

Council Minutes
City of Gordon
September 17, 2018

The Council of the City of Gordon held a meeting on Monday, September 17, 2018 at 5:30 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 Phyllis Payne. Councilman George Wynn was absent.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Turner.

Mayor Turner welcome all present and asked if anyone present would like to be added to the agenda. Hearing no response, the agenda remained as posted.

A motion was made by Councilman Eady and seconded by Council Member Payne to approve the August 20, 2018 Council Meeting Minutes and the August 27, 2018 Called Council Meeting Minutes as presented. Voting for the motion were 5 ayes and 0 nays. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Council Member Payne and seconded by Councilman Densley to accept the August 27, 2018 Public Hearing Minutes as presented. Voting for the motion were 5 ayes and 0 nays. Motion carried.

Mayor Turner gave background on the tire repair request from Pamela Reaves. He recommended that the city not pay for the tire repair based on the fact that it is not normal procedure.

Pamela Reaves was present and told Council how she hit the pothole near Spur 18. Her original request for reimbursement for damage was for one tire. She is now requesting reimbursement for damage to two tires and possibly a rim. (Copy of original request for reimbursement and estimate of tire cost attached.)

Supt. Lawrence gave background on pothole patching and repair procedures.

City Council reviewed Mrs. Reaves written request and quote on tire replacement.

Since the estimate presented from Mrs. Reaves for tire replacement is for tires purchased in 2016, Mrs. Reaves was told to get a current estimate for replacing 2 tires and a rim and present back to the City Council for consideration.

Mayor gave background on water issues extending back to 2017 which lead to the need for a more automated water system.

Consulting Engineer, Tim Ingram, gave update on repairs and improvements to Well #2 and Well #3. The new SCADA system has been installed and working properly. He also reported on other problems that have been encountered and are being addressed. One of the main issues is

there is 12,000,000 gallons of water being pumped a month and only 5 or 6 million gallons being billed out each month. It is urgent that the city find this water loss. Mr. Ingram stated that the city is almost at a point that it needs another water plant. He reported that the water quality is good and stabilized out at this time.

Fire lines at BASF and the apartments are to be checked for possible water loss. Council also discussed bringing in someone from a different agency to help locate water loss.

It is critical that the water loss be found and corrected. The state will not update permits for additional water with the amount of water loss the city is experiencing.

Michelle Grembowski from the Middle Georgia Regional Commission will be reviewing issues with the website with City Hall staff.

Attorney Green gave update on storm debris removal downtown. He has spoken with the landowner who's tenant has some stuff there. The tenant has committed to remove his property. Once the tenant has removed his property then the landowner has agreed to clear the property of remaining debris. Attorney Green went on to explain the procedure in which this issue will be handled.

Mayor Turner reported on procedures for applying for a CDBG Grant which requires quotes for a grant writing firm and an engineering firm. He reported that quotes have been received and then explained the process for reviewing those quotes and awarding the bids.

City Clerk Towana Brown explained that the quotes were reviewed by the Mayor, Deputy Clerk Heather Hawver and herself. Each quote was evaluated by a Qualification Evaluation Form. The group recommends that Council hire Allen-Smith Consulting for the grant writing/administration portion of the CDBG Project and Ingram & Associates for the engineering portion of the CDBG Project.

A motion was made by Councilman Eady and seconded by Council Member Lawrence to approve Allen-Smith Consulting to do the grant writing/administration portion of the CDBG Project and Tim Ingram (Ingram & Associates) for the engineering portions of the CDBG Project. Voting for the motion were 4 ayes and 0 nays. Motion carried. (Councilman Daniel left meeting for a few minutes and was not present at time of the vote but did return shortly after vote was heard.)

An invoice from Martin's General Contractors for repair to stage at MLK Park, due to storm damage, was presented in the amount of \$3794.11. Mayor Turner said it was his understanding

that Martin's General Contractors would be repairing the stage at no cost to the city and he gave publicity to this effect. Awhile after the work was completed, the city received an invoice for the repairs to the stage. (Copy of invoice attached.) After the second invoice was received for payment, Mayor called Chris Martin and he said Mr. Martin said that he never agreed to do it for free, but he said he would help him out. Mayor said he had approved the invoice for payment. He then opened the issue up to the Council for input.

Councilman Eady said if we had known Chris wasn't going to do it for the city at his cost, we would have had to bid it out to try to get a better price or maybe even had some of the city employees do some of the work in order to lower the cost. He then asked Mr. Martin did he bid on the repair work.

Mr. Martin said he did not bid on the repair work. He said the invoice he submitted has the materials and labor on it and he charged the city only what it cost him. He commented that he did help the city out, by charging only what it cost him for his materials and for his guys to do the job. He said he took all the profit out of the job. He said he told the mayor he would help the city out but never gave the impression he would do the work free or donate the materials. He again stated he did help the city out by not charging anything above what it cost him to do the job.

Invoice was reviewed.

Council Member Lawrence suggested getting everything in writing when doing any kind of business with the city because she has always been told if it's not written, it didn't happen.

Mayor assured the Council that he would get everything in writing should he have this same situation again. Mayor said it was a total misunderstanding on my side.

A motion was made by Councilman Eady and seconded by Councilman Daniel to pay the invoice to Martin's General Contractors in the amount of \$3794.11 and to remove Chris Martin from any future jobs that the city has because he is afraid we will get into it again. I'd rather just remove him from any of the contracts we are using from now on. That is my motion just exactly as that.

Mr. Martin stated that he just wants the Council to understand that he's been holding a bill for equipment ya'll have rented from me that I haven't charged ya'll for. I help Melvin and them out loaning my equipment to them and all that, pumps, generators when ya'll have water leaks and sometimes they get held out a month or so and I don't charge ya'll for all that. I want ya'll to understand that if that's the way ya'll want to play ball and the way ya'll want to do it, when ya'll get this bill on this equipment rental coming up, don't fall out your chairs. Is that right Melvin?

Supt. Lawrence responded by saying yes sir.

Mayor Turner said he has made note that Mr. Martin has helped us out in the past, but this particular case was a total misunderstanding.

Mr. Martin stated that he has given the city a lot in the past.

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

Mayor gave background info on transferring money from the Water & Sewage Fund to the General Fund for garbage fees collected. The transfer each month was stopped due to a shortage of money in the Water & Sewage Fund. The General Fund is low in funds and rather than draw down money from Georgia Fund 1, Mayor suggested transferring garbage fees collected from the Water & Sewage Fund to the General Fund.

City Clerk suggested transferring June, July, and August garbage collections totaling \$24,013.00 from the Water & Sewer Fund to the General Fund to meet expenses without having to draw down money from the Georgia Fund 1 account.

A motion was made by Council Member Lawrence and seconded by Councilman Densley to transfer June - August 2018 garbage fees to the General Fund. Voting for the motion were 5 ayes and 0 nays. Motion carried.

The upcoming LMIG Grant was discussed. Mayor recommended applying for the grant with most of the money being applied primarily toward patching approximately 15 - 20 potholes throughout the city caused by leaks or leak repairs. Mayor has given Council a list of suggested potholes to repair and asked council to let him know of any others that need to be added to the list.

Council Member Lawrence suggested adding more speed bumps to other streets like the ones on Elam Street.

A motion was made by Council Member Lawrence and seconded by Council Member Payne to apply for the LMIG project monies to be used for patching of potholes, speed bumps, re-surfacing, etc. or whatever is in the greater need at the time. Voting for the motion were 5 ayes and 0 nays. Motion carried.

Council Member Lawrence expressed her concern over the city losing money when a customer has a large water bill and the customer terminates the account and puts up a \$75.00 deposit in

another name to avoid paying the high bill. She has read procedure for water bill adjustments and noted that if a water leak occurs and it's in a deceased persons name, an adjustment will not be given on the bill. She referred to a particular case in which a customer has a water bill for over \$900.00 in her deceased husbands name.

Mayor said in that particular case the customer is having to pay \$100.00 per month in addition to the regular bill or the water will be cut off. Mayor and City Clerk gave background information on this particular situation.

Council Member Lawrence suggested writing a different policy in order to keep the city from losing so much money and to hold people accountable for their bills. Issue was discussed at length.

A motion was made by Councilman Eady and seconded by Councilman Payne to adjourn at 6:25 p.m. Voting for the motion were 5 ayes and 0 nays. Motion carried.

Oct. 1, 2018
Approved & Adopted

KENNETH L. TURNER
Mayor

Imana Brown
City Clerk