

City of Guyton, Georgia

Working Together to Make a Difference



Minutes of the Guyton City Council Meeting held on Tuesday, March 8, 2016 at Guyton City Hall at 7:00 pm.

Present: Mayor Jeff Lariscy, Councilmen Steve Collins, Councilmen Franklin Goldwire, Councilmen Michael Johnson, City Attorney Ray Smith, City Manager Robert Black, City Clerk Lauree Morris as well as citizens.

Mayor Lariscy called the meeting to order. Robert Hunter offered the invocation, which was followed by a moment of repose for those who may practice some other faith. The pledge of allegiance was said.

Mayor Lariscy asked for consideration to amend the Agenda to add New Business 12D, and called for a motion to approve the Amended Agenda. Councilmen Johnson so moved. Councilmen Goldwire seconded, and the motion passed.

Councilmen Goldwire made a motion to approve the Minutes of the February 23, 2016 meeting and Councilmen Johnson seconded. Motion carried.

PLANNING AND ZONING: No report.

LEISURE SERVICES COMMISSION: Chairmen Robert Hunter stated the commission is hard at work. Line dancing, bingo and Zumba are all going well. The monthly meeting was held, plans have been finalized for the Easter Egg Hunt, which will be held from 4 to 6 pm on Monday, March 28. Mr. Hunter brought to everyone's attention that there is a young man from Guyton who has won the state championship in his weight class for the third year in a row. He stated that it would be nice to acknowledge this young man's accomplishment. The Mayor agreed.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE: No report from the committee. The Mayor thanked them for their efforts and the passion at which they pursue them.

No other committee reports were provided.

OLD BUSINESS:

Manager Black called for a discussion on the Revenue Bond for Water and Sewer System and decision on financing options. Trey Monroe with Stifel was at the meeting. He presented the Council with a formal copy of the two refinancing options, which were previously provided for Council's review. The presentation was in keeping with the adopted Resolution approving the refinancing of the revenue bonds. Council discussed the options and the fact that if we continue on our present course, we will pay \$16 million; if we refinance, we will pay \$8 million now until the rebids for the project comes in and then we will have an additional expense. It was also discussed that no matter which of the refinance options we pursue, we will save \$1 to \$1.5 million dollars by moving forward with a refinancing.

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Attorney Smith announced that on February 26, 2016, the ninety (90) day clock starting running on the Barrow appeal. If the case continues as it should, the timetable the Council discussed should hold true, meaning we are looking at approximately 150 days before any action on the construction.

After additional discussion, Councilmen Collins moved to table a decision on the refinance option until additional consideration could be granted. Councilmen Goldwire seconded and the motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Manager Black verbally presented the Audited Financial Statement for year end June 30, 2015. Donald Caines of Caines of Hodges, our auditing firm, discussed the audit and the findings with the Council. He stated that this was the first time he has presented the audit to the Mayor and Council, and that he was pleased to be doing so. The audit represents a true and correct representation of the City's finances. Everything in the report belongs to the City with the exception of the notes, which belong to the auditor. Mr. Caines discussed the various aspects of the documentation and informed the Council that although the audit contained eight findings, all have been addressed and corrected by staff with the exception of segregation of duties, which cannot be fixed based on staff size. It was discussed, by Mayor and Council, and conceded to by Mr. Caines, that our current accounting program does not meet our needs. It is not a governmental accounting program. The Mayor stated we are looking for appropriate software. Mr. Caines offered to hold a workshop with Council to discuss financial statements. The Mayor stated this would be a great idea perhaps for the budget workshop.

Manager Black called for a discussion and first reading on the Amendment to the Water and Sewer Ordinance to replace Section 5-1-11(a) and remove section 5-1-12(a)(b). This amendment is providing our citizens with extra time and extra notification regarding the payment of their utility bill. It is extending the ten (10) day late fee to fifteen (15) days, and it is providing for written notice prior to cut off. This will be done through a postcard at the expense of the City. Once customers are cut off, they will be required to pay only the past due amount and a reconnection fee of \$35. This differs from most municipalities, which require the entire past due, current balance and reconnection fee to be paid prior to service being restored. Councilmen Goldwire moved to approve the first reading. Councilmen Johnson seconded and the first reading passed.

Manager Black led a discussion on water and sewer lines for properties south of the proposed Department of Transportation Round-a-Bout by confirming that Hofstadter & Associates is reviewing the DOT plans to insure the City has the infrastructure for water and sewer in place prior to this project being completed so our future needs are met. Mayor Lariscy stated he appreciated that we are being pro-active on this matter.

Mayor Lariscy led a discussion on parliamentary procedure and adoption of same for the City. The City never adopted any parliamentary procedure. The Mayor presented Council with the Georgia Municipal Association procedure that he learned of at recent training. This GMA procedure is abbreviated and not as cumbersome as *Roberts Rule of Order*. The Mayor proposes that we follow the GMA parliamentary procedure guide until it no longer suits our needs. After discussion, Councilmen Goldwire moved to table this matter until the next meeting so all would have time to

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review more thoroughly. Councilmen Collins seconded and the motion to table passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilmen Goldwire provided a financial report.

Councilmen Johnson provided a report on streets and lanes, which included a note we have not begun the bidding process for the LMIG project at 7th and Popular. It was also noted that the center line mileage report has been submitted.

Chief Lundy provided a police report. He introduced our two new police officers: Katrina Marson and Marcus Hartwell. Both of these officers joined the force on February 24, 2016.

Chief Jarriel provided a fire report and advised that there were forty-eight (48) calls in February. He also stated that the Seniors in the Know event that was held this morning was very informative, and he is hopeful that we can do this event again in the future.

The Seniors in the Know event was well attended, very informative (as Chief Jarriel stated) and very successful. Lucy Powell stated that all of the exhibitors that were present already want to come back. She asked if we could make this an annual event, to which the Mayor and Council replied yes.

In the absence of Kelli Lariscy, Mayor Lariscy provided a publicity report. Word is still being put out about our events and the new website is being update. He shared that the website now contains a link to the entire packet that Council receives so anyone can review the same prior to a council meeting.

The dates to remember were recapped by Mayor Lariscy as follows:

- Wednesday, March 16, 4 pm – Guyton Municipal Court
- Tuesday, March 22, 7 pm – City Council Meeting
- Friday, March 25 – City Hall closed for Good Friday
- Monday, March 28, 4 to 6 pm – Community Easter Egg Hunt
- Tuesday, April 12, 7 pm – City Council Meeting
- Saturday, April 16, 8 am to 2 pm – Spring Sale on the Trail
- Wednesday, April 20, 4 pm – Guyton Municipal Court
- Tuesday, April 26, 7 pm – City Council Meeting

Pearl Boynes added that the Effingham Festival will be held all day on Saturday, April 16. This is the event formerly known as Ole Effingham Days.

Mayor Lariscy called for additional comments relating to the Agenda. After none, Councilmen Goldwire moved that we adjourn into Executive Session to discuss litigation. Councilmen Johnson seconded, and the motion was approved by all.

After returning from Executive Session into Regular Session as moved by Councilmen Johnson,

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seconded by Councilmen Collins and approved by all, the Council briefly discussed a pending litigation matter as well as a need to review the equipment response charge when looking at fire rescue fees. After no additional business, comments or votes, Mayor Lariscy called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmen Johnson made the motion, which was seconded by Councilmen Collins and approved. Meeting adjourned.

Lauree Morris

Lauree Morris, City Clerk

Jeff Lariscy

Jeff Lariscy, Mayor

