

Council Minutes
City of Gordon
August 15, 2016

The Council of the City of Gordon held a meeting on Monday, August 15, 2016 at 5:45 p.m. at the City Annex located at 108 Elam Street. Members present were Mayor Mary Ann Whipple-Lue and Council Members Mr. Freddie Densley, Mr. Terry Eady, Mrs. Barbara Towles, Doretha Whipple, and Councilman George Wynn.

Mayor said, "Good evening. Today's date is August 15th, we're now ready to begin the regular Council Meeting. We will ask Councilwoman Whipple to lead us in a word of prayer please."

Council Member Whipple said, "Let us bow our heads, please."

Invocation was given by Council Member Whipple.

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

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mayor said, "We'd like to welcome you, once more and again, to our City Council, the Gordon, Georgia City Council Meeting and we have before us the minutes, Council Minutes, from July 18, 2016. Council, have you all had your opportunity?"

Councilman Eady said, "I make a motion that we adopt them as presented here tonight."

Councilman Wynn said, "I'll second it."

Mayor said, "Motion has been made and seconded. Any discussion?"

Council Member Whipple said, "I had two things that I would like to get straightened out before we pass."

Mayor said, "Okay."

Council Member Whipple said, "On page 8."

Mayor asked, "Number 8?"

Council Member Whipple said, "Page 8. It's...It should be...It's in the the third paragraph, where I spent over, it should be I spent under."

Mayor asked, "Which one?"

Council Member Whipple said, "It's page 8."

Mayor said, "I'm looking at that, but I'm just saying, which one? I was supposed to spend at least not over or not under, which is that?"

City Clerk said, "She's saying right there she is wanting to change it from I spent over to I spent under. But, I typed what I heard on the tape recorder. She might not have meant to say it, but she's wanting to change it."

Council Member Whipple said, "If I said it, if I said that I meant under, but I thought I said over, I mean under. It should be under, but it didn't go over."

Mayor asked, "So, that's the total amount that you saying that you spent?"

Council Member Whipple replied, "Yes."

Mayor said, "Okay."

Council Member Whipple said, "I didn't go over, no."

Mayor said, "Alright."

Council Member Whipple said, "And page 33, I think its paragraph 9. And I said, we didn't say...We didn't say you didn't pay, not re-pay. Re-pay shouldn't be in there."

Mayor said, "So, take the "re" out."

Council Member Whipple said, "The re-pay. I mean we didn't re-pay. I just said you didn't, you didn't pay."

Councilman Eady said, "State it, re-state it again. I'm not following exactly what you're saying."

Council Member Whipple said, "Okay. I said...I said we didn't say, you didn't pay."

Mayor said, "So you said it twice. Is that what you're saying?"

Council Member Whipple said, "I'm saying...What I'm saying I said it once, but I said you

didn't...we didn't say you didn't pay. I didn't say anything about re-pay."

Councilman Eady said, "Okay."

City Clerk said, "She's wanting to take "re" off, but that's what I heard."

Councilman Eady again said, "Okay."

City Clerk said, "That's another reason I'd like to get a transcriptionist."

Council Member Whipple said, "It's a simple....It's a simple error. I don't know what, but it was a simple error I know. It was a simple error so I'm not going to argue about it."

Mayor asked, "Is there anything else? If not, motion..."

Councilman Eady said, "I will amend my motion...I will amend my motion to include those two changes."

Councilman Wynn said, "I second it."

Mayor said, "Motion has been made and second. No further discussion. We'll take a vote starting with Councilman Wynn."

Roll call went as follows: Councilman Wynn - aye, Council Member Whipple - aye, Council Member Towles - aye, Councilman Eady - aye, Councilman Densley - aye.

Mayor said, "The ayes have it. Alright."

City Clerk said to Mayor, "Sign those." (July 18, 2016 Council Minutes were signed.)

Mayor said, "Alright. Next we'll move on to the Executive Session Minutes of July 18th."

Council Member Towles said, "I have a correction for the Executive Session, but I know we can't discuss it in this meeting, but there is a correction that I have."

Mayor said, "Council."

Council Member Whipple said, "I have one, too."

Councilman Eady asked, "Is it a page or just one or two words like we did before?"

Council Member Whipple said, "It is not a word."

Council Member Towles said, "I have a line."

Mayor said, "You all have heard. So what's you all's take Council?"

Council Member Whipple said, "We don't have to go into a special one. But, we... I think we need to get it corrected at our next Executive Session."

Mayor asked, "Do you all want to wait that long? It's up to you all."

Councilman Eady said, "We can't go into an Executive Session just to change the minutes. You have to wait and then you have to add it to it that night."

Mayor said, "Well. Do I have a motion that we..."

Council Member Whipple said, "I offer a motion that when we have our next Executive Session that we could go over the corrections at our next Executive Session."

Council Member Towles said, "I second it."

Mayor said, "Motion has been made and second. All in favor, Councilman Wynn."

Roll call went as follows: Councilman Wynn - aye, Council Member Whipple - aye, Council Member Towles - aye, Councilman Eady - aye, Councilman Densley - aye.

Mayor said, "The ayes have it. Alright. Next we have the Special Called Meeting of July 20, 2016."

Council Member Whipple said, "I offer a motion that we accept the Special Called Meeting for July 20, 2016."

Councilman Wynn said, "I second it."

Mayor said, "Motion has been made and second. Do...Any discussion? No discussion. We'll start with Councilman Wynn."

Roll call went as follows: Councilman Wynn - aye, Council Member Whipple - aye, Council Member Towles - aye, Councilman Eady - aye, Councilman Densley - aye.

Mayor said, "The ayes have it. Alright. Next on the agenda would be the Mayor's notes and I have what we...here from the Wilkinson County, 2016 Wilkinson County Chamber of Commerce Annual Golf Tournament at the Milledgeville Country Club and this is Friday, September 30, 2016, save the date."

Mayor said, "Alright, next. Someone has informed me that the air conditioner had been running here since the last Council Meeting until Friday of this week. So, what we need to do is please make every...unless there's something, you know, going on or what have you here, an event, we need to please make sure the air is off when the meeting is over. So would ya'll check on that?"

Chief Hall said, "We usually pretty much check that or at least turn it down."

Councilman Eady said, "We turned it off."

Chief Hall said, "That's what I thought."

Councilman Eady said, "We turned it off."

Chief Hall said, "It was turned off."

Councilman Eady said, "We turned it off, yes ma'am."

Mayor said, "Okay."

Chief Hall said, "I usually set them up on about 78 degrees, the one on the thermostat." That ones usually turned off."

Mayor said, "Alright, so, you know just be a...just make sure you check every, you know... Alright, number two. The recognition honoring the...our law, law officers and the local police department was a huge success and again, we thank you all for your services."

Chief Hall said, "Thank ya'll for hosting it."

Mayor said, "That's all I have for the Mayor's notes. So we have old business. As far as the budget is concerned, you all like Councilman Eady said, you will get your questions and if

you have some, please feel free to call the Regional Commission, Mr. Boike and Matt, and discuss that with them. So, next on the agenda we have the milage rate and advertize. So..."

Councilman Eady said, "I make a motion that we adopt the milage rate as it's presented to us which is 4.645 for the upcoming year and advertize it in the paper as such."

Mayor said, "The motion has been made. Do I have a second?"

Councilman Wynn said, "I'll second it."

Mayor asked, "Any discussion? No discussion. We'll put it to a vote starting with Councilman Wynn, roll call."

Roll call went as follows: Councilman Wynn - aye, Council Member Whipple - aye, Council Member Towles - aye, Councilman Eady - aye, Councilman Densley - aye.

Mayor said, "The ayes have it. Alright. No further old business. We move on to new business. We have approve purchase of mowers. Now, who is that? Is that you Mr. Lawrence? And come up and tell us what kind of mowers and where is the information and all of that. What are we doing with the mowers that we already have?"

Councilman Eady asked, "Melvin, are you substituting these mowers in place with something else because I went back and looked and I didn't see mowers on this. You have a generator and a truck that was listed and I didn't see a mower on it."

Supt. Lawrence said, "No. It was on there for..."

Councilman Eady said, "Under the SPLOST Fund, it didn't show it, you know, is all."

Supt. Lawrence said, "It was on there."

Councilman Eady said, "But you're not going to get a truck anyway this year are you?"

Supt. Lawrence said, "No."

Councilman Eady said, "No. Probably not. You'll have plenty of money. It's okay."

Mayor asked, "Is this in the SPLOST you're talking about?"

Councilman Eady said, "Yes ma'am."

Mayor said, "Now that's not the one in this budget is it?"

Councilman Eady said, "This is for last year."

Supt. Lawrence said, "No, this is the one we had approved from last year."

Mayor said, "It's already been approved. Okay."

Councilman Eady said, "Yes ma'am."

City Clerk said, "It's not under SPLOST though. It's under capital."

Mayor asked, "In this budget?"

City Clerk said, "It's under capital in our current budget. It could go under SPLOST because it's under highways and streets."

Councilman Eady said, "The 15 - 16 budget."

City Clerk said, "Yes sir."

Mayor said, "So that Mr. Lawrence, even though you're talking about that now, what about that one that you've gotten going up and down the highway that's, you know, is it working better now?"

Supt. Lawrence asked, "The side arm mower?"

Mayor said, "The side, uh huh."

Supt. Lawrence said, "Yes, yes ma'am."

Mayor said, "So, we still using that."

Supt. Lawrence said, "Yes ma'am."

Supt. Lawrence distributed quotes on two mowers to Mayor and Council. (Copies attached.)

Mayor said, "Pass it on down."

City Clerk said to Mayor, "That's another one in front of these. There's two."

Mayor said, "Oh."

City Clerk said, "Take one of those and then pass it down. There you go."

Supt. Lawrence said, "That second one you got, it actually have the prices of both of them on there. The..."

Mayor asked, "Is this industrial type?"

Supt. Lawrence said, "Yes it is. They...The one with the roll bar going over the top of the seat, this is the more heavy..."

Mayor said, "Is this is the one you talking about, that 321?"

Supt. Lawrence said, "Yes, and it is listed as 5999, so \$5999.00. But, he's gone let us have it at 53, a little over fifty three hundred."

Mayor asked, "Who is this, John Deere?"

Supt. Lawrence said, "No, this is Macon Outdoor Power."

Mayor asked, "Do they do, you know...What do you call this, for the City? You know, is this a contract or something?"

Councilman Eady asked, "City contract?"

Supt. Lawrence said, "No, no, no. I was just going around getting different prices."

Mayor said, "Okay."

Councilman Wynn said, "Normally you get a government discount."

Mayor said, "That's what I'm asking."

Councilman Wynn said, "Yeah, you get a government discount."

Mayor said, "Okay. So, that would be the \$5399, the government."

Supt. Lawrence replied, "Yes, and its tax free, so."

Councilman Eady asked, "Which size is this one? I mean, it lists a bunch of different sizes. Is the last one the biggest one?"

Supt. Lawrence replied, "Right. It's that one and on that other sheet."

Councilman Eady said, "It's the last one on here, too."

Mayor asked, "How much is that one Mr. Lawrence?"

Supt. Lawrence replied, "It's the \$5399."

Mayor said, "I see one up here that says \$9000.00. Isn't that what you see?"

Supt. Lawrence asked, "Ma'am?"

Mayor asked, "Is that \$10,000.00? It says the receipt total on this one."

Supt. Lawrence replied, "Oh, that was for both of the mowers together. But..."

Mayor asked, "How many do we need?"

Supt. Lawrence replied, "I'm just getting one."

Mayor asked, "Who gone be running that one, operating it rather?"

Supt. Lawrence replied, "Just as needed."

Councilman Wynn asked, "Is this the one you got?"

Supt. Lawrence replied, "That's the one....."

Mayor asked, "Our men know how to operate these don't they?"

Supt. Lawrence said, "I was going to get the...this one."

Council Member Towles asked, "The one with the bar?"

Supt. Lawrence replied, "Yes. This one here because it's more heavy duty, a 61" deck. Both of them 61" decks, but the one with the roll bar, it is a little bit more heavy duty than the other one."

Mayor said, "So, which....Which one do we get the best bang for the buck? Which one?"

Supt. Lawrence said, "Well, they're pretty close. One is 22 horse power and one is 23 horse power."

Mayor said, "Twenty-three and one is what?"

Supt. Lawrence replied, "Twenty-two."

Mayor said, "So this one is the twenty-three one, I suppose."

Councilman Wynn said, "Only a horse power difference, I would say stick ..."

Councilman Eady asked, "This ones got the roll bar and the other one doesn't?"

Supt. Lawrence asked, "Sir?"

Councilman Eady asked, "One does and one doesn't have the roll bar?" The one you..."

Supt. Lawrence replied, "Right, right."

Councilman Eady said, "I'd rather have the roll bar for safety anyway."

Mayor asked, "Oh, is that right?"

Councilman Eady replied, "Yes, ma'am."

Councilman Wynn said, "A lot of places won't let you come on their property if you don't have a roll bar."

Councilman Eady asked, "It's Macon Outdoor Power, on Vineville or ?"

Supt. Lawrence replied, "Yes. It's out there close to Vineville, but it's Napier."

Councilman Eady said, "It's a street over. I know where it is."

Councilman Wynn asked, "He's going to let you have this for fifty-three?"

Supt. Lawrence asked, "Sir?"

Councilman Wynn replied, "Fifty-three?"

Supt. Lawrence replied, "Yeah."

Mayor said, "Now, that would come under the...As we've said, we've already got that allocated in the SPLOST to get that."

Councilman Eady said, "Yes ma'am."

Mayor said, "Okay. Have ya'll had a chance to look over it and ask more questions, Council? How soon do you need this Councilman, I'm sorry, Superintendent?"

Supt. Lawrence replied, "Just as soon as ya'll approve it."

Mayor asked, "Council, are you all ready to take a vote on this tonight?"

Councilman Eady said, "I make a motion that we purchase the mower that he recommended for \$5300.00 from Macon Outdoor Power."

Councilman Wynn and Council Member Whipple both said, "I second it."

Councilman Wynn said, "Go ahead."

Mayor said, "Motion has been made and seconded by..."

City Clerk said, "Mrs. Whipple was the one I heard first."

Mayor said, "Alright. Any further discussion or questions? If not, we'll start roll call with Councilman Wynn."

Roll call went as follows: Councilman Wynn - aye, Council Member Whipple - aye, Council Member Towles - aye, Councilman Eady - aye, Councilman Densley - aye.

Mayor said, "The ayes have it. And Superintendent, we'd like to see this one under the shed and not in the rain, please."

Supt. Lawrence said, "Yes ma'am."

Mayor said, "Alright. Next, we'll move on to the committee reports - Main Street Gordon."

Mr. Daniel said, "Yes. Thank you."

Mayor said, "The procedure, we follow procedure."

Mr. Daniel, "Yes, like I said at the last meeting, the banners will be here by the end of August. A & P Banners is working on that. We've got about four poles we're gonna need work on. I've meet with Melvin, Melvin Lawrence at the park out there with the stage. Melvin's gonna see what we can do to get the stage back in the proper order."

Mayor asked, "And how ya'll going to continue to keep it, you know, ya'll gone work on preserving it, so..."

Mr. Daniel said, "Well, the top is easy to preserve. Around the bottom it's just flimsy, aluminum lining around it, you know. It's subject to the wind or whatever else that gets a hold of it so, but we'll try to get that back in shape. All our bands, fireworks, the man sent us our paperwork on the fireworks and I'll go up and talk to the probate judge on that to be sure we square with that. The tents have been rented. Tayor Port-a-Potties, the restroom facilities have been rented so we're ready to go on that. We're looking for a great festival. We're looking for great weather and what else do..."

Mayor said, "I know the people have been asking."

Mr. Daniel said, "And we're looking for some type of event later on in the year for city employee appreciation day. We're working on that."

Mayor said, "Thank you."

Mr. Daniel said, "Thank ya'll."

Mayor said, "Alright. Our next report is fire."

Councilman Eady said, "We've been very fortunate lately with fires, you know. We haven't had any major fires in the last two or three months, yes ma'am."

Mayor said, "Okay. Streets."

Council Member Whipple said, "We have a leak in the road that's starting on Westbrook in front of the Ray of Hope Church and I think they said they had that leak up there before. George, you probably know something about that. You know where Ray of Hope Church at, that leak."

Councilman Wynn said, "I haven't been out that way."

Council Member Whipple said, "Well, it's starting to leak again and so it really needs..."

Mayor asked, "Have you contacted Mr. Lawrence and let him know about it? Is he available?"

Council Member Whipple replied, "No. I'm just reporting it now. I just found out about it."

Mayor said, "Okay, gotcha."

Council Member Whipple said, "And I think that leak has been there before so we really need to get on it because if we don't, we don't want the road caving in, if it keep getting the same leak. And I did have a talk with Supt. Lawrence and about maybe some work habit changes and we are...will be...I will be sitting in on some interviews. I think they gone be hiring the two employees on Thursday morning, so I hope that would ... Melvin, I know that the city, these streets are not where they need to be right now and I'm actually thinking about if I can get the help, starting...until we can get the city back in shape, if we could get some volunteers, if I can get some volunteers to come out and probably help. I hadn't set a date yet because it's just something that came into my mind and I want to work on it, is to help out with maybe like the sidewalks and the street and help just clean up the city."

Mayor said, "Excuse me Councilwoman."

Council Member Whipple said, "So, we are thinking about that."

Mayor said, "I'm glad you brought that out. I'm sorry you all. That was something that I had in the Mayor's notes. Ms. Jenelle McLore from the EPA Division, and this is called CUPP, and I don't know if...I think I put that information in you all's box. Do you all recall this? And if not,

I'll be more than happy to get you that information, a copy. She came down and met with me last Wednesday and what this is, this is a College for Undeserved Community Partnership Program. It's called CUPP and she said she had met with the previous mayor and they were about to implement this project. And what they do, it provides a creative approach to partnership and delivering technical assistance to small, undeserved communities from local colleges and universities at no cost to the communities. So, that would be something that you could, you know, collaborate with her and they are interested. These are college students and they are doing it with, partnering with the schools and such and they are eager to come in and we've been wanting to improve our city you all. Don't ya'll agree?"

Councilman Eady replied, "Yes ma'am."

Mayor said, "And this will be something and this is working toward them, their credit unit hours with their courses and, I mean, they have a wealth of information and I will be more than happy...She's asked me to get a list of things that we want done in the community."

Councilman Wynn asked, "Is that just technical help or is that labor?"

Mayor replied, "This is labor. I mean with the park, I mean, you know I've ordered ...I meant to tell you all, too. You all gave me the go ahead and the clerk, deputy clerk has ordered the two benches to go out at the park, and so, with that being said, and she's anxious and eager to get this started. So, as soon as I can get you a copy and get you that information, she'll be happy. Do ya'll want me to bring her back to the Council Meeting? That way all of you all get to..."

Councilman Eady said, "That will be good, yes ma'am."

Mayor said, "Okay."

Council Member Whipple said, "You can get the information and Melvin and myself can get together and see what it's all about."

Mayor said, "Yes, because we..."

Council Member Whipple said, "We really... We really need it because I was thinking about it like I said, I was fixing to get some volunteers."

Mayor said, "Okay."

Council Member Whipple said, "You know, come in so..."

Mayor said, "Well, you can do that, too. I mean we...I think this is...that's a good thing because we have people in the community and we should even have a clean up day. Not just wait until the festival to come about, but you know, this is all of our community. We all need to lend a helping hand."

Councilman Wynn said, "They used to have a clean-up Saturday every three or four months."

Mayor asked, "Is that right?"

Council Member Whipple said, "Yeah. We need it to."

Councilman Wynn said, "Better Hometown used to handle that, didn't they?"

Mr. Daniel said, "As soon as we get the grass cut, we'll be there."

Council Member Whipple said, "Well we...We gone need all the help we can get because our city really is not looking..."

Mayor said, "It's really not. We're just a bit, you know...Now, we just to look beautiful and we got some beautiful...What do you call those, those landmarks? Those historical...What do you call them, when you come into the city?"

Councilman Eady asked, "The marquees?"

Mayor said, "The marquees. They're beautiful and now we got some money in the budget and Council, you all, I'll get out there and help beautify, and I don't mind working making our home town look good. So, I'll do that and..."

Council Member Whipple said, "Well, you just passed on the information."

Mayor said, "Okay. I will do that. But, I'll just say when ya'll see me out there working, don't think the Mayor's going against you all. We just want to beautify it okay. Alright. Thank you so much for that and we'll move on to police."

Council Member Towles said, "The only thing I have is all the phone lines, the service went out at the police department yesterday and Windstream said that it's out dated and needs to be updated so Chief Hall said that he would get with them and would see how much they charge for services and what they need and he'll get back with me."

Mayor asked, "What kind of outage did you have Chief?"

Chief Hall said, "Just the phone system."

Mayor asked, "Everything?"

Chief Hall said, "It went out. We could not receive. We could not call out and we couldn't receive in."

Mayor said, "That sounds like what I've been going through and I'm not with ya'll."

Chief Hall said, "It happened... You know we have multiple phones. We have multiple phone lines on all the phones and the problems we having now is when something does go out, it's so outdated they don't have the parts to fix it anymore."

Mayor asked, "So, what are they suggesting that you all do?"

Chief Hall replied, "A new update to the whole system which is several thousand dollars."

Mayor asked, "So, will that be on their end or is that..."

Chief Hall said, "No. That will be on our end. You know the last time we updated was about eight or ten years ago."

Councilman Eady said, "At least that long."

Chief Hall said, "It was eight or ten years ago we updated. That's back when we didn't have nothing. It's old now. I guess electrical storms come through and it comes through the phone lines. It does a lot of damage to everything. This time there was no storm or nothing and lines were out everywhere."

Mayor said, "Alright. Thank you so much. And so Councilwoman, you were able to get the policy and procedure that you said...Do you have that?"

Council Member Towles said, "Yes, yes, yes."

Mayor said, "Okay. So, when will I get that?"

Council Member Towles replied, "I'll get it to you tomorrow so you can make copies."

Mayor said, "Thank you. Alright. Now, we're moving on to sanitation."

Councilman Densley said, "I don't have anything under sanitation."

Mayor said, "So, he's...Mr. Dixon's on time."

Councilman Densley said, "Yeah."

Mayor said, "Alright good. We don't have anything with water, I guess waters fine. Alright I don't have anything else. Council, don't have anything else. Do you all have anything?"

Councilman Eady said, "I don't. No ma'am."

Mayor said, "If that being all, I'd like a motion to ..."

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

Councilman Wynn said, "I second it."

Mayor said, "A motion has been made and second. All in favor."

Roll call went as follows: Councilman Densley - aye, Councilman Eady - aye, Council Member Towles - aye, Council Member Whipple - aye, Councilman Wynn - aye.

Mayor said, "Alright. Good evening. Next Council Meeting is September 5th."

Meeting was adjourned at 6:14 p.m.

September 6, 2016
Approved & Adopted.

Kerry Whipple-Lue
Mayor

Imana Snow
City Clerk