. Like many they are having staffing issues and response times are from 30 to 45 minutes. An ambulance would cost \$200,000 to \$220,000 plus some equipment and would require seven personnel to adequately staff it. When asked if we would run support outside of the city, Chief Harvey stated no, not without additional staffing. Plus, if the ambulance was out of the city on a call, it would not be available for calls in the city. He stated he applied for two \$240,000 grants last week. One was for an ambulance, and the other was for a radio system.

Mr. Brett Isom of Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham addressed the Council on redistricting options for the next election. He stated that due to population increases there is a need to redraw the council districts. It will not be possible to establish seven approximately equal sized districts and maintain a minority district. In order to maintain a minority district, there would have to be a 76% deviation in district size. As currently configured, District 1 has 46% minority and 54% non-minority living within the boundary.

Attorney James Hill stated the optimal deviation is within 5%.

Mr. Isom explained the options of keeping seven single member districts, going to five single member districts, going to five at-large districts, or going to an alternative voting plan where each citizen receives five votes or seven votes to cast for individual candidates or all for the same candidate or in any combination, with the candidates receiving the largest numbers being installed as the council. He stated multi-member districts are not feasible for Springville.

Councilmember Toles questioned why streets are split with one side in one district and the other side in another district.

Mr. Isom stated Census tracts use street center lines and natural features such as creeks as boundary lines. These Census tracts contain the demographic data used to establish Council district lines. He passed out maps and data for consideration by the City Council.

Mayor Thomas brought up COVID leave to the Council. He stated if we send employees home to quarantine and tell them they cannot come back until cleared, he felt we needed to pay them for it, as we do with weather days. He asked the Council to think about this and give input.

Councilmember Toles stated we need to talk about debris removal at our meeting.

The workshop was concluded.

MEETING

The City Council of the City of Springville met in a rescheduled regular session on Monday, January 24, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. at Springville City Hall. Mayor Dave Thomas presided and City Clerk Lynn Porter served as recording secretary.

Those members answering present to roll call were as follow:

District 1	Councilmember Herbert Toles
District 2	Councilmember David Vinson
District 3	Councilmember Wayne Tucker
District 4	Councilmember Katrina Hennings
District 5	Councilmember Tim Walker
District 6	Councilmember Marshall Parker
District 7	Councilmember Sherry Reaves
Mayor	Dave Thomas

Absent: None

Others present in official capacity: Attorney James Hill
Attorney Charlie Waldrep

Mayor Thomas called the meeting to order. Reverend Mike Ennis was called upon to give the invocation, followed by the pledge to the flag.

The minutes of the January 4 2022 rescheduled meeting were presented for approval. Councilmember Reaves moved they be approved, seconded by Councilmember Vinson, and the motion carried with Councilmember Tucker abstaining.

The agenda was presented for approval. Councilmember Vinson moved the agenda be approved, seconded by Councilmember Toles, and the vote was unanimous.

Chief Walton reported that K-9 Officer Lala and handler Corporal Keith have been nationally certified. He continued that he was allocated \$3,000 for ammunition in his budget. The cost of ammunition has increased and some calibers have become scarce. He stated his lowest quotation for ammunition for one of two qualifications each year is \$3,972. He asked that he be allowed to purchase this ammunition over the budgeted amount. Discussion followed, after which Councilman Toles moved up to \$5,000 in ammunition funding be approved, seconded by Councilmember Reaves and the vote was unanimous.

Chief Walton stated in 2018 there were eight officers and 8040 calls. In 2020 there were ten officers and one DTU and 10,018 calls to central dispatch, not counting walk in requests for service at city hall. He stated he will be losing an officer for one year due to military activation.

A resolution to award the bid on administrative software was presented. Councilmember Walker asked if not implemented within the timeframe, what was our recourse. Attorney Hill stated we can address that in the contract. Councilmember Vinson moved Resolution 2022-03 awarding the bid to Edmunds GovTech at a cost of \$51,250.00 be approved, seconded by Councilmember Walker, and the motion carried.

Councilmember Toles moved Resolution 2022-04 awarding the bid to outfit the K-9 vehicle to BEI at a cost of \$14,050.00 be approved, seconded by Councilmember Tucker, and the vote was unanimous.

Councilmember Hennings moved Resolution 2022-05 authorizing a temporary construction easement on City property for the four-way project be approved, seconded by Councilmember Toles and the motion carried with Councilmember Tucker abstaining.

Councilmember Reaves moved up to \$1,500 be approved for CC Tree Service to remove decommissioned emergency warning sirens, seconded by Councilmember Vinson. Councilmember Walker asked if other bids were taken. Chief Harvey stated the Public Works Department bucket truck is too small. He stated he piggy-backed off the County contract for tower and equipment removal. The vote was unanimous.

A proclamation in support of law enforcement was presented. Councilmember Reaves stated she proposed this action after many calls about comments made recently after the Mayor announced he was seeking the nomination for Governor. She stated she felt it was important to let people know that we as a city uphold the law and need to give direction to our children.

Mayor Thomas stated he had received one piece of hate mail and many comments on social media on both sides. Many support his views. We all support law enforcement and the need to direct children. Councilmember Reaves moved this proclamation be approved, seconded by Councilmember Hennings, and the vote was unanimous.

Councilmember Toles moved we approve the mosquito contract along with the proposal for ant control, to be paid in a lump sum. This was seconded by Councilmember Vinson, and the motion carried.

Mayor Thomas thanked One Eighty Church for their generous contribution of \$6,000 to be applied toward the purchase of a van for the Senior Citizens.

Councilmember Toles asked what our options are for debris pickup. He stated there is still a lot of debris out in the community.

Attorney Hill stated there are safeguards in the contract. An option would be to contract with another agency for debris pick up, but that would be expensive. We could pick up brush ourselves, but that would be expensive also.

Councilmember Tucker moved the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Councilmember Toles, and the vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Porter
City Clerk