

Council Minutes  
City of Gordon  
February 4, 2019

The Council of the City of Gordon held a meeting on Monday, February 4, 2019 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, Terry Eady, Rose Lawrence, Phyllis Payne, and George Wynn. Councilman Densley was absent due to sickness in the family.

The Mayor called the meeting to order and welcomed all present. He then 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 Wynn and seconded by Council Member Payne to accept the January 7, 2019 Council Minutes as presented. Voting for the motion were 5 ayes and 0 ayes. Motion carried.

Councilman Eady reported on an e-mail from Jonathan Jackson announcing the grand opening of the Zschimmer & Schwarz plant in Ivey, Georgia which will be fully operational by March of 2019.

Mayor reported that he has received a note from Jonathan Jackson stating that the city will be receiving the requested samples from the plant soon.

Brian Wright, representing Wright & Wright, P.C. presented the audit for the year ended September 30, 2019. (Copy of audit attached.) He highlighted the schedule of findings. Theoretically, these are the city's numbers and you are supposed to have the audit done and the report written and then the auditor comes in and audits that. The city had that process in previous years where two auditing firms came in and did that. Mr. Wright stated that Wright and Wright, P.C. wrote the report and audited the statements so they put into the audit that the city could not do that process for them. The City saved a good bit of money by doing the audit this way.

Mr. Clyde Wright reiterated that you do not need two sets of auditors because when you put the findings in the audit, nothing happens. So no need to spend the money to hire another firm to write the report just so you don't have findings.

Mr. Brian Wright praised the city clerk and deputy clerk for their trustworthiness and for doing a good job and understanding the importance of good record keeping, due processes, etc. and stated from that perspective the city is in good shape. He also stated that he knows the council knows the finances haven't been what they had hoped for in the past few years, but improvements and decisions have been made to turn that around and that is good.

Councilman Eady inquired if any budget amendments need to be made and handled by Council.

Mr. Brian Wright recommended to Council not to worry about any budget amendments this year and next year we can get all that straight.

Councilman Eady reported there has been a bill passed in order to collect sales tax on internet purchases. He stated his purpose for stating this is that all sales taxes throughout the state of Georgia have been going down and that it really hurts all the cities financially.

Mayor asked questions on revenues and garbage expenses. Mr. Brian Wright explained these figures.

For information purposes, Mayor asked Brian Wright for the amount being charged for this years audit.

Mr. Brian Wright stated that the cost of the audit is \$15,000.00.

Mayor stated that the city paid \$28,000.00 for the audit last year and \$28,000.00 the year before. A good portion of that money was to prepare financial statements that were not necessary in his opinion. The amount saved with this years audit verses the last two audits is a big savings for the city.

Councilman Eady pointed out that for the last three or four years \$150,000.00 to \$200,000.00 was being taken out of the General Fund and put into the Water Fund to meet expenses. Once the water and sewer rates were raised it made a big difference in the water fund.

After review of the audit, a motion was made by Council Member Payne and seconded by Councilman Wynn to accept the Audit Report for the year ended September 30, 2019 as presented. Voting for the motion were 5 ayes and 0 nays. Motion carried.

Mayor stated that the City of Gordon is applying for a 2019 CDBG Water Quality Improvement Grant in the amount of \$750,000.00. A Resolution is required for the application. A motion was made by Councilman Eady and seconded by Councilman Wynn to adopt the FY2019 CDBG Application Resolution. Voting for the motion were 5 ayes and 0 nays. Motion carried.

The Council then discussed leverage funds for the FY2019 CDBG Grant in the amount of \$100,000.00. These funds would cover areas in need of water repair that are not covered under the grant. A motion was made by Councilman Eady and seconded by Councilman Wynn to

approve \$100,000.00 out of SPLOST Funds to be used as leverage for this grant. Voting for the motion were 5 ayes and 0 nays. Motion carried.

City Clerk informed the Council that the city has switched from Verizon to AT&T for cell phone service and presented invoices from AT&T from July - September of 2018 in the amount of \$1126.42. City Clerk reported on complications with switching the services and problems getting paper invoices. Since these invoices are for the previous budget year, the City Clerk asked Council's permission to pay the invoices. (Copy of invoices attached.) A motion was made by Council Member Lawrence and seconded by Councilman Wynn to approve the payment of the AT&T invoices for July - September of 2018. Voting for the motion were 5 ayes and 0 nays. Motion carried.

Mayor presented the Water Leak Adjustment Request Form from Sandy Barber for services located at 273 D.C. Hardie Road. (Copy of request attached.) She is eligible for a two consecutive month adjustment. Supt. Lawrence is to contact the customer to make sure the leak has been repaired. A motion was made by Councilman Wynn and seconded by Councilman Eady to grant the request for a two month adjustment by normal procedure only if the leak has been repaired. Voting for the motion were 5 ayes and 0 nays. Motion carried.

Mayor reported that the Gordon Library Board has three members whose terms have expired. The Mayor, along with the Gordon Library Board, recommended that Linda Lavender, chairman of the Library Board, be re-appointed to the board. He then recommended replacing Verna Mae Blankenship and Dianne Davis with Diane Grimes and Sara Johnson. (Copy of Middle Georgia Regional Library Affiliate Board of Trustee Applications attached.) The terms would have started back in July of 2018. A motion was made by Councilman Eady to accept the recommendation of the Gordon Library Board to appoint Diane Grimes, Linda Lavender, and Sara Johnson to the three positions on the Gordon Library Board. The motion was seconded by Council Member Payne. Voting for the motion were 5 ayes and 0 nays. Motion carried.

Mayor presented to Council a list of vehicles that he recommends be declared surplus and put up for bid. (Copy of list attached.) Councilman Eady recommended putting on the bid packet that the city has the right to accept or reject any and all bids. He also recommended advertising the vehicles on Gov deals. A motion was made by Councilman Eady and seconded by Council Member Lawrence to declare the vehicles surplus and put them up for bid with a minimum bid listed and also advertise them under Gov deals. Voting for the motion were 5 ayes and 0 nays. Motion carried.

The next item on the agenda was the 2019 Recreation Youth Baseball & Softball Program Sponsorship. (Copy of Sponsorship Form attached.) Councilman Eady explained that the

recreation league is trying to come up with enough sponsorships this year so parents will not have to pay a fee for their kids to play ball. He then inquired if the City of Gordon would be interested in sponsoring a team at the cost of \$400.00. He stated that Recreation Director Shannon Brinson has already got several business sponsors and is trying to get as many sponsors as possible to cover as many kids as we can.

City Clerk Towana Brown explained that the \$400.00 sponsorship fee will include a \$200.00 banner that will be displayed at the park. The sponsorship name will also be printed on the team uniform. Mr. Brinson will be approaching all the cities in Wilkinson County to encourage them to sponsor a team since kids from all over Wilkinson County utilize the park.

A motion was made by Council Member Lawrence and seconded by Councilman Eady that the Gordon City Council become a sponsor of the 2019 Recreation Youth Baseball & Softball Program with a sponsorship fee of \$400.00, being that \$200.00 of that includes a banner with the City of Gordon Council's information listed. Voting for the motion were 5 ayes and 0 nays. Motion carried.

Councilman Eady gave background information on the damage to the Wilkinson County Recreation Park caused by a tornado back in 2015 and issues with insurance coverage. Since then two more hurricane force winds have come through and caused more damage. This damage has also been reported to the insurance company and the Wilkinson County Commissioners since the county owns half of the Recreation Park. The ball season can't begin until some of the repair work has been completed. He then recommended tabling this issue until he can discuss these issues with the county in hopes of bringing a recommendation back to the council at the next Council Meeting.

Council Member Lawrence suggested meeting with the County Commissioners to discuss the issues at the ball park.

Mayor suggested installing the awning on the concession stand right away since it has already been approved by the Council at an earlier meeting.

Councilman Eady reported that FEMA visited the Recreation Park a few weeks ago and assessed the damage. The FEMA crew said FEMA will cover some of the cost of the damages.

Councilman Eady to contact Towana Brown to give the go ahead to install the awning at the Recreation Park.

Mayor asked Council's permission to advertise for a Zoning/Building Inspector position. He

recommended making this a contract position in the \$5000.00 range. Supt. Lawrence is okay with giving up this position and being replaced as Zoning/Building Inspector for the city.

A motion was made by Council Member Lawrence to accept the Mayor's recommendation for posting of a Zoning Inspection Office position. Mayor stated that the Regional Commission will compile a list of deliverables that a contractor would have to deliver in order to judge their performance. This would be an outside contractor and not an employee of the city. The responsibilities of the position were discussed. Councilman Eady seconded the motion. Voting for the motion were 5 ayes and 0 nays. Motion carried.

Zschimmer & Schwarz tap fee was discussed. Mayor has received a note from Jonathan Jackson saying Zschimmer & Schwarz is open to applying for and paying for a partial tap fee for the office space and are open to paying for the water and sewage they have used thus far. They also said if they needed to start up production for trials, any discharge would be hauled away by truck and would not be coming to the Gordon Sewage Treatment Plant until council approves it. Zschimmer & Schwarz will be getting samples to us soon.

Supt. Lawrence gave an update on the items listed on the memo to Council from Mayor Turner on February 1, 2019 concerning EPD requirements at the Sewage Treatment Plant. (Copy of memo attached.)

Councilman Daniel said that the Wilkinson County Historical Society Board of Directors are going to bring in a radar penetrating machine to locate unmarked graves in Wilkinson County and they are trying to determine which cemeteries to search. Several of the board members are wanting to search the Gordon Cemetery. The total cost is approximately \$2500.00. The Board of Directors wants to know if the City of Gordon will pay 40% of the cost if the Gordon Cemetery is chosen. After discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Eady and seconded by Council Member Lawrence to expend \$1000.00 out of the General Fund budget to the Wilkinson County Historical Society to fund the project as discussed. Voting for the motion were 5 ayes and 0 nays. Motion carried.

Roy Mixon, representing Main Street Gordon, reported that he is working on a Watson Brown Grant to repair the brick lattice fence at the Gordon Cemetery. He is also trying to get the cemetery on the National Register.

Mayor stated that the Gordon Depot also needs to be brought back up to shape. Needed repairs were briefly discussed.

Chief Hall announced that he has completed 31 years of employment with the city and that he appreciates his job and enjoys working for the city.

Attorney Green stated there has been no progress made on the annexation of Zschimmer & Schwarz.

Council agreed to hold a Work Shop on Thursday, February 7, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. to discuss a Zoning Office/Building Inspector position and to discuss water meters.

A motion was made by Council Member Payne and seconded by Councilman Wynn to adjourn at 7:05 p.m. Voting for the motion were 5 ayes and 0 nays. Motion carried.

February 18, 2019  
Approved & Adopted

Kenneth L. Turner  
Mayor

Inara Blom  
City Clerk