

CITY OF MCINTYRE

Minutes

January 25, 2023

5:30 p.m.

City of McIntyre Meeting Room

The City of McIntyre called council meeting was held on January 25, 2023 with Mayor Vicki Horne presiding. Council Members present were Mayor Pro-Tem Rico Myrick, Katherine Scott, Eugene Moore, and Debra Kennedy. John Carswell was absent.

Others in attendance: City Clerk Davonia Riddle

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 by Mayor Pro-Tem Rico Myrick. Prayer was led by Eugene Moore.

Business at Hand

Interview Potential City Attorney

Mr. Douglas Kidd entered the room and introduced himself and told council to ask him anything they wanted. Mayor Pro-Tem Myrick stated that council will go around the room and introduce themselves. Mr. Douglas Kidd stated that he was from Franklin County about two hours away. He goes on to say council have his resume, but he will give a brief overview of himself. He said that he has been practicing since 2008 and is a general practice attorney but he is trying to focus more on local government. He states he has six cities that he represents, and he specializes in smaller cities like McIntyre. Council Member Eugene Moore asked since he worked with different cities if he represents the cities in person. Mr. Douglas Kidd stated that it depends on the city, most cities use him as needed. He stated he can come to every meeting, some meetings, or every other meeting it will depend on the city. Mr. Douglas asked when does McIntyre have their council meetings and City Clerk Davonia stated the 1st Monday of each month. Council Member Debra Kennedy asked how much he charges for his services? Mr. Kidd said he think he put \$165.00 per hour in his paperwork. He said his city varies but if it is a concern, he will talk it over with council. He goes on to say he do not know what the budget is, but he can make it fit for the budget. Mayor Pro-Tem stated we have a sewer project going on and asked him if he know anything about it or have any experience? Mr. Kidd asked if he was talking about EPD state regulations or something on the finance side? City Clerk Davonia stated the city is getting a sewer system and it is a lot of work, the city attorney will have to do. She asked him has he had any experience with this kind of work? Mr. Kidd stated the City of Keysville had a sewer system when he started but they had to do a lot of work, repairs, and updates. He stated that he has some experience but not with a project starting from the beginning. Council Member Eugene Moore stated the city has been working on this project for a while. He goes on to say the cost has change since 2009, material etc. has increased. Council Member Eugene Moore told Mr. Kidd our former City Attorney helped the city with easements and bonds regarding the sewer project. He said he is sure Mr. Kidd can do it also. Mr. Kidd stated one of the things

he helps cities with, is getting grants. He stated most of the time, cities are not aware what is out there and he assists them. Mayor Horne joined the conversation. Mr. Kidd introduced himself and told Mayor Horne he was telling council a little about himself and wanted to know if she had any questions. Mayor Horne asked if council had any question and Mr. Kidd stated they have asked a couple. Mayor Horne asked if he will be able to attend our meeting on the 1st Monday of each month. Mr. Kidd stated he was telling council earlier that he has a couple cities that wanted him to come to every meeting, as needed or quarterly. It all depends on what the city wanted or needed. He said he does not have anything on Monday and if council needs him to be at the meetings, he would. Mayor Horne said she knows Zoom is more available for people now, but this council depends on the city attorney to help guide us through certain things. She goes on to say, she doesn't want to stray from the charter and statute that is in place but prefer to have the attorney present. Mayor Horne also stated that sometimes when council have legal concerns, they may reach out to the city attorney. She wanted to know if that would be an issue for Mr. Kidd. Mr. Kidd stated that he informs city council that the city attorney represents the city and sometimes it could be a conflict, if one council member is running to the city attorney to get an opinion and another council member try to get a different opinion. He stated he prefers that the council is on the same page and if you have a question for the attorney, you can run it by everyone else via email and copy him. He goes on to say that way, everyone will know what is being asked and the issues. He said he had some city where they had divisions and certain groups will try to enlist the attorney to be on their side. If a legal question must be asked, he would like everyone on board so he can know what he need to research. Mayor Horne stated that council don't agree on everything but council respect each other. She asked does anyone have any comments or concerns for Mr. Kidd. Mayor Pro-Tem Myrick stated council asked him about the sewer system. Mayor Horne goes on to say we do have a big sewer project system going on that is a major project for the city right now. She said there is a lot of paperwork and items that the city is having to have signed. With the paperwork, Mayor Horne stated she prefers the city attorney read over the paperwork before she signs the documents. It makes her feel more comfortable and she let council know about everything before she signs a document. Council Member Eugene Moore asked if Mr. Kidd bills for travel time and he stated no, the clock start when he enters the meeting. He goes on to say the same if he must go to court, the clock starts when he gets there and end when he leaves. He said he bills for phone calls, emails, and research. He told council you will be looking at \$600.00 to \$800.00 a month. Council Member Debra stated basically from what she read he is a lawyer who works with different cities and different municipalities. Then she asked if that is what he is going to continue to do? Mr. Kidd said yes but he is also a general practice attorney. He will do Wills and accidents cases but if he could wave a magic wand, he would only deal with city attorney work. Mr. Kidd stated he only have six cities now, but he is looking to get more. In the process of him obtaining more cities, he will decrease the amount of other cases he would represent. He will make time and his city clients will come first. Mayor Horne asked if this was his first time in this area other than Twigg County? He said no, he also represents the City of Jeffersonville, they hired him last fall and he has been to a couple of their meetings. Mayor Horne asked Mr. Kidd how much are we looking at a month for payment and he stated about \$600 or \$700. Mayor Horne said it will be more because of the sewer project. Mr. Kidd said he understood, and it varies depending on the situation. Mayor Horne apologizes to Mr. Kidd for not been there in person. Mr. Kidd said he appreciate Mayor Horne meeting him via zoom. City council discussed questions and concerns regarding Mr. Kidd's interview.

City Clerk Davonia brought on Mrs. Sydney Soloman via zoom. Mrs. Soloman thanked council for letting her join via zoom and was sorry she could not be there in person. Mayor Horne said that it was fine. Council and City Clerk Davonia went around the room and introduced themselves. Mayor Horne stated we have your summary but asked Mrs. Soloman if she could give us a summary of herself. She stated that she has been practicing law since 2014 and is currently at Jones Cork serving as a partner. She said

she works with a lot of governments entities and boards that are similar. She represents the Central State Hospital land redevelopment authority in Baldwin County, Macon Water Authority, City of Ivey, and works with several school districts. She goes on to say she's familiar with all the laws and regulations that effect government entities and local government. Mayor Horne opens the floor to council for questions. Council Member Eugene Moore asked Mrs. Soloman what she does for the Macon Water Authority? She is the general council for them, the law firm represents them, but she is the main contact person. She goes on to say she attends all of their board and committee meetings, open record acts requests, review contracts, work on personnel matters, and anything they need. Mayor Horne asked Mrs. Soloman to go over her fees and how it works for a city of their size. Mrs. Soloman said her fee will be \$195 per hour and she will not charge gas mileage to or from McIntyre. She bills by the tenth of the hour and that means every six minutes is a point one. All the bills will be itemized, which means everything will be listed that is billed to the city. The bill will be sent out monthly and additional fees such as copies etc. will also appear on the bill. Mayor Horne asked if she will be the main contact person. Mrs. Soloman said yes, she would be, but she is nine months pregnant and expecting any day. She goes on to say that is why she had to join via zoom but during the time she out, someone else from the firm will take her place until she returns. Mrs. Soloman said she will be able to check emails and calls but she will not be able to attend meetings in person. Mayor Horne congratulated Mrs. Soloman on her pregnancy. Mayor Horne asked will she be able to attend the meeting going forth, which is the 1st Monday of the month? Mrs. Soloman said she will be able to attend the meeting in person. Mayor Horne asked what form of communication she prefers? She goes on to say some council members may have concerns in the past and would call the attorney. She asked Mrs. Soloman what she will prefer? Mrs. Soloman said whatever the city prefers and is a customed to, will work for her. Mrs. Soloman said she have clients who call and text her so whatever is better for the city. She said she going to be easily accessible and it is her goal to respond in a timely manner. Mayor Horne stated she is quite sure David McRee has told her about the projects City of McIntyre has going on at this time, with the main thing being the sewer project. Mrs. Soloman said she is not particularly familiar with our situations but herself along with several of her law partners are experts as a unit. Mayor Horne asked if any other council member have any questions. Council Eugene Moore asked if she did not charge for mileage, did she charge by the hour? She said she would have to charge for her hourly travels to the meetings but she does have a reduced rate for her clients. Mayor Horne asked if she billed monthly if the city does not have any service for the month. Mrs. Soloman said no, she charges by the hour and with the city having one meeting, there will be something billed every month. Council Member Eugene Moore asked about paralegal services. Mrs. Soloman said paralegals will be at a reduced rate, she would have to look back at the paperwork to get the amount. Council Member Eugene Moore said the rate is \$85 per hour. She goes on to say any work she can have a paralegal does, she tries to do that to save the clients' money. Mayor Horne asked Mrs. Soloman if she had anything else to share? Mrs. Soloman said that she would really enjoy working with council as she does with her current local government because she gets to build a relationship with people. Mrs. Soloman told council she would communicate with them either by text, email or on the phone daily. She goes on to say she enjoys forming relationships and that her firm is low in price compared to others in her area. Mayor Horne thanked Mrs. Soloman for joining council today. Mrs. Soloman told council she apologizes she couldn't meet everyone in person today. City council discussed questions and concerns regarding Mrs. Soloman interview.

Council agreed that Mr. John (Jack) Nichols was the best candidate. Council Member Eugene Moore asked could we vote today or do we have to wait until our regular meeting. Mayor Horne said we can put it in a form of a motion and make it official at the meeting on the 6th of February. She also that stated we can inform him at the meeting and send a letter to the other candidates thanking them for interviewing with the city. Mayor Horne told council that we will make it official at the meeting on the

6th and go around the table today and see what everyone thinks. Mayor Pro-Tem Rico Myrick-yes, Councilmember Katherine Scott-Yes, Council Member Eugene Moore-yes, and Council Member Debra Kennedy-yes. Council member present agreed that Mr. John (Jack) Nichols will represent the City of McIntyre as their city attorney.

With there being no further business, Motion made by Council member Rico Myrick, Seconded by Council member Katherine Scott, to adjourn. Motion Carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:20 pm.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Vicki Horne", written over a horizontal line.

Mayor Vicki Horne

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Damna Reddy", written over a horizontal line.
Attest: City Clerk