

Council Minutes
City of Gordon
Called Meeting
January 8, 2016

The Council of the City of Gordon held a Called Meeting on Friday, January 8, 2016 at the City Annex located at 108 Elam Street at 5:00 p.m. Members present were Mayor Mary Ann Whipple-Lue and Council Members Mr. Freddie Densley, Mr. Terry Eady, Mr. Tommy Smallwood, Mrs. Barbara Towles, Mrs. Doretha Whipple, and Mr. George Wynn.

Mayor said, "The meeting is now called to order. Today's date is January 8, 2016 and for those of you I've not seen, Happy New Year. We know that has been....that this is a Called Meeting. We have on the agenda....Can I borrow yours? Initiate investigation in accordance with charter provision – section 3.12. (Copy of section 3.12 attached.) But, before we begin, before we do anything, we'd like to ask you to bow your heads for a word of prayer."

Invocation was given by Mayor.

Mayor said, "And let us stand for the Pledge of Allegiance."

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mayor said, "You may be seated. Once again, we'll get this meeting underway to initiate and you have the floor from there. I don't know. Council, you all go ahead."

Councilman Eady said, "Yes ma'am, I'd like to go ahead and make this motion. Because the City of Gordon remains under a duty to comply with the open records request and because this Council has the power under section 3.12 to investigate the Mayor's actions, I now make a motion that this Council initiate an investigation into the office of the Mayor of the City of Gordon and examine her conduct pertaining to production of e-mails under the Open Records Act. I make that as a motion."

Councilman Wynn said, "And I second it."

Council Member Whipple said, "Discussion."

Mayor said, "A motion has been made and seconded. Discussion."

Council Member Whipple said, "I would like to say that if we gone go by the Charter, we gone have to go by the Charter on everything, not just some things. We gone have to go by the Charter with everything. And I was reading over section 3 point...Section 3.12 and that could mean something else, too. While reading over the Charter provision, section 3.12, I reviewed some of the other ordinances such as 2, section 2.16, part 5 and 1. If you have your charter, you can follow it with me."

Mayor said, "Go ahead."

Councilman Eady said, "Pardon me. This is strictly about just 3.12. The motion that we have in front of us."

Council Member Whipple said, "This is about 3.12. But, it also, just to keep in mind, that when you reading it, and I think you probably need to hear this Councilman Eady."

Councilman Eady said, "Go ahead. I'm listening."

Council Member Whipple said, "Okay. I reviewed some of the other ordinances and like I said, this could be pertaining to...It is pertaining to 3.12, too. That all of the ordinances such as 2.16 – no elected officials, appointed officer or employee of the City or agent or political entity, to which the Charter applies, shall knowingly represent other private interest in any action or proceeding against the City on any portion of its government, or any portion of its government engage in any business or transaction or have a financial or other personal interest, direct or indirect, which is in compatibility with the proper discharge of his official duties or which would tend to impair the independence of his judgment. And this City is still in court and awaiting the Judge's decision and we have two Councilmen, Councilman Eady, yourself, and Councilman Densley that are part of an action that it could...that could impair you all's judgment. But anything that goes with the City because you do have a lawsuit...I mean actions against the City and it's still in court."

Council Member Towles said, "And that is a violation of the Gordon's Charter."

Council Member Whipple said, "And so I would ask the Council...I suggest that the Council stop this cat and mouse game and move this City forward and honor the City's Oath of Office, section 3.11 which state they will support and defend the Charter and I suggest with that, I would like to suggest that we remove this motion."

Councilman Eady said, "My motion still stands. I request that we have a roll call vote at this time. "

Council Member Whipple said, "I'm letting ya'll know that you are in violation of the charter 2, section 2.16."

Councilman Eady again said, "I request a roll call vote, please."

Mayor asked, "Is there any further discussion Council? Roll call discussion. Councilman, let's hear what you have to say, Councilman, roll call discussion. Councilman Densley, you don't have any discussion about what was just said?"

Councilman Densley said, "I understand what she was saying."

Mayor asked, "And what was that?"

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Councilman Densley replied, "What she just read, I understand that."

Mayor said, "You understand that."

Councilman Densley said, "I understand what she read."

Mayor said, "Okay. You understand what Councilman Eady is saying."

Councilman Densley replied, "Yeah."

Mayor said, "So what's your take?"

Councilman Densley asked, "Are we voting now?"

Mayor replied, "Right. What are you in support of?"

Councilman Densley replied, "I vote aye."

Mayor asked, "On what motion?"

Councilman Eady said, "On the motion we have."

Mayor said, "Alright."

Councilman Eady said, "I vote aye."

Mayor said, "Councilman Smallwood."

Councilman Smallwood said, "Aye."

Mayor said, "Councilwoman Towles."

Council Member Towles said, "No, because in violation of the Charter. This has brought action against the City of Gordon, really."

Council Member Whipple said, "We don't need no more, we don't need no more suits against the City because you can't...When we went to court, we found out that it was not against the Mayor, but the Mayor was sued...I mean it was against the City of Gordon because the Mayor stands for the City of Gordon."

Councilman Wynn said, "Aye."

Council Member Whipple said, "I vote no."

Council Member Towles said, "I vote no."

City Clerk said, "Motion carried."

Councilman Eady said, "I make a motion we adjourn."

Councilman Wynn said, "Second it."

Mayor said, "A motion has been made and seconded. Any discussion? If not, we thank you all for coming. Meeting is adjourned."

Meeting adjourned at 5:08 p.m.

February 1, 2016
Approved & Adopted

Mayor Greg Whipple Lee
Mayor

Jowana Brown
City Clerk