

MARIANNA CITY COMMISSION
WORKSHOP
JANUARY 20, 2022
5:00 PM

CITY HALL
Join By Zoom:
Dial 929-205-6099
Meeting ID 864 2800 1367

The Marianna City Commission met for a workshop on the above date and time. Mayor Ward called the meeting to order. City Clerk, Kimberly J. Applewhite, called the roll. Members present were: Mayor Allen Ward II, Travis Ephriam, Kenneth Hamilton, John Roberts, and Rico Williams.

Mayor Ward gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

City Manager Jim Dean told the Commission that over the past several years the Fire and Police Pension Boards have discussed the potential of converting their existing Florida Statute Chapter 175 and 185 plans to a Local Law Plan. This can be accomplished by City Ordinance.

The proposed changes of the Fire pension included the following:

1. Current active employees benefit accrual rate of anywhere from 3.0% to 3.5%
2. Current active employees Normal Retirement eligibility upon the earlier of:
 - a. 55 Years of age and completion of 10 years of credited service
 - b. Completion of 25 years of credited service regardless of age.
3. COLA increase of 3% every 5 years beginning at age 65
4. DROP plan
5. Buyback Option

The proposed plan for the Police included #2-5 above.

Glenn Thomas with Lewis, Longman and Walker (LLW) joined the meeting by zoom and conveyed to the Commission that he had reviewed the proposed Ordinance converting the Firefighter's and Police Officer's Chapter Plans to Local Law Plan. He did recommend several changes to ensure compliance with IRC and Chapter 175-185 and changes intended to maintain internal consistency. Mr. Thomas indicated he had spoken with Ronald Cohen, Pension Board Attorney, about his proposed changes. Shelly Jones with GRS Consulting, along with Ronald Cohen, Pension Board Attorney were both present via zoom to answer any questions of the Commission. There was discussion of the Commission and they agreed the City needed to move forward with the proposed Ordinance.

Volunteers of America were present to request funding from American Rescue monies for development of 35 affordable housing units at Hwy 73, 300' south of Holly Hill Drive. They

are requesting \$1,200,000. There was discussion among the Commission and Commissioner Roberts indicated he would be willing to give them \$300,000, contingent on County providing funding for this project as well. Commissioner Ephriam is concerned with the requests the City may receive in the future.

Zach Gilmore, Meghan Basford and Tiffany Garling were present with Jackson County Economic Development Council (JCEDC) to present the Commission with a MOU-Project VIVA. This is an investor that wants to buy and renovate the old Danley Building. The MOU provides a non-binding understanding of expectations, requirements and obligations. JCEDC presented the Commission with a listing on intentions of the City, including:

1. City waive business license fees are 2 years.
2. City provide expedited development orders and permits.
3. City waive utility connection fees.
4. City waive costs associated with water and wastewater during construction.
5. Potential for natural gas incentives.
6. City provide \$25,000 from CRA
7. City reimburse up to 5 years of ad valorem taxes (city portion) and this to begin in year 3.
8. City provide a \$55,000 low to no interest loan

It also listed intentions of Jackson County and of VIVA.

They also presented a draft lease agreement, "Project Coast" for the old Safari Building at the Airport Complex. It would be a lease for 2 years starting 2/1/22. The Commission was in favor of the lease.

City Manager Jim Dean also informed the Commission that the annual Jackson County Chamber Banquet would be February 17th at Southern Fields Brewing.

There being no further business the workshop was closed.

Mayor-Commissioner

Attest:

City Clerk