

The Mayor and Council of the City of Fort Valley held a called meeting on Friday, January 5, 2018, at 4:30 p.m. at City Hall.

Council members in attendance: Juanita Bryant, Jimmy Barnes, Alonzo Allen, Marvin Crafter, LeMario Brown and Carla Gowen. Mayor Barbara Williams was not present.

City administrator Karin D. Vinson served as recorder.

Councilman Marvin Crafter asked City Administrator Karin Vinson to read the code section regarding Presiding Officer. Art. II Section 2.43 was then read by the City Administrator.

Motion by Councilwoman Bryant to appoint Councilman LeMario Brown as presiding officer of this meeting. Seconded by Marvin Crafter. All in Favor.

**Call to Order-** 4:33 p.m.

**Invocation** was given by Councilman Alonzo Allen.

Councilman Marvin Crafter discussed his reason for this meeting and that it was not personal. He also stated that the former council could not plan a meeting for the new council. He further stated that the procedure used for calling this meeting involved getting the consensus of a majority of the council members.

Councilwoman Gowen questioned why this emergency meeting was not advertised. The City Administrator explained to her that this is not an emergency meeting since notice was given more than 24 hours in advance.

Councilman Crafter asked the City Administrator whether or not she had a waiver for the meeting. She responded that you don't need one for a called meeting.

***New Business***

1. Discussion of City Policies and Procedures
  - a. Councilman Crafter talked about the CDBG CHIP Grant and how the procedure in choosing from the pool of applicants was improper. He suggested that anything that has to have city council approval needs to be brought before the entire council. He also suggested that this be given to the Mayor in the form of a letter or resolution,



- b. Councilman Brown then asked the members present if they agreed. Everyone stated they did. Councilwoman Gowen asked that it be reflected in the minutes. Councilman Allen stated that he believes that Mayor Williams knows that already.
- c. City Administrator stated that this is a policy that is already in place, it just has to be followed. So, reflecting the request in the minutes should be enough.

2. Economic Development Resolution

- a. Councilman Crafter explained his Economic Stimulus Proposal. Councilwoman Gowen asked if we needed to bid the projects out. Councilman Barnes asked where was the \$750,000 going to come from.
- b. Councilman Crafter answered that he did not believe the projects needed to be bid out. He also answered that the \$750,000 should come from the money we should be receiving for the Utility Commission.
- c. Councilwoman Bryant expressed that she still believes the appointment of the contractor should be advertised.
- d. Councilman Barnes asked Councilman Crafter can answer his question of why the value of his house is decreasing. He also added that low-income people are moving into his neighborhood and not keeping up their yards.
  - i. A citizen asked why is it wrong for low-income people to move into his neighborhood. She also added that most low-income people take pride in their yards.

3. MEAG Resolution

- a. Councilman Crafter gave his account of the history of the relationship between MEAG, City of Fort Valley, and Utility Commission. He also stated that the City entered into some bad deals in 1997. Councilman Allen stated there were a lot of bad deals.
- b. A discussion regarding the resolution occurred. Councilwoman Gowen expressed her concern for the resolution and stated that she wanted to do more research on the matter.
- c. Councilwoman Bryant motioned that the resolution be accepted as written. Motion seconded by Councilman Crafter.
  - i. Brown, Crafter, and Bryant voted to approve the resolution
  - ii. Allen, Barnes, and Gowen voted against the approval of the resolution



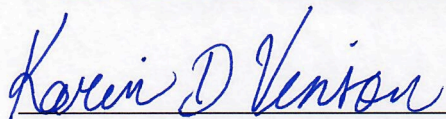
- d. A citizen asked for clarification of the MEAG resolution and expressed her concern for the fact that it was sent to council members before and, but not read by them.
- e. A citizen also asked that if this meeting is illegal, who is responsible for paying the fine?
  - i. City Administrator explained to her that the city would be responsible when there is an illegal meeting called. Council Crafter then explained to her that the meeting is not illegal and the reasons why were discussed in the beginning of the meeting.

Motion by Bryant to enter into Executive Session. Seconded by Crafter. All in favor.

Motion by Bryant to come out of Executive Session. Seconded by Allen. All in Favor.

Motion by Brown to Adjourn. Seconded by Gowen. All in Favor.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.



Karin D. Vinson, City Administrator