

Council Minutes  
City of Gordon  
April 16, 2018

The Council of the City of Gordon held a meeting on Monday, April 16, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. at the City Annex located at 115 College Street. Members present were Mayor Kenneth Turner and Council Members Bruce Daniel, Freddie Densley, Terry Eady, Rose Lawrence, Phyllis Payne, and George Wynn.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Turner at 5:30 p.m.

Mayor Turner welcomed all present and asked if anyone present had any urgent business and would like to be added to the agenda. Hearing no response, the agenda remained as posted.

A motion was made by Councilman Wynn and seconded by Councilman Daniel to accept the March 19, 2018 Council Meeting Minutes and the April 10, 2018 Work Shop minutes as presented. Voting for the motion were 6 ayes and 0 nays. Motion carried.

At a previous Council Meeting, the Council re-appointed Dennis Smith as chairman of the County Board of Health, but it was not the chairman position up for re-appointment. The actual member needing to be replaced is Doretha Whipple who was a former member of the Gordon City Council. Mayor recommended Justin Mickler for this position. A motion was made by Councilman Wynn, seconded by Council Member Payne to appoint Justin Mickler to the Board of Health to replace Doretha Whipple. Voting for the motion were 6 ayes and 0 nays. Motion carried. A letter of appointment to the Board of Health to be written and copied to Justin Mickler.

Mayor gave update on paving and patching of city streets. Striping of streets and additional patching was discussed. Speed breakers are to be placed on Elam Street, College Street, and Main Street. Additional cost of \$6000.00 - \$7000.00 for additional patching and striping was discussed.

The partial paving of Hooks Street was discussed. A motion was made by Council Member Lawrence and seconded by Councilman Wynn to pave the remainder of Hooks Street based on the projections given tomorrow and based on the original price quote. Voting for the motion were 6 aye and 0 nays. Motion carried.

Mayor reported on preparation of the GIRMA insurance application with assistance from GMA representative Pam Helton.

Mayor also gave update on insurance claim that was submitted due to storm damage.

Storm damage at Wilkinson County Recreation Park was discussed. The storm damage to the park has not been repaired and it is now time for ball season.

Miller Edwards, a partner at Mauldin & Jenkins, CPA's, presented the audit for year ended September 30, 2017. He reported that the financial audit has been filed with the state and given to Towana. (Copy of audit on file at City Hall.) The city was issued a "clean opinion" which is a good thing. There were no findings against the City of Gordon operations this year. Mr. Edwards presented a copy of the Auditor's Discussion & Analysis, Financial & Compliance Audit Summary for year ended September 30, 2017 to Mayor and Council. (Copy on file at City Hall.)

Mr. Edwards stated the SPLOST Funds are in good shape as of September 30, 2017.

Councilman Eady stressed that over half of the SPLOST Funds have been spent since September 30, 2017.

Mr. Edwards stated that the General Fund is still in good shape. He then highlighted items on pages 6 and 7. He reported on the strong fund balance the city had four years ago being able to operate a year without having to take in any money to operate. He highlighted rows 14 - 17 showing losses totaling approximately \$424,000.00 out of the General Fund for the last four years. He stressed that the city has got to stop spending the kind of money its been spending in the last four years unless the city is going to have additional revenues that are not expected. His concern is that it is amazing to watch the city go from an incredibly good looking financial statement four years ago to now and if we continue at this spending rate for the next two years the city will be in a deficit. Mr. Edwards stated the city still has about 149 days of fund balance and is still in good shape, but will not be if the city keeps spending at the rate it has been.

Councilman Eady reported that some spending cuts have been made including terminating insurance on Mayor and Council Members and eliminating training for same. Water and sewer rates were also raised to bring in additional revenue. He also stressed that interest rates are down and sales tax revenues are down resulting in less income for the city.

Mr. Edwards encouraged making budget amendments throughout the year specifically on a quarterly or mid year level.

Chief Mike Hall presented quote for a computer to store all the video files for the Gordon Police Department. The quote is from CCMI in the amount of \$1731.80. (Copy of quote attached.)

This item is not in the current budget. Chief Hall recommended paying \$1000.00 out of the Drug Seizure Fund and the remaining \$731.80 out of SPLOST Funds. After discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Eady and seconded by Councilman Wynn to purchase the computer system as presented and to pay \$1000.00 out of the Drug Seizure Fund and \$731.00 out of the SPLOST Fund for the system. Voting for the motion were 6 ayes and 0 nays. Motion carried.

Chief Hall presented two quotes for a radio system for the Gordon Police Department and explained why the new system is needed. The radio system is in the budget but not enough was budgeted to cover the total amount. The quotes are as follows:

Dean's Commercial Two-Way \$39,841.70 + \$1500.00 approx. with tower  
Macon Communications, Inc. \$40,803.41 (Includes tower)

Council discussed amending the SPLOST budget to cover the total cost of the radio system.

A motion was made by Council Member Lawrence and seconded by Councilman Densley to purchase the radio system from Macon Communications, Inc., in the amount of \$40,803.41 and to be paid for out of SPLOST. Voting for the motion were 6 ayes and 0 nays. Motion carried.

Chief Hall reported that several tickets have been written since the "No Thru Trucks" Ordinance has been passed.

Mayor presented water leak adjustment request from Tyrone Evans at 101 Reese Street. A motion was made by Councilman Eady and seconded by Councilman Wynn to approve a two month consecutive adjustment by averaging as is normal procedure. Voting for the motion were 6 ayes and 0 nays. Motion carried.

Mayor presented water leak adjustment request from Gary Durden at 220M Milledgeville Highway. A motion was made by Council Member Payne and seconded by Council Member Lawrence to approve a two month consecutive adjustment by averaging as is normal procedure. Voting for the motion were 6 ayes and 0 nays. Motion carried.

Mayor presented water leak adjustment request from Farmer Brown located at 226 Milledgeville Road. A motion was made by Council Member Payne and seconded by Councilman Wynn to approve a one month adjustment by averaging as is normal procedure. Voting for the motion were 6 ayes and 0 nays. Motion carried.

The FIRST AMENDMENT TO INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT between the City of

Gordon and the City of Ivey regarding the force main was discussed. (Copy of IGA attached.)

Attorney Green highlighted changes to the Intergovernmental Agreement that were made since the Work Shop held on April 10, 2018.

The City of Gordon will take over the maintenance of the force main that comes from Ivey to Gordon at the place where Zschimmer and Schwarz will tap into it at Pine Street and to the sewage treatment system. The Wilkinson County Development Authority will pay a \$25,000.00 tap fee into the force main with the fee to be paid to the City of Gordon and divided with the City of Ivey.

Water & sewage rates for Zschimmer & Schwarz were discussed. There will be two meters installed. One for water and one for sewage.

After discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Eady and seconded by Councilman Wynn to adopt the FIRST AMENDMENT TO INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT as presented. Voting for the motion were 6 ayes and 0 nays. Motion carried.

Mayor gave update on water plant improvements and new fencing. He reported that the new chemical system has been installed at Well #2 and is in use. The liner has been installed at Well #3 and the new chemical system will be installed on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. A service pump is still out being repaired. Other EPD requirements were discussed which might mean we have to have a separate room for each chemical at each well which would result in an additional fifteen to twenty thousand dollars in expenses.

Supt. Lawrence reported that everything is going fine with the improvements and additions. He reported on an issue with the well pump at Well #3 that is in the ground that is not keeping up with the high service pumps which pump out to the distribution system. This issue to be addressed soon.

Clean up due to sewage back up at the Dollar General discussed. Supt. Lawrence has not heard from anyone concerning clean up efforts.

Council Member Lawrence asked Mayor to explain, for community awareness, about the results of the last water samples that were sent in for testing.

Mayor Turner explained in detail the results of test taken in September of 2017 that showed high lead and copper content. There is no lead in the water that comes out of the ground. He

explained that the city adjusts the chemicals to make it less likely to leach out lead from water lines particularly in the homes. He explained how water samples were taken from homes and tested and the results of those tests. The ph was corrected around December of 2017. Additional water samples were taken and tested and no lead issues were indicated. Another set of samples will be taken and sent off for testing this week. New chemical systems are being installed at each well to help prevent this problem.

Council Member Lawrence expressed her regret that she wished they would have know about the problem as soon as it had happened so that it could have been addressed then. She expressed her concern that with all the talk that is out in the community, it is crucial that the city send something out to the citizens letting them know the plan of action that the Council has taken to correct those issues and to explain to them the results of the last testing.

Mayor to compile a letter concerning same.

Attorney Green is working on a new sewerage ordinance.

Supt. Lawrence reported that Taylor Aviles has attended the wastewater treatment training in Gainesville and she is studying diligently for the wastewater test. The other two new hires are working out fine.

Mayor stated he would really like to see the city hold the Fall Line Festival this year but did not know if we could due to financial issues. He stated he would like to hold a work shop in the next week or so to discuss the possibility of having the Fall Line Festival this year.

Mayor stated that Taylor Aviles will be reading the water meters and will be reading them on time. He explained some of the issues created in the past months due to the meters not being read in a timely manner.

Having no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Council Member Payne and seconded by Councilman Wynn to adjourn at 6:47 p.m. Motion carried.

May 7, 2018  
Approved & Adopted

Kenneth L. Turner  
Mayor

Inura Brown  
City Clerk