

Council Minutes
City of Gordon
May 6, 2019

The Council of the City of Gordon held a meeting on Monday, May 6, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. at the City Hall located at 115 College Street. Members present were Mayor Kenneth Turner and Council Members Bruce Daniel, Freddie Densley, Terry Eady, Rose Lawrence, Phyllis Payne, and George Wynn.

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

Having no one wishing to be added to the agenda, the agenda remained as posted.

A motion was made by Council Member Payne and seconded by Councilman Wynn to accept the minutes as presented. Voting for the motion were 6 ayes and 0 nays. Motion carried.

The request to make a change to the March 18, 2019 Executive Session Minutes, which have already been approved by City Council, was discussed. Mayor stated there was a sentence in the minutes that made note that the department head had the sole right to demote an employee and that is not correct. He then explained the correct procedure would have been to take the issue to personnel and then to the mayor for approval. Mayor explained that the recent situation he is referring to did not require that since the employee voluntarily agreed to the demotion. He stressed that he did not want a sentence in the minutes that was inaccurate and then suggested that a correction be made to the minutes.

Councilman Eady stated that he didn't think we could do that at this meeting because it's an Executive Session set of minutes and not supposed to be discussed or talked about in an open meeting. He stated that since the Mayor has made the request that he thinks it will suffice in the recording of these minutes because it is a personnel issue and just because it was said doesn't mean it is true. Councilman Eady suggested leaving the Executive Session Minutes as they stand since it has been discussed in this open meeting.

Attorney Green explained that the Sunshine Law allows things to be closed off to the public, however, the policy behind that law is openness and transparency. It is Council's decision to approve or disapprove the minutes. What the Mayor has stated is now on public record and that record will be in these minutes, so if there is ever a question these minutes can be referred to.

Councilman Wynn commented that if you follow the Personnel Manual it will tell you the procedures to promote or demote anyway.

The vacancy on the Planning & Zoning Board was discussed. Mayor and Council to make recommendations for a new member at the next Council Meeting.

Councilman Eady gave background information on storm damage to the Recreation Park on two different occasions. Mixon Insurance never settled with the city on any of the insurance claims. There are posts and fencing on the Pony League Field that need repair or replacing in order to play on that field this year. Two bids were received with Pamlico being the cheaper of the two.

Mayor gave background history of the ballfield which was given to the county and city jointly with each having certain responsibilities of upkeep of the park.

Councilman Eady stated there is an MOU on the insurance and an Intergovernmental Agreement on what each entity will provide at the park.

Mayor stated that apparently the insurance has denied the damage claim at the park since no response has been received from the insurance agent.

City Clerk presented a written estimate for the fencing repair from Pamlico Pool Company in the amount of \$2950.00 and a verbal estimate from AA Fence of Milledgeville for approximately \$4000.00. (Copy of quote attached.)

A motion was made by Council Member Lawrence and seconded by Councilman Eady to accept the lowest bid from Pamlico Pool Company for \$2950.00 to repair the fencing on the Pony League Field. Voting for the motion were 6 ayes and 0 nays. Motion carried.

Recreation Director Shannon Brinson is to be in charge of the fencing repair.

Mayor gave info on the need to replace the water billing system in hopes of having one round of water readings prior to the installation of the drive-by meters. Mayor presented copies of bidders tabulation sheets for materials only and for the installation of the meters to Council for them to study for a month and then bring back to Council for approval. The delay is in order to get the billing system up and in operation before the meters are installed. (Copies attached of the bid tab sheets.) The notice to proceed to be issued in June.

~~Councilman Eady stated the city only covers the cost of residential meters. The customer or the company that requires a meter over the standard size is required to cover the cost of that meter. Councilman Eady then asked if that would play into this or not.~~

Mayor Turner stated it will play in to this. The person will be asked to pay for the meter and if they refuse to pay more than the regular cost, then the city will have to negotiate.

The new water billing system and drive-by meter project should be completed by the end of

September.

Mayor gave information on the SPLOST renewal. Wilkinson County Commission Chairman Gotell has invited council to a planning session on the SPLOST renewal on May 21st at 1:30 p.m. at the Wilkinson County Courthouse. The SPLOST renewal will be on the ballot for the November 5, 2019 election.

Mayor has asked Attorney Green to review and renew the city's Nuisance Ordinance and Water & Sewerage Ordinance.

Attorney Green stated reasons why both ordinances need to be updated.

Mayor to ask the Regional Commission for a job description for a code enforcement officer. He will present the job description at the next Council Meeting.

The Mayor has prepared an ad for the newspaper encouraging the clean up of the city and to alert the citizens that the city will begin some type of enforcement. The Clean, Green, & Safe Committee and Better Hometown have been asked to assist from a local public relations standpoint.

Mayor gave an update on the nitrification chamber and the Sewage Treatment Plant in general.

Assistant Chief Hester gave a report on miscellaneous calls and shots fired on Crescent Street.

Mayor reported that several speed bumps have been installed within the City.

Council Member Lawrence expressed concern over the visibility of the speed bump near the Methodist Church.

Councilman Eady stated that the speed bumps need to be painted with a white florescent paint or a solid color due to the angle of the speed bumps.

Jon Robinson met before Council to express his concern over the "Gordon Drag Strip" on Elam Street. He requested something in this area to slow the vehicles down.

Council Member Lawrence stated that Highway 18 is a straight race track.

Assistant Chief Hester stated that he hasn't been able to catch anyone speeding on Highway 18.

Councilman Daniel has also witnessed the speeding on Highway 18.

Mayor commented that the new patching is almost complete. The City had \$52,000.00 in LMIG Funds to do the patching. If all the patching is completed, the cost will probably run \$10,000.00 to \$12,000.00 over. The City has also been approved for the second LMIG for \$35,000.00 plus the city's 30% match. The majority of this money will be used for striping.

Council Member Lawrence inquired if we would be hiring someone soon.

City Clerk and Mayor explained that they are currently going through the hiring process for two new employees.

Councilman Densley asked who is responsible for the highway from Active Minerals and on out to the freeway. He expressed concern that you can not see any striping lines on the road in that area. The road is covered with chalk.

Mayor stated that the old 243, which is now the Milledgeville Highway, from 243 to the by-pass will be striped along with other city streets as well.

Council Member Lawrence asked the procedure for keeping the chalk off the roads.

Councilman Eady stated that the state used to make them remove the chalk on a regular basis because it is dangerous when it is wet.

Assistant Chief Hester stated that the Police Department shuts the company's trucks down when the chalk gets really bad.

Councilman Eady stated that they have a truck that washes the road down, but lately it hasn't been cleaning the road enough to see the white stripe.

Councilman Eady said the old Huddle House parking lot is now being used to park tractor trailers. These heavy trucks will tear up the Milledgeville Road with them going back and forth to park there.

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A motion was made by Council Member Payne and seconded by Councilman Wynn to adjourn at 6:14 p.m. Voting for the motion were 6 ayes and 0 nays. Motion carried.

June 3, 2019
Approved & Adopted

Kenneth D. Turner
Mayor

Joyana Brown
City Clerk