

Council Meeting
City of Gordon
June 3, 2019

The Council of the City of Gordon held a meeting on Monday, June 3, 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, Freddie Densley, Rose Lawrence, Phyllis Payne, and George Wynn. Councilman Terry Eady was absent.

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

The Mayor welcomed all present.

A motion was made by Council Member Payne and seconded by Councilman Wynn to approve the May 6, 2019 Council Minutes as presented. Voting for the motion were 5 ayes and 0 nays. Motion carried.

County Commissioner Glenn Kester joined the meeting at this time.

Mayor gave update from FEMA on storm damages.

City Clerk said the city will be receiving over \$60,000.00 from FEMA for damages incurred during Hurricane Michael. The funds will be received in about a month.

Mayor gave updates on items involving the sewage treatment plant which included the nitrification chamber renovation, the ammonia violation in May, and the Zschimmer & Schwarz permit to pump sewage to the city's sewage treatment plant.

A motion was made by Councilman Wynn and seconded by Councilman Densley to authorize the Mayor to issue a permit to Zschimmer & Schwarz to empty sewage into the City of Gordon's Sewage Treatment Plant. Voting for the motion were 5 ayes and 0 nays. Motion carried.

Mayor introduced County Commissioner Glenn Kester

Mr. Kester thanked everyone who voted for him and announced that he is looking forward to working with Gordon to see what we can do to make our community better.

Mayor gave a brief report on SPLOST money and said it is time for the renewal of the SPLOST funding. He then explained how the SPLOST money is now being distributed and what it can be used for. The cities and the county will be meeting soon to decide how the SPLOST money will be distributed for the SPLOST renewal which will be on the ballot in November.

Mayor reported that 7 speed breakers have been placed within the city.

Chief Hall reported that the speed breaker on Pine Street in the Papermill Quarters area is a little high and vehicles are scrubbing on it.

Supt. Lawrence to inspect the speed breaker to see if it needs to be trimmed.

Council Member Lawrence praised the installation of the speed breakers as a great safety tool, especially at this time of the year when the children are out of school.

Mayor said he has requests from residents on four other streets for speed breakers, but does not recommend them there because they are short streets. However, he has had a request to place a speed breaker on Westbrook Road and has asked Chief Hall to inspect the need for a speed breaker on that road.

Mayor gave an update on the attempt to collect water bill payments from 55 customers who were grossly behind on their bills. Forty-six of them have paid. Two changed their accounts to another name or someone else in the family, and one person has passed away. Two others were given payment arrangements due to the large amount of the bill.

Mayor recommended utilizing a collection agency to collect delinquent water bills in situations similar to the ones just discussed. He recommended developing a collection system in order to turn delinquent bills over to a collection agency.

Attorney Green then distributed info from PennCredit as provided by GMA. (Copy of PennCredit attached.) Attorney Green recommended putting stronger language in the code to authorize the use of this type program as recommended by GMA. He has reviewed the contract and it is acceptable.

Council Member Lawrence suggested putting something in the code or policy stating that if there is a water bill balance due at an address, then no one else can move in until the bill is paid.

Attorney Green said this can become a selective enforcement issue and you can't treat one citizen unfairly or differently than other citizens. He then went on to explain how this could be handled from a theft of services stand point against the person who left the unpaid balance.

Mayor then asked Council to agree to engage a collection agency through GMA to collect any delinquent utility bill that is owed to the city.

After discussion, a motion was made by Council Member Lawrence to authorize GMA to

provide the city with a collection agency contract to collect delinquent utility bills for the city. The motion was seconded by Council Member Payne. Voting for the motion were 5 ayes and 0 nays. Motion carried.

Mayor gave background information on storm damage incurred in 2017. The damages were reported to Trident Insurance Company through Mixon Insurance Company. The city received an insurance check in the amount of \$12,122.20 in payment of damages. The city felt like the check should have been more since the damages were in the \$60,000.00 to \$70,000.00 range. The council voted not to cash the \$12,122.20 check until the issue could be researched and resolved. The check has since expired. Mayor asked the Council to authorize him to ask Mixon Insurance Company to have Trident Insurance Company reissue the \$12,122.20 check and deposit it into the General Fund when received.

Councilman Wynn made a motion to that effect. The motion was seconded by Councilman Daniel.

Robbie Mixon, with Mixon Insurance Company, stated that he was never told that there was a problem with the settlement. He then reported on conversations with the adjuster stating the adjuster said the city never supplied them with anything in order to process the claim except for the \$12,122.20 which he wrote the check for.

City Clerk reported on meeting with the adjuster who came down and took pictures of the damage and said he would handle the claim from that point on. Bids to repair the damage to city property were in excess of \$60,000.00.

Mr. Mixon then reported on a meeting with the past administration and the adjuster concerning the claim. Mr. Mixon said they explained that the company was just wanting something in writing. The city clerk was not involved in this meeting. Mr. Mixon said we may be able to go back and ask the company to reconsider the claim.

Mayor stated the he met with Mr. Mixon about this about a year ago at Mr. Mixon's office. Mayor then stated that he felt that it had been rejected since he never heard anything back from the claim.

Mr. Mixon said he needs copies of everything and he will get it sent to the right place. He stated that if you were covered when the damage happened, then you are covered for that claim forever.

For clarification, Council Member Lawrence reiterated that Mr. Mixon can get the check for \$12,122.20 reissued and then damage claims can be re-submitted for additional reimbursement.

Mr. Mixon stated yes and suggested a copy of the voided check be provided to him so he can start the necessary procedure for the check reimbursement.

A motion was made by Council Member Lawrence and seconded by Councilman Densley to rescind the first check and re-submit the claim information in order to collect a replacement check for \$12,122.20. Voting for the motion were 5 ayes and 0 nays. Motion carried.

The drive-by meter contract was discussed. It was recommended by Ingram & Associates to award the bid to Ferguson for \$232,526.00 for the meters and to M & E Engineering for the installation of the meters for \$63,516.00. Both were the lowest bidders.

A motion was made by Council Member Lawrence to accept the award for the drive-by meter contract with Ferguson and the installation of the meters by M & E Engineering. Motion was seconded by Councilman Wynn. Voting for the motion were 5 ayes and 0 nays. Motion carried.

The next item discussed was the street striping contract. A special LMIG award was received from the state to be used for street safety which includes signs and striping primarily, which along with the city's match, comes to approximately \$44,000.00 to \$45,000.00. Two bids were received as follows:

Peake - \$950.00 per line mile
Mid-State Striping - \$825.00 per line mile

The city has about 46 line miles that need to be striped.

A motion was made by Councilman Wynn, seconded by Councilman Daniel to award the bid to Mid-State Striping to stripe 46 line miles at \$825.00 per mile. Voting for the motion were 5 ayes and 0 nays. Motion carried.

The walking track at the Gordon Park was discussed. Mayor suggested repairing the potholes in the track along with scraping the edges back, removing weeds, and seal coating. Mayor presented a verbal estimate from Smith Paving in the amount of \$4500.00 - \$4800.00 for the repairs. He suggested paying for the repairs out of the SPLOST Fund. After discussion, a motion was made by Council Member Lawrence and seconded by Council Member Payne to accept the quote from Smith Paving for the repairs to the walking track. Voting for the motion were 5 ayes and 0 nays. Motion carried.

Mayor gave an update on GIRMA Insurance. Mayor asked Council to endorse the signing of the agreement with GIRMA for the city to have insurance through GIRMA starting today. This will

include liability insurance on the Police Department and the public officials. A motion was made Councilman Wynn and seconded by Council Member Payne for the Mayor to endorse the GIRMA Insurance Policy.

Mayor thanked Robbie Mixon for providing insurance coverage for the city when the city was struggling to obtain insurance coverage, even though the city could not afford liability coverage on the law enforcement and public officials at that time.

Mr. Mixon stated that he has supplied a quote for insurance coverage which includes liability coverage for law enforcement and the public officials for around \$52,000.00.

Mayor thanked Mr. Mixon for the quote and stated that an agreement has already been made with GIRMA for the insurance in the amount of \$67,280.00. (Copy of GIRMA Agreement attached.)

Mayor reported on repairs to and clean-up of the restrooms at the Gordon Park.

Mike Avery, Avery Construction, will be providing short term basic safety training for the city employees at no cost to the city. The training will occur in the next week or so.

Mayor reported on the clean-up campaign for the city. He stressed that the city needs to clean up its own property first before asking citizens to clean up their property. Supt. Lawrence has begun clean-up of the shop area.

Mayor had a word of short prayer in honor of Spence Basinger who diligently worked on many projects for the city over the years. Mr. Basinger passed away last week.

Mayor reported on the advertisement that was published in the Wilkinson County Post concerning the clean-up campaign. (Copy of ad attached.)

Mayor presented Water Leak Adjustment Request Forms for Terry Hughes - 220 Lot H, Milledgeville Highway, Emily Proctor - 101 Ann Street, and Lynda K. Adside - 130 Holly Street. Mr. Hughes and Ms. Adside are eligible for a two consecutive month adjustment and Ms. Proctor is eligible for a one month adjustment. (Copy of request forms attached.) A motion was made by Council Member Payne and seconded by Councilman Wynn to approve all the adjustment requests by averaging as is normal procedure. Voting for the motion were 5 ayes and 0 nays. Motion carried.

Mayor advised the Council that we are in negotiations for SPLOST Funding and referred to the

memo that he provided to Council at this meeting reflecting the 2020 SPLOST Proposal. (Copy of memo attached.) He recommended using pretty much the same projects as used in the last SPLOST.

No recommendations have been received for the vacant position on the Planning & Zoning Board.

Mayor reported on the upcoming penetration study at the Gordon Cemetery.

Mr. Roy Mixon asked that the grass be cut and the graves blown off this week before the study is done.

Councilman Densley presented the request he received from Barbara Towles and her brother to use the M.L.K. Park for the Papermill Quarters reunion again this year. They requested to use the same area as before.

Councilman Wynn stated that the only problem he sees with it is that it is not a city sponsored event and expressed concern over insurance coverage.

Council Member Payne said that we can't allow it according to the contract.

Council Member Lawrence stated that this is the same event that has been held at the MLK Park in the past.

After discussion, the Mayor reiterated that the property is leased from Norfolk Southern and in the contract it states that any events held on the property would be city sponsored events. He suggested that the event be held at the Gordon Park.

A motion was made by Council Member Lawrence and seconded by Councilman Densley to allow them to use the same area of M.L.K. Park for the Papermill Quarters Reunion as used in the past. Voting for the motion were Councilman Daniel, Councilman Densley, and Council Member Lawrence. Voting against the motion were Council Member Payne and Councilman Wynn. Motion failed.

The next Main Street Gordon meeting will be held on June 10, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. at the Discovery Center.

Council Member Lawrence reminded Council that it has been discussed about the bushes on Hillcrest that need cutting due to lack of visibility of the road. The problem still exists.

Mayor reported there are 5 intersections that need cutting back for line of sight purposes and Hillcrest is one of them. The side arm mower was picked up from the shop today. The intersections will be cut as soon as possible. The intersection of Maple into Main was added to the list.

A motion was made by Council Member Payne and seconded by Councilman Wynn to adjourn at 6:38. p.m. Voting for the motion were 5 ayes and 0 nays. Motion carried.

June 17, 2019
Approved & Adopted

Kenneth L. TURNER
Mayor

Imana Brown
City Clerk