

Recap AND opinions of Council Meeting – 4-13-2023
By Maxine McClanahan

The Mayor stated the clerk had asked for Pay Raises for employees be added to the agenda.

The Mayor read some excerpts from Roberts Rules and informed council that he would now be following a stricter set of rules. I'm thinking he needs to finish the book before putting things in place so tightly.

There was discussion about Emerald Cove Paving. It feels like the Mayor is pushing back on moving forward with considering a repave. It seems everyone is still figuring it out. Councilwoman Moncrief asked for she and Councilwoman Miles to be put on the group that would do more research. After a LONG pause the Mayor said he would "take it under consideration". I suspect that no matter how this one goes, there will be fingers pointed before it's over.

Sign ordinance passed. That one was pretty much a no-brainer.

Matt Rutledge Rezone was interesting. Councilwoman Miles excused herself. The Mayor stated he had been asked to make a recommendation, but did not state who asked, so he proceeded with this statement and then he made a motion to approve the rezone with the recommendations of zoning administrator. There was discussion back and forth and Mayor kept referring to a Public Hearing though it was NOT on the agenda as a Public Hearing and was not advertised as a Public hearing for Council, so I was just terribly confused on that. I stood up in opposition based mainly on the lack of clarity on the ingress and egress from the parkway. There were no other comments for or against. The Mayor's motion was seconded by Linda Pilgrim (no surprise there). Linda Pilgrim voted yes to approve and Councilwoman Moncrief took quite some time to think it over before voting no. Mayor Moore broke the tie with a yes vote, so the warehouses are a go... again, no surprise on that one.

The Johnson Variance for a hardship variance on their ingress/egress was approved.

The Forest Glen Rezone was evidently also considered a Public Hearing, though once again we saw no ad for this Public Hearing nor was it listed as such on the agenda. That bothers me as the public would not be aware that they could come speak on the item. Erica stated she was not in favor of the rezone. I think it ended up being the first reading for the rezone. Me--- I am totally confused with the way they are doing it. Rezone – Pubic Hearing---no notices. I just hope we are legal.

Bids for the Public Works Building renovation was discussed. All original bids were rejected as none met the RFP requirements and it was requested a new RFP be designed with more detailed information being provided for bidders. It was also asked why we had to have such a large porch (10 feet by 60 feet) on a Public Works building and why not instead put two smaller (less expensive) porches at each door.

As for the raises, Linda Pilgrim made a motion to approve a 6% raise across the board for all employees. There was a question as to whether or not she should recues herself since her son is the Public Works Manager. It was determined that was best so she rescinded her motion. The Mayor then asked for another motion and there was none. The Mayor got all indignant and said, the employees are not going to be happy about not getting a raise. It is my understanding that it had already been decided at the work session that the raises would be a topic of discussion for council at budget time. So why the hurry to pass this through?

The Clerk tendered her resignation citing life changes and too much drama and discord for her to handle any more.

In Mayors Report, he attempted to "set the record straight" on a comment I (Maxine) made at an earlier meeting. I need to thank him for pointing out that I was not nearly as clear as I thought on that comment. I could probably do better with that, but then I will need more than 3 minutes.

The Mayor also stated a Johns Market is on slate to go on 138. Noted this was in spite of the semi-promise at an earlier meeting to not make a move on the commercial properties until discussion of the residential properties took place on behalf of the residents of Dial Farm. The amenities have not been put in place at Dial Farm for the residents, even though they should have been done 60-70 homes ago.

Mayor forgot about Town Hall and called for Executive Session for Discussion of "Roles of Public Offices" and "Ethics Complaint". Someone pointed out his error and he simply stated... we'll do it afterwards. There were three of us that waited until 10:00. The others that had comments left rather than waiting.

I asked at the Town Hall portion if the Mayor were directing his comments at me and after MUCH thought he answered pretty much in the affirmative. Perhaps I will share that full content later.