

**MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT
SPECIAL MEETING
MONDAY, AUGUST 1, 2016
6:00P.M.**

1. OPENING

1.1.1 Call to Order

Council President Simms called the meeting to order at 6:00p.m.

1.1.2 Roll Call

Present: Mayor Eugene Grant, Councilmember Barbara Kennedy, Councilmember Kelly Porter, Councilmember Gerald Raynor, Sr. (Late Arrival), Councilmember Elenora Simms, Councilmember Aretha Stephenson, Councilmember Mable Charlina Watson, Councilmember Reveral Yeargin

Absent:

Staff: Christopher Cotillo, Acting City Administrator and Chief of Police, Orson Carter, Assistant City Treasurer, Sgt. Aaron Forster, Marcus Jones, Administrative Assistant, Lt. Earl Ivey, Dashaun N. Lanham, City Clerk, Sgt. Jose Perez, Johnny Thompson, Director of Public Works

2. PRESENTATIONS:

- None

3. MEETING TOPICS:

3.1.1. Smart City Project Update

- Mr. Cotillo, Acting City Administrator and Chief of Police stated that he has been in the position of Acting City Administrator for five days. Mr. Cotillo stated that he prepared a memorandum to the City Council at the request of Council President Simms with the current status of the Smart City Project.
- Mr. Cotillo stated there are some concerns that he felt the Council needed to be aware. He stated that Mr. Ashton had only provided him with the resolutions and the budget lines that funds were diverted and the signed contracts. He stated that Mr. Ashton was unable to provide him with an itemized budget for the 4.1 million dollars or a contact list.

- Mr. Cotillo met with the project manager, Mr. Wilkins and was provided with the itemized budget and the contact list. The project directory only listed Mayor Grant and Ms. Lanham. He requested for the project manager to include Mr. Thompson and him in every correspondence and decisions going forward.
- Mr. Cotillo stated that the contractors for the project had not provided the license or insurance information to the City to show that they could conduct business in the city.
- Mr. Cotillo stated that the Technical Writer had contacted him and stated that Mayor Grant had terminated him. He met with the Mr. Rogers who provided him with the work that he was doing behalf of the City. Mr. Cotillo informed Mr. Rogers to continue to work. Mr. Cotillo stated that Mr. Rogers had not received his bi-weekly payment in accordance to the contract.
- Mr. Cotillo stated that the City is being billed for services from the contractors and no money has been allocated in the budget to pay the invoices.
- Mr. Cotillo stated that there are misappropriation of funds as we have approved budget expenditures for \$35,000 and the contract was entered into for less.
- The Mayor signed contracts and the Ms. Lanham attested to contracts, which may be a violation of the Charter section C-820.
- Councilmember Raynor asked Mr. Cotillo if he met with all parties involved in the Smart City Project.
- Mr. Cotillo stated that he met with the Project Manager, but did not meet with anyone else.
- Mr. Cotillo stated that USDA require you to use their vendors and the contractors that the city used will not be approved.
- Mr. Cotillo stated that USDA was going to stop the project as the City has not met the condition in accordance to the letter of conditions.
- Mr. Cotillo stated that USDA recommended that the project manager be an employee of the City.
- Mr. Cotillo stated that he is recommending that that City Council suspend the Smart City Project.
- Mr. Cotillo stated that USDA said the federal process takes two years and he spoke with Charlene Pagan.
- Councilmember Stephenson asked Mayor Grant a question regarding the contracts.
- Mayor Grant stated that he is just hearing of the allegations. He will meet with Mr. Ashton and Ms. Lanham and we will respond to each allegation in writing.
- It was motioned by Councilmember Stephenson and seconded by Councilmember Watson to postpone the Smart City Project. The motion carried

- FOR: Kennedy, Stephenson and Watson
- AGAINST: Porter, Simms and Yeargin
- ABSTAIN: Raynor
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4. LEGISLATION

4.1.1. Resolution R-17-04 Appoint a New Acting City Administrator.

Resolution R-17-04 was introduced by the City Council and read by the City Clerk on Monday, August 1, 2016. It was motioned by Councilmember Yeargin and seconded by Councilmember Porter to approve Resolution R-17-04. The motion carried.

FOR: Porter, Raynor, Simms and Yeargin

AGAINST: Kennedy, Stephenson and Watson

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5.1.1. None

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS

6.1.1. Ward II Meeting, Thursday, August 11, 2016, Pleasant Homes Community Center, 6810 Greig St., Seat Pleasant, MD from 5:30p.m.-7:00p.m.

6.1.2. Regular Work Session, Wednesday, September 7, 2016, Seat Pleasant City Hall-Council Chambers at 6:00p.m.

6.1.3. Seat Pleasant Election, Monday, September 12, 2016, Seat Pleasant City Hall-Council Chambers from 7:00a.m.-8:00p.m.

6.1.4. Seat Pleasant Public Session, Wednesday, September 14, 2016, Seat Pleasant City Hall-Council Chambers at 7:00p.m.

ADJOURN

It was motioned by Councilmember Porter and seconded by Councilmember Raynor to go into a Closed Session. The motion passed and was unanimously approved. The City Council Closed Session begin at 6:22p.m., in accordance to Statutory Authority to Close, General Provisions Article, §3-305 (b) (1) To discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; or any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals;

The City Council reconvene in the Special Session at 7:50p.m.

It was motioned by Councilmember Stephenson and seconded by Councilmember Raynor to terminate the employment of Philip Scott. The motion carried.

FOR: Kennedy, Porter, Raynor, Simms, Stephenson and Watson

AGAINST: None

ABSTAIN: Yeargin

It was motioned by Councilmember Porter and seconded by Councilmember Yeargin to remove Christopher Cotillo as the Acting City Administrator and replace with Jeannelle Wallace. The motion carried.

FOR: Porter, Raynor, Simms and Yeargin

AGAINST: Kennedy, Stephenson and Watson

Councilmember Watson stated that this is not the process as to how this should be handled.

The City Council introduced the above legislation Resolution R-17-04.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25p.m.

Submitted by,



Dashaun N. Lanham, CMC

City Clerk