

Called Council Meeting

January 10, 2023

5:30 pm

Members Present: Mayor Buddy Duke, members Terry McClain, Greg Paige, Walter Cowart, Celestine Hayes and Jody Greene.

Others Present: Rhonda Rowe, Tim Tanner, Chad Castleberry, members of the public and press.

Invocation was given by Councilman McClain.

Pledge of Allegiance

City Manager Appointment: Councilman Greene made a motion to appoint Mark Barber as the city manager with an annual salary of \$130,000 and a \$750 monthly vehicle allowance. Councilman Cowart seconded. The roll call vote was McClain – Yes; Paige – No; Cowart – Yes; Hayes – No; Greene – Yes; Duke – Yes. Motion passed.

Dr. Treva Gear – Dr. Gear came before the council to discuss (1) consultants for the city, (2) transparency of current city council pay, (3) ethics of council actions/practices and (4) new city manager. She stated that she was representing the Concerned Citizens of Cook County and has previously brought the ethics of council actions/practices forward but no one has moved on it. She doesn't know if the council wants to be held accountable where it comes to conflict of interest or multiple dealings with other entities as well as trying to also "represent the good of the people". That calls into question your integrity if you're not concerned about your ethics and there's nothing about ethics in the charter. (2) With the transparency of city council pay, we know the upcoming pay change that will occur in 2024, but where is it in writing about what city council people are being paid now; they're concerned about the equity and equality of that. She questioned what was in the envelope they get? Is it the same amount of cash for every council member? If they showed up here on any given day and you open up the envelope, would it be the same amount for all council members? (3) Currently we have the practice of rehiring our previous city manager as a consultant. Jerry Permenter came back as a consultant and we've had John Flythe twice as a city manager. She's asking that we not hire him back as a consultant. Its time for a new story. In the town hall meeting and in a meeting here, Dorothy Johnson asked who's responsible, is the person responsible for this utility bill fiasco still getting paid? Yes they are. Considering all that, we're thankful for Mr. Flythe's service; however, the way he's headed out with these utility bills and stuff we don't want him back with taxpayer dollars as a consultant, so they hope the council is not considering that. They will be watching. Lastly, with all the things going on here in this county with this city, and our issues with utility bills, questionability about budgets, funding and where money is going; they are concerned that we've paid a headhunter (the Mercer Group), and I'm sure he's informed you of the allegations against Mr. Mike Barber; I don't know him, this is about business, I don't know him personally, he might be the kindest person ever; however, I'm thinking about Adel. We don't need anyone coming on board that has an allegation that might be true or not. We know its an allegation but the fact that there is questionability by citizens in constant numbers about \$90,000 here, money missing, things like that. That should be something that this council should have been concerned about

and if you paid a headhunter like Mercer, I'm sure they told you about it. So, with good conscience you voted that for us to be watching and concerned about corruption within our city government that we're already concerned about? You co-signed on that and we are watching. That's very concerning in light of the multiple issues we have out of this city council not even enforcing their own zoning and all those different things and just not answering to the community. It's a travesty. I need you to think about that but we will be watching him and we will continue to watch you and keep you accountable to the people of Adel because you swore to do that and you just made a very questionable decision by bringing someone in with such allegations and you had to know it and we paid for it with tax dollars for you to ignore it. I rest my case.

Meeting Date: Mayor Duke reminded the council that with Monday being a holiday, we will meet on Tuesday, January 17, 2023.

Celestine Hayes: Councilwoman Hayes asked if we would be getting together to discuss these issues before then (next Tuesday) that she just brought up? Mayor Duke replied that he had an answer for them. She advised she would like to know the answers. Mayor Duke replied to Councilman Hayes that Dr. Gear had asked her for those answers to start with and she didn't get them. Councilwoman Hayes stated she would like the answers before the next meeting. Mayor Duke advised that he had them.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.

Rhonda P. Rowe, City Clerk

Luther L. Duke III, Mayor
