

Council Minutes
City of Gordon
April 15, 2019

The Council of the City of Gordon held a meeting on Monday, April 15, 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 Freddie Densley, Terry Eady, Rose Lawrence, Phyllis Payne, and George Wynn. Councilman Bruce Daniel was absent.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Turner. He then welcomed everyone and asked if anyone 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 March 12, 2019 Council Minutes, March 18, 2019 Council Minutes, and the March 18, 2019 Executive Session Minutes as presented. Voting for the motion were 5 ayes and 0 nays. Motion carried.

Mayor gave an update on delinquent water accounts. The customers have until April 29, 2019 to make payment arrangements to prevent their services from being terminated.

Mayor stated he has not prepared the letter to be sent to customers to have the water accounts put in the name of the actual person living in the house. He is working on this issue.

Councilman Eady said he has looked at the tax record of the Hardie's and it reflects that the property was deeded to Denton Hardie and Loren Hardie.

Supt. Lawrence gave update on water leaks throughout the city. New leaks are appearing almost daily.

Mayor stated that we also need to patch where the leaks have been repaired, but each Monday that the contractor has been scheduled to do the patching he has not been able to do so. Mayor has obtained a list from DOT of other contractors the city may use for patching projects. If no contractor can be hired in the near future, the city will consider having city employees patch the needed areas.

Council Member Payne asked Supt. Lawrence about the cone that has been near Johnny Eady's house forever.

Mayor stated that the cone is marking a manhole.

Roy Mixon stated there is also a cone on his street near the Stop-N-Shop.

Mayor gave an update on the needed repairs to or re-building of the nitrification chamber at the Sewage Treatment Plant. He is hoping these repairs will help eliminate the ammonia problems experienced at the plant last summer. Mayor has obtained an estimate from ISM to re-build the nitrification chamber in the \$50,000.00 to \$60,000.00 range. (Copy of Mayor's memo attached.) Mayor suggested entering into a contract with ISM to re-build the nitrification chamber.

Councilman Wynn stated he thinks we are at the point where this has to be done because we don't want to be fined by EPD.

Councilman Eady inquired if SPLOST money could be used to re-build the nitrification plant.

Mayor said that according to Tim Ingram it can all be paid out of SPLOST.

A motion was made by Councilman Eady and seconded by Councilman Densley to allow the Mayor to execute a contract with ISM to re-build the nitrification chamber at the Sewage Treatment Plant at an estimated cost of \$50,000.00 to \$60,000.00 which will include an 8 ft. square X 10 ft. high dip tank with sealant on the inside of the tank. Voting for the motion were 5 ayes and 0 nays. Motion carried. This expense is to be paid out of SPLOST funds.

Mayor presented water bill adjustment requests from the Wilkinson County Recreation Department and from Benjie Bell. The Wilkinson County Recreation Department is eligible for a two consecutive month adjustment and Benjie Bell for a one month adjustment. (Copy of both requests attached.)

A motion was made by Councilman Eady and seconded by Council Member Payne to grant both adjustments by following the normal procedure. Voting for the motion were 5 ayes and 0 nays. Motion carried.

Council discussed a "lay down spot" to put dirt, gravel, etc. The suggested spot is at the Sewage Treatment Plant on the Mill Pond Road side. Several trees on the property need to be cut and de-stumped before the property can be used for this purpose. Other property in this area near the city barn, and owned by BASF, that might be available for this purpose was discussed.

Supt. Lawrence explained that when they work on water leaks and have to cut the road to get to the leaks, they have to have somewhere to put the asphalt and other debris that they cut out. He also needs a place to put chips for anyone who would like to have them for mulch.

Councilman Wynn stated we need a place to put sand and gravel, too.

Mayor asked for Council's permission to remove and de-stump the 5 or 6 pine trees at the Sewage Treatment Plant. He also suggested putting a gate to enter in to this area off of Mill Pond Road if BASF does not agree to give the city the land near the City Barn.

Councilman Wynn stated that if BASF will give the city the property then put the "lay down spot" there.

Council discussed issues with having to have trees cut on either piece of property.

After discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Eady and seconded by Councilman Densley to approve the Mayor's suggestion to remove 5 or 6 trees at the Sewage Treatment Plant on the Mill Pond Road side in order to make a "lay down spot" as suggested by the Mayor. De-stumping is included. This area will only be used if BASF does not donate the property located near the City Barn. Voting for the motion were 5 ayes and 0 nays. Motion carried.

The next item of discussion was the vacant assistant police chief position. Chief Hall recommended Andy Hester for this position at the last Council Meeting.

On Chief Hall's recommendation, a motion was made by Councilman Eady and seconded by Council Member Payne to promote Andy Hester to the Assistant Chief position.

Council Member Lawrence inquired if anyone else was interested in the position.

Chief Hall replied that to his knowledge, no one else is interested in the position.

Former Assistant Chief Larry Hines has stepped down to the position of lieutenant.

Voting for the motion were Council Members Densley, Eady, Payne, and Wynn with Council Member Lawrence voting nay. Motion carried. Promotion to be effective April 16, 2019.

Mayor is developing a form to be used to check and monitor lift stations at least 5 times a week. The form will require a signature indicating that the lift stations have been checked. If the lift stations are not monitored as required, the employee will be subject to strong disciplinary actions.

Mayor reported on the incident that recently occurred at the Bo Loyd Lift Station in which both pumps had quit working for several days before the city was made aware of the issue. He also expressed concern over possible implications from this incident.

Mayor referred to a sheet of specs for influent and effluent limits at the Gordon Sewage Treatment Plant that he presented to Council at the meeting. (Copy of specs attached.) He reported that this information has been sent to the Gordon Development Authority two or three times over the last 20 months or so and the city was told by the Gordon Development Authority that Zschimmer & Schwarz would have no problems meeting these limits. The city has not seen any data from Zschimmer & Schwarz on the pre-treatment system. The BOD and suspended solids for the untreated sewage is way out of spec. This data has been given to Mr. Burton, the CEO of Zschimmer and Schwarz, and he is confident that the pre-treatment system will meet these specs. Mayor has requested this proof of data and Mr. Burton will prepare the data by using pre-treatment info from the Milledgeville plant or he will wait until the Gordon plant starts up to get the information. Production of the Gordon plant will not begin until the pre-treatment system is installed. Mayor also informed Mr. Burton of EPD permitting requirements for any new type of sewage entering into our Sewage Treatment Plant. The city will be required to obtain the permit from EPD.

Mayor stated that the city has been told from the beginning that Zschimmer & Schwarz would be starting up a unit soon that would require 50,000 gallons of water per day. Mayor stated that this is not correct according to Mr. Burton. The city was also told that as soon as Unit 1 is started up, construction of Unit 2 would begin, and then Unit 3 would begin in a few years. Mayor stated that according to Mr. Burton, it has never been in the plans to start anything up but Unit 1 and when its sold out, Unit 2 will be built. Unit 1 expected to be sold out in 5 years. It will be about 5 years before additional water availability to the plant will be a major concern.

Mayor reported that the Assistant Manager at the Gordon Library has resigned. The Library Board will handle the advertising for the vacant position, along with the interviewing and hiring of the position. A question was brought up at a Library Board Meeting about the city's interest in this issue. Mayor explained that if the city is furnishing money to any entity, it has the responsibility to ensure that the people who use that money use it legally and according to the guidelines the city has to follow.

Councilman Eady said our personnel director, Ms. Brown, is responsible for the last few steps of the hiring process such as the required drug screen and physical.

The goal is to have the vacant position filled before the Summer Reading Program starts at the library.

Mayor referred to notes to Council concerning the re-building of Avery Road. (Copy of notes attached.) DOT has given an estimate of \$207,000.00 to re-construct Avery Road. DOT may commit 70% toward the project with a 30% local match of approximately \$65,000.00. Mayor

has met with Avery, Sellers, ISM and Active Minerals asking them to share the cost for the local match. Sellers said they do not use the road so they will not be contributing. ISM said they will do whatever they can. Active Minerals will have to meet with others reps before committing because they have just been sold out. Mayor suggested that the city put in \$20,000.00 of the local match. Mayor will talk to the DOT Commissioner to see if DOT will commit to more than 70% of the cost to re-build Avery Road.

Councilman Wynn suggested asking B & H Transfer to contribute to some of the cost to re-build Avery Road since they are the main trucking company working that area.

Council posed no opposition to the Mayor committing the city to \$20,000.00 as a bargaining tool for repairs to Avery Road.

Council Member Lawrence asked for an update on the clean-up deadline for business owners.

Mayor said that only one letter has been sent out with a deadline and explained what the letter addressed.

Other areas in downtown needing to be cleaned up were discussed. The city has an ordinance to address these issues.

Council Member Payne reported on trash on both sides of the road near Kenny and Dianne Davis's house on the Milledgeville Highway and inquired on who is supposed to pick the trash up.

The area from the Stop-N-Shop all the way up to Active Minerals needs to be cleaned. Ways to achieve the clean-up were discussed.

Mayor asked Supt. Lawrence where we stood on hiring for the two open positions in his department.

Supt. Lawrence stated that the background checks are being ran on the applicants.

City Clerk said we are now waiting until everyone involved can get together to review applications and set up interviews.

Mayor encouraged reviewing applications tomorrow.

Roy Mixon reported on behalf of Main Street Gordon. He reported on the reception held for

Zschimmer & Schwarz. No Easter Egg Hunt will be held by Main Street Gordon because several churches are having egg hunts this year. A lot of sponsors have committed for the Fall Line Festival which will be held on September 27th & 28th. He then invited the City Council to tour the Zschimmer & Schwarz Plant on April 29th at 1:00 p.m.

A motion was made by Council Member Payne and seconded by Councilman Wynn to adjourn at 6:21 p.m. Voting for the motion were 5 ayes and 0 nays. Motion carried.

May 6, 2019
Approved & Adopted

Kenneth L. Zschimmer
Mayor

Josana Brown
City Clerk