

Council Minutes
City of Gordon
June 17, 2019

The Council of the City of Gordon held a meeting on Monday, June 17, 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, Terry Eady, Rose Lawrence, Phyllis Payne, and George Wynn.

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and welcomed all present.

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

A notice was received from GIRMA that uninsured motorist coverage was not included in the recent GIRMA insurance quote. The city has not had this coverage for several years.

Attorney Green stated that not having uninsured motorist coverage could be a real issue now since the city no longer has a lot of reserve money.

Councilman Wynn recommended tabling the issue until a quote is received.

Mayor asked the Council to amend the agenda as presented.

A motion was made by Councilman Eady and seconded by Councilman Densley to amend the agenda as presented. Voting for the motion were 6 ayes and 0 nays. Motion carried. (Copy of amended agenda attached.)

Mayor gave an update on the nitrification chamber at the Sewage Treatment Plant which is not working properly and is affecting the nitrogen and ammonia contents at the plant. The main item of concern is the ammonia level and the EPD violations related to this. Mayor explained several attempts that have been made to correct the ammonia levels.

Tim Ingram reported that the Constructed Wetland Facility was built around 1998 or 1999 and went on to explain how the facility operates. This is a very effective

system but requires a lot of labor on the city side. He went on to explain the role of the nitrification chamber. He explained that the city has two levels in its wastewater permit - a winter ammonia limit and a summer ammonia limit. He also reported on issues with ammonia levels during the winter and summer months.

Mr. Ingram then presented two proposals from LEMNA Environmental Technologies, Inc. to correct the issues with the nitrification chamber. (Copy of proposals attached.)

Proposal 1 - \$43,220.00 is to remove and dispose of the existing cubes and for one day of pressure washing in the tank.

Proposal 2 - \$138,050.00 completely replaces the cubes that are there, re-plumbs all of the piping & fittings (pvc & hoses), installs the new cubes and places the chamber back into service.

It will be approximately one month before LEMNA can begin the work and it will probably take one week to complete the work. A 50% down payment is required prior to mobilizing to the site. The balance is to be paid upon completion.

Mayor recommended Proposal 2.

A motion was made by Councilman Daniel and seconded by Councilman Densley to accept Proposal #2 provided the nitrification chambers are cleaned once a year. Invoice is to be paid for out of the SPLOST Fund. Voting for the motion were 6 ayes and 0 nays. Motion carried.

Mr. Ingram will notify LEMNA of Council's decision.

Mr. Ingram reported that Lewis Electric was working on three or four projects for the city along with Spence Basinger. Mr. Ingram received invoices for those projects today and has e-mailed them to the Mayor and Towana.

He also stated that a proposal from Lewis Electric was received in the amount of \$3872.63 to remove, repair, & replace the pump aerator motor #6 at the sewage treatment plant.

Mayor asked Mr. Ingram to attend a meeting with himself and Zschimmer & Schwarz. The date of the meeting has not been set.

The Georgia Indigent Defense Services Agreement was presented. (Copy of Agreement attached.) A motion was made by Councilman Eady and seconded by Council Member Payne to accept the Agreement as presented. Voting for the motion were 6 ayes and 0 nays. Motion carried.

Chief Hall presented a quote from CCMI for 2 computers and 4 monitors in the amount of \$2472.00 for the Gordon Police Department. (Copy of quote attached.) A motion was made by Councilman Wynn and seconded by Council Member Payne to accept the quote from CCMI for \$2472.00. Voting for the motion were 6 ayes and 0 nays. Motion carried. The invoice is to be paid for out of SPLOST Funds as budgeted.

Mayor reported that he will be advertizing the sale of surplus city vehicles this week.

Mayor then reported on the sell of old surplus water meters for \$1252.00. (Copy of receipt attached.)

A motion was made by Councilman Eady and seconded by Councilman Wynn to declare the scrap iron owned by the city as surplus and to dispose of the same. Voting for the motion were 6 ayes and 0 nays. Motion carried.

Mayor gave an update on street striping. Upon completion of the project, approximately 85% of the streets will be striped. The cost of the project will be about \$6000.00 over the projected amount of \$45,500.00 due to the added striping of the Milledgeville Highway.

Mayor expressed the need of some type of equipment to push the dirt off the edge of the streets. Possible solutions were discussed.

Councilman Eady recommended talking with County Commissioner Kester about using county equipment to address some of the issues inside the city.

Mayor gave an update on Zschimmer & Schwarz sewage. The Mayor and a few others will be meeting with Mr. Burton soon to set up specifications on the sewage from the Zschimmer & Schwarz plant that will be pumped to the Gordon Sewage Treatment Plant.

The 2012 SPLOST was projected to bring in approximately \$10,700,000.00 over a 6 year period. In reality, its going to bring in closer to 5 to 5.5 million dollars. The County Commissioners are expecting that the 2020 SPLOST, that will be on the ballot in November, to bring in approximately 5 to 6 million dollars, if passed. The county will receive 60% of the taxes collected and the cities will split the remaining 40% according to population. Of that 40%, the City of Gordon will get 41% which will be an estimated \$640,000.00 over a six year period. Mayor referred to the copy of figures and other info on the 2020 SPLOST that was distributed to Council. (Copy of figures & info attached.) He recommended submitting these total projected allocations for the City of Gordon 2020 SPLOST to the County Commissioners.

A motion was made by Councilman Eady and seconded by Councilman Densley to submit the projected expenditures for the City of Gordon 2020 SPLOST as submitted by the Mayor.

Council Member Lawrence questioned the allocation of SPLOST money to each city for recreation and how this works. Different parks throughout the county were discussed.

Twenty percent off the top of SPLOST revenues goes to the county for recreation and economic development. Since the City of Gordon puts a fair amount of

money into the Gordon/Wilkinson County Recreation Park, the Mayor is going to ask the county if they will pay that part for us as they do for the other cities.

The Mayor reported that the Wilkinson County Development Authority recommended a while back that we consider building some type of emergency center just beyond the Huddle House on the land that the county owns. The Development Authority wants the piece of property that the fire department is on now. The City of Ivey would also like to see the emergency center built on the property just past the Huddle House. Mayor asked for Council's permission to go along with the City of Ivey and recommend to the County Commissioners that the emergency center be built just beyond the Huddle House. No opposition was heard.

Mayor gave an update on blight issues. Flyers are being distributed and printed in the Wilkinson County Post concerning the same.

Council Member Lawrence expressed the need to get all the computers at the City Hall up-to-date.

City Clerk to get a quote for a new computer for her office to present to Council.

Attorney Green has worked up a draft blight ordinance for review and asked how the council would like to approach the review.

Councilman Eady stated that the City Charter nor the Ordinances have been updated since 1989 or 1990 and this needs to be done. He encouraged everyone that is going to Savannah to visit the vendors who offer these type services. He suggested that the City Charter and Ordinances be revised this year.

Attorney Green highly encouraged the update of the City Charter and Ordinances.

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

Motion carried.

July 15th, 2019
Approved & Adopted

James R. Turner
Mayor

Janina Ben
City Clerk