CITY OF LEEDS, ALABAMA
REGULAR SCHEDULED COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 21, 2014

The City Council of the City of Leeds, Alabama met for a Regular Scheduled Council Meeting on Monday, April 21, 2014 at 6:00 pm. at the Leeds Civic Center Meeting Room, 1000 Park Drive, Leeds, Alabama 35094.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor David Miller called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM with Councilmembers Johnny Dutton, Devoris Roscha Ragland, Eric Turner, Craig Wadsworth and Kenneth Washington present.

2. **INVOCATION AND PLEDGE:** The Invocation was led by Councilmember Eric Turner.

3. **REVIEW AND APPROVE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**: minutes of the April 7, 2014 Public Hearing and Regular Council Meeting were reviewed. Motion was made to approve the minutes as printed by Councilmember Turner with a second by Councilmember Wadsworth; the motion passed with Councilmember Ragland abstaining.

4. **OLD BUSINESS:** There was no old business to come before the Council.

5. **DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:**

a) Administration, Mayor Miller: Mayor Miller presented an updated progress of the Splash Pad project and stated that the City is shooting for an opening date of May 30, 2014. Attorney Barnett commented that Councilmember Wadsworth would present Splash Pad Rules. The Splash Pad will be free to Leeds residents.

b) Fire Department, Chief Pierce: the Fire Hydrant testing program is still in progress.

c) Police Department, Chief Jackson: Report included.

d) Library, Director Williams: Ms. Williams invited everyone to the Creek Bank Festival April 26th and added there will be projects from the Library. The Mayor also encouraged attendance at the Festival.

e) Inspection Department, Superintendent Watson: Mr. Watson reminded those present of the May 3rd City Wide Cleanup. The clean up will have central drop off areas at the Leeds Middle School and at the Leeds Community Center. The City will also be able to take tires through cooperation with Lehigh. Volunteers are needed to go into neighborhoods with trash bags.

f) Parks and Recreation Department, Supervisor Keating: No Report.

g) Streets and Sanitation Department, Supervisor Keating: Striping at Elementary School has been done and striping at the High School entrance and President Street will be done on April 22nd.

h) Municipal Court, Magistrate Roberts: No Report.

6. **COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

a) Finance Chairperson Eric Turner: No Report.

b) Public Safety Committee, Devoris Roscha Ragland: No Report.

c) **Parks & Recreation Committee, Craig Wadsworth**: No Report.

7. **NEW BUSINESS**:

a) Resolution 2014-04-07 Regarding An Economic Tax Abatement Incentive. Mayor Miller explained that because there are two components to this venture, one for the company and one for the property, there are two separate Resolutions, 2014-04-07 and 2014-04-08. Addressing the Council were Mr. Jeff Traywick, Senior Project Manager for Economic Development from the Birmingham Business Alliance and Mr. Vincent K. Perez, Project Manager from the Alabama Department of Commerce In-House Development Program. Mr. Traywick addressed the Council about the proposed economic incentives for Engineered Plastic Components Columbia, Inc. to locate within the City of Leeds. The company is looking at sites in Mississippi and Georgia as well. There will be an initial investment by the company of $7.28 million, with a projected 110 jobs. The wages for these jobs will be between $15.75/hour and $16.00/hour. This facility will serve as the Southeastern Headquarters. Discussion followed in which Councilmember Washington asked how many jobs would be local. The response was there would be one corporate person to open the facility with plans to have 110 employees by Year Three. Councilmember Washington asked what type of abatement the company is seeking. The property is the former AMPRO building at 8220 Dunnavant Road and is currently a bank owned property. The company is seeking specific relief on the equipment being brought in for use by the manufacturing business. There was discussion about the ten (10) year abatement as opposed to the five (5) year abatement which has currently been given by the City. Mayor Miller recommended that the City approve a 10 year abatement because the City needs the jobs and the 10 year abatement does not represent a lot of revenue v/s projected income. Councilmember Dutton commented that, although 10 years is a long time, the City would abate approximately $156,000 upfront with an estimated $822,000 which could be realized over the ten year period spent in the community plus 110 jobs. Councilmember Dutton added that Leeds is in a competitive situation and the City really needs to consider this. Attorney Brunson spoke about the annual abatement related to occupation tax. A motion was made to approve Resolution 2014-04-07 and Resolution 2014-04-08 as written by Councilmember Wadsworth with a second by Councilmember Dutton; the motion passed with all present voting yes.

b) Resolution 2014-04-08 Regarding An Economic Tax Abatement Incentive. Resolution 2014-04-08 was approved with Item A above.

c) Resolution 2014-04-09 Support of The Northern Belt-Line Construction. Phillip Wiedmeyer, member of the Board of Directors from the CRT (Coalition For Regional Transportation (an advocacy non-profit organization) addressed the Council concerning the Resolution. Mr. Wiedmeyer explained that the Northern Belt-Line is part of the Appalachian Development Highway System and for ten years all funding will be from that source. The project covers 52.5 miles from Hwy 459 to Interstate 59 near the town of Argo; there will be additional section from I-59 to I-20 in the future. The project will cost approximately $3 billion with an estimated $7 billion economic impact realized for the state. During the construction period of 25-30 years, 70,000 jobs will be created. A motion to approve Resolution 2014-04-09 was made by Councilmember Ragland with a second by Councilmember Dutton; Councilmember Turner gave notice that he would abstain due to conflict; the motion passed.

d) Resolution 2014-04-10 Approval of ALDOT Project STPAA-004(539) Widening, Planning, Resurfacing, Loop Detectors, Permanent Traffic Stripe, Guardrail End Anchors, and Bridge Rail Retrofit Along SR-4(US-78). A motion was made to approve Resolution 2014-04-10 by Councilmember Turner with a second by Councilmember Ragland; the motion passed with all present voting yes. A cover letter will be sent stressing the concern of the City that the entrance to Grand River should not be blocked.

e) Resolution 2014-04-11 Regarding Approval of The Replacement of The Library Heating & Cooling Ventilation Systems. Motion was made to approve Resolution 2014-04-11 by Councilmember Dutton with a second by Councilmember Wadsworth; the motion passed with all present voting yes.

f) Resolution 2014-04-12 Regarding Approval of Library Annex Lease. A motion to approve Resolution 2014-04-12 by Councilmember Turner with a second by Councilmember Dutton; the motion passed with all present voting yes.

g) Resolution 2014-04-13 Regarding Workers Compensation Insurance: Motion to approve Resolution 2014-04-13 was made by Councilmember Washington with a second by Councilmember Dutton; the motion passed with all present voting yes.

h) Board Member Appointment – Tree Commission: Motion to approve the appointment of Dr. Carl Marbury to the Tree Commission was made by Councilmember Ragland with a second by Councilmember Dutton; the motion passed with all present voting yes.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:
Councilmember Washington asked about repairing HWY 78 from I-20 into Leeds. Mayor Miller indicated that the City Administration has been attending monthly meetings with ALDOT (Alabama Department of Transportation) regarding various highway matters in Leeds. Councilmember Washington's main concern is the curve by the entrance to Carolyn Street. The Mayor indicated that he would meet with ALDOT Director Cooper about this matter.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Arthur Ray Palmer, 1053 Montevallo Road, addressed the Council regarding speeding traffic on Montevallo Road. Chief Jackson indicated that the speed trailer will be placed at this location.

Kathye Drake, 1058 Kings Forest Drive, supported Mr. Palmer's comments, and confirmed her concerns about the speeding issues.

Ann Glidewell, Leeds Area Chamber Of Commerce, expressed appreciation to the Council for support of the Chamber. Ms. Glidewell announced the Creek Bank Festival occurring this weekend and called attention to 2014 as the 20th year for this event.

Councilmember Johnny Dutton, praised Mr. Brad Watson's effective handling of a situation in District 3, as well as the Zoning decision ruling about a wholesale car business that proposed to be in the District.

Milva K Garner, 7601 Georgia Avenue, thanked the LWWB (Leeds Water Works Board) for the cleaning completed to date, but stated that there continues to be a problem with water at her residence. Ms. Garner has been at this location since 1975. Mayor informed Ms. Garner that he visited her residence during a rain event and the property was draining where the LWWB had done work with the waterline construction. Mayor indicated that he would have the Street Department look into this matter.

Lee Barnes, Chairman of LWWB, commented about Ms. Garner problem and stated that he also personally visited the site. Mr. Barnes stated that this situation is a gray area and indicated that the LWWB erred on doing more than was required in an attempt to remedy what could be the problem. Barnes spoke that the LWWB sent a crew to do the work and was informed that Ms. Garner was not satisfied with the work. Mr. Barnes stated that the LWWB has completed all work the Board is going to do and will not be going back. Councilmember Washington stated that the Board should visit the site. Councilmember Washington exited the meeting at 7:13PM.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion was made by Councilmember Turner to adjourn; the Council adjourned at 7:14PM.

David Miller, Mayor
ATTEST:

Kevin Fouts, City Clerk