

Council Minutes  
City of Gordon  
July 2, 2018

The Council of the City of Gordon held a meeting on Monday, July 2, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. at the Gordon City Hall located at 115 College Street. Members present were Mayor Kenneth Turner and Council Members Bruce Daniel, Freddie Densley, Terry Eady, Rose Lawrence, and George Wynn. Phyllis Payne was absent.

Mayor Turner called the meeting to order and welcomed all present. He then asked if anyone present would like to be added to the agenda. Councilman Eady stated that his son had turned in a water bill adjustment request and would like to have that taken care of tonight. City Clerk stated she received the request and others after the agenda had been posted so the request has not been processed. Since the adjustments were not processed, the item was not added to the agenda.

A motion was made by Councilman Wynn and seconded by Councilman Daniel to accept the June 4, 2018 Council Minutes and the July 7, 2018 Work Shop Minutes as presented. Voting for the motion were 5 ayes and 0 nays. Motion carried.

Storm debris clean-up was discussed. Mayor to talk to property owner about clearing the debris in the next few days.

Ordinance No. 2018-005 was presented. The purpose of Ordinance No. 2018-005 is to change the regular meeting time of City Council for the first Monday of each month from 7:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. (Copy of Ordinance No. 2018-005 attached.) The first reading of the ordinance was held. A motion was made by Councilman Eady and seconded by Councilman Densley to accept the first reading of Ordinance No. 2018-005 as presented. Voting for the motion were 5 ayes and 0 nays. Motion carried.

Attorney Green recommended that the entrance signs in to Gordon be changed to reflect the new meeting time upon adoption of Ordinance No. 2018-005.

A quote from Gall's for bullet proof vests was presented in the amount of \$4260.00. (Copy of quote attached.) The grant for the bullet proof vests and the quote were discussed. At this time, the City Clerk reported on the resignation of Officer Untimothy Roby effective July 15, 2018. After discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Eady and seconded by Councilman Densley to accept the grant and the quote from Gall's for the bullet proof vests in the amount of \$4260.00. Voting for the motion were 5 ayes and 0 nays. Motion carried.

The Georgia Indigent Defense Services Agreement was presented. (Copy attached.) Attorney Green explained the purpose of the contract. He also reported that he has reviewed it and it is a

standard contract. A motion was made by Councilman Wynn and seconded by Council Member Lawrence to approve the contract as presented. Voting for the motion were 5 ayes and 0 nays. Motion carried.

A CDBG grant to repair/replace water lines in the city was discussed. Mayor gave details on discussion with Allen-Smith Consulting concerning applying for the grant. It is a low to moderate grant application with possible funding up to \$700,000.00. A motion was made by Council Member Lawrence and seconded by Councilman Densley to apply for the CDBG grant. Voting for the motion were 5 ayes and 0 nays. Motion carried.

Councilman Daniel asked for clarification on the water pumping capacity allowed and if we will be exceeding that capacity once Zschimmer & Schwarz is connected to city water.

Mayor and Councilman Wynn stated that even when they connect to the city, we will still have plenty of water capacity.

The Council discussed contractors who are getting water from fire hydrants and if money is being made off of this water usage. Council Member Lawrence suggested having a M.O.U. governing this type sale of water so that Council can be aware of who is getting this un-metered water. The need to account for the amount of water being pumped was also discussed.

Council discussed the advantages of annexing Zschimmer & Schwarz into the City of Gordon. The different types of annexation were discussed. Attorney Green recommended the 100% method of annexation which means the county and Zschimmer and Schwarz has to agree to it. A motion was made by Councilman Eady and seconded by Daniel to annex Zschimmer and Schwarz into the city of Gordon using the 100% method of annexation. Voting for the motion were 5 ayes and 0 nays. Motion carried.

Mayor reported that Fox Byington has been the curator of the Railroad Depot Museum for many years and has kept many items acquired for the Depot at his house until needed at the Depot. It has been reported that some of these items have been sold by someone prior to the recent death of his wife Gail. Mayor suggested pursuing some legal grounds of getting some of the items back, if possible.

Councilman Daniel gave information on his knowledge of the items sold and who they were sold to. His question was, can you sell something that does not belong to you. He also expressed concern over the health and memory of the curator, Mr. Byington, who is in a nursing home. He also expressed the need to access the residence to see if anything belonging to the city is there.

After discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Eady, seconded by Councilman Wynn to give Attorney Green permission to find out what was sold, who bought it and anything that he could do to help us pursue to find out what else may be in the residence that belongs to the city.

Attorney Green clarified that since the curator Fox Byington had this property and held on to it as the city's property by permission, and he is still alive and in a nursing home, then we should talk to his guardian or get permission from the courts to pursue.

Voting for the motion were 5 ayes and 0 nays. Motion carried.

Mayor presented a request from Barbara Towles to hold the Paper Mill Quarters Reunion at the M.L.K. Park on July 28, 2018. It was used for this purpose last year without permission from the City Council. After discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Eady, seconded by Councilman Densley to allow the Paper Mill Quarter Reunion to be held at the M.L.K. Park at the upper end near Scott's Field and to end by 8:00 p.m.

Attorney Green asked for clarification, if this was the property released from the Railroad Company and if so, the last time it was discussed, it was to be used for city purposes only and for a limited number of events each year.

It was clarified that the lease agreement does say for city sponsored events/purposes only. The city is liable so liability issues were discussed.

Voting for the motion were 5 ayes and 0 nays. Motion carried.

The need to cut the grass and heavy growth at Hartford Park were discussed. The ownership of the park was also discussed. The ownership of the park was supposed to have been transferred to the Gordon Development Authority who was supposed to quit-claim deed it to the Wilkinson County Development Authority, but there is no record of the transactions taking place. After discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Eady and seconded by Council Member Lawrence to have the grass and heavy growth cut at Hartford Park. Voting for the motion were 5 ayes and 0 nays. Motion carried.

The LMIG priority list needs to be submitted between July 1, 2018 and January 1, 2019.

Council expressed regrets over the resignation of Officer Untimothy Roby.

Mayor called for report from Better Hometown. He asked Mr. Daniel and Mr. Mixon if they

knew anything about a note he received from Ms. Asbell about a possible grant for the Jewel Theater. They had no knowledge of the grant.

Council Member Lawrence asked how the city welcomes new businesses in to the city.

Mayor said new businesses are normally welcomed through Better Hometown.

Mr. Mixon stated they haven't welcomed new businesses lately because of lack of funding.

After discussion, a motion was made by Council Member Lawrence and seconded by Councilman Eady to remind Better Hometown to continue the practice of welcoming new businesses in Gordon. Voting for the motion were 5 ayes and 0 nays. Motion carried.

Having no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Councilman Wynn and seconded by Councilman Eady to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. Voting for the motion were 5 ayes and 0 nays. Motion carried.

July 16, 2018  
Approved & Adopted

Jenneth L. Turner  
Mayor

Jawana Brown  
City Clerk