

Aiken City Council MinutesSPECIAL MEETING

August 16, 2016

Present: Mayor Osbon, Councilmembers Dewar, Diggs, Homoki, and Price.

Absent: Councilmembers Ebner and Merry.

Others Present: John Klimm, Stuart Bedenbaugh, Gary Smith, Sara Ridout, Kim Abney, George Grinton, Maayan Schechter from the Aiken Standard, and Ron Feller.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Osbon called the special meeting to order at 6:31 P.M.

GUIDELINES

Mayor Osbon reviewed the guidelines for speaking at the Council meeting.

BUDGET - ORDINANCE 08162016

Gem Lakes Extension Road Repair
The Miller Group, Inc.

Mayor Osbon stated this was the time advertised for second reading and public hearing of an ordinance to amend the FY 2016-17 budget to repair the roads in Gem Lakes Extension.

Mayor Osbon read the title of the ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NUMBER 02222016 REGARDING ROAD REPAIRS IN GEM LAKES EXTENSION.

Councilman Dewar moved, seconded by Councilwoman Diggs, that Council approve on second and final reading an ordinance to amend the FY 2016-17 budget to repair roads in Gem Lakes Extension.

Mr. Klimm stated Council approved spending up to \$222,000 through interfund borrowing to repair Moultrie Drive and Huron Drive in Gem Lakes Extension. A recent bid opening was conducted and one vendor submitted a bid: The Miller Group of Morrow, Georgia. This group has extensive experience performing the Full Depth Reclamation [FDR] that Council selected as the preferred repair method for this road.

The cost is \$285,253.80. Rick Toole and George Grinton have met with the contractor to review the bid and recommend we proceed with The Miller Group with a proposed amount of \$300,000 to include contingency. We believe the cost will ultimately be lower, as much of the excavated material can be used by City staff for other projects instead of being hauled off to a landfill. This is presented to Council at a special meeting because the contractor could begin work by the end of August, before they leave the area to work for several months in Alabama.

Council approved this ordinance on first reading at the August 8, 2016, meeting. For Council consideration is second reading and public hearing of an ordinance to amend the FY 2016-17 budget to repair roads in Gem Lakes Extension.

Mayor Osbon asked for comments from the audience.

Mr. Ron Feller, 3 Birkdale Court West, stated he had tried unsuccessfully to address this issue in the past and had written two letters to Council. He commented that what he was going to say was not based on fact, but based on what he thinks. He stated he would talk about an option that could possibly be good enough for the repair of the Gem Lakes

Extension roads. He said there are two ways of road work where you can determine whether the road is good enough. One is a test inspection that can be done as the road is built and based on the results you accumulate objective evidence that tells you whether the roadway would serve you well in the future. In the case of the Gem Lakes roads we don't seem to know what happened in that arena in this case. Another way is how well the road has served over time. He said he was under the impression that the sub-base and the base in the Gem Lakes Extension roads probably are good enough to hold the surface that is there now. He said he could not substantiate that with actual facts, but he could observe. He noted that the roads have not pot holed. The pavement has broken and water has gotten in through the pavement and that seems to be the source of the problems. He said there is also some evidence of ground water and there is a geotextile fabric that can be used in that case to remediate that problem. He said he suspects that the people who built the roads in Gem Lakes Extension built a proper base and sub-base. He felt the problem came in putting down the asphalt surface. There is some evidence that the contractor may have had a bad mix and there is a bad surfacing job on the roads and that led to the problem. He was concerned that the road base will be ground up and felt that possibly they will be grinding up a good base. He pointed out that everyone says the full depth penetration that is to be put in will be better than any other road. He said his question is whether Council has thought about maintenance. He said there will have to be a different process when the city has to work on those roads. He asked that the city look at this completely to know what the maintenance requirements will be if you use the full depth process. He said he understands the process will end with a tar and chip surface. He said that is basically a tar and loose stones. He felt the residents will not like the surface. He felt there is evidence to support keeping the base material in place and coming up with some way to give a good asphalt surface treatment. He felt that would be a far less expensive way to go. He said he would be glad to meet with anyone about this. He said it is his suspicion there is a better solution that will serve the community better than the one proposed to Council.

Mayor Osbon stated he had asked the question. He noted that the surface will actually be a smooth asphalt surface. Mr. Grinton confirmed that there will be a smooth asphalt surface. Mayor Osbon thanked Mr. Feller for his input.

Mayor Osbon called for a vote on the motion by Councilman Dewar, seconded by Councilwoman Diggs, that Council approve on second and final reading an ordinance to amend the FY 2016-17 budget to provide funding to repair roads in Gem Lakes Extension and award the bid to The Miller Group for the repair work. The motion was unanimously approved.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Appointment

John Carman

Energy and Environmental Committee

Councilman Homoki stated he would like to nominate John Carman to the Energy and Environmental Committee to replace Bob Newburn. He said he would like for the appointment to be considered at the next Council meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business Councilwoman Diggs moved, seconded by Councilman Homoki that the meeting adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 6:44 P.M.


Sara B. Ridout
City Clerk