

Council Minutes
City of Gordon
Work Shop
August 1, 2019

The Council of the City of Gordon held a Work Shop on August 1, 2019 at 5:00 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, and Phyllis Payne. Councilman George Wynn was absent.

Mayor called the Work Shop to order.

The Public Works Department was the first item of discussion.

Supt. Lawrence reported on the change of work hours due to the heat and on the street signs that have been ordered and on the signs already replaced. He will get a count of speed limit signs that need to be replaced and get them ordered.

Mayor expressed concern over the record keeping required by EPD and stated he does not feel that the city is adequately meeting the requirements. Supt. Lawrence agreed that this is an issue mainly due to the lack of time to do the required paperwork adequately and in a timely manner. After discussing the possibility of using other staff members, Mayor suggested getting some help with the record keeping other than our own staff. This issue was discussed.

Supt. Lawrence is still the acting Code Enforcement Officer for the City. He reported on drainage and fencing issues at the new healthcare facility.

Mayor reported that it appears that the Water & Sewage Budget will nearly break even by the end of the budget year.

Supt. Lawrence reported on a water leak at BASF across from the main entrance. The leak is coming from the BASF fire line and appears to have been leaking for a while. He then asked for direction on who to contact or how to handle the situation.

Councilman Eady stated that this water is not metered, but is coming straight out of the fire hydrant line that goes back to the old track. BASF needs to be billed for this water. The leak is losing approximately 300,000 gallons of water per month and appears to have been leaking for quite a while. This could be where a good portion of our unaccounted for water has been going to.

After discussion, Mayor recommended that an official visit be made to BASF to discuss the leak and to follow up with a letter.

The Occupancy Certificate for the new healthcare facility was discussed. The certificate will not be issued until all criteria has been met. It is illegal for them to open the facility until the Occupancy Certificate has been issued.

Councilman Eady stated that he feels the city has done their due diligence in paving and striping streets here recently and feels that we need to let our LMIG money build up for the next few years and use it to pave our next street or streets that need to be paved in order to save some of the SPLOST money for later use.

Councilman Eady and Council Member Lawrence both stated they are not in favor of any tax increases this year.

The tax digest and roll back were briefly discussed.

Supt. Lawrence reported on the resignation of John Moon and the need to advertise for the vacant position.

Supt. Lawrence requested an ice machine be put into the upcoming budget. Some of the employees are requesting waders, but these can probably be purchased out of a general line item and will not be a capital expense.

It was discussed to promote Dontavious "Dee" Jackson to heavy equipment operator in October. Supt. Lawrence is in favor of this promotion.

Supt. Lawrence recommended declaring the smaller dump truck as surplus and put up for sell.

Supt. Lawrence reported on the theft of two detour signs.

Mayor reported on theft of flowers from the planters maintained by Main Street Gordon. He also reported on theft of water services by a customer whose meter has been pulled for non-payment.

Mayor reminded Council that we should know if we received the CDBG Grant for water improvements or the Firefighters Grant in September.

The Water & Wastewater Plant Operator position held by Taylor Aviles was discussed. The position requires that the operator must become certified in water and wastewater within 24 months from the date of hire in order to keep the job. Neither certification has been obtained.

City Clerk reported that city finances are normal for this time of the year.

Mayor stated by the end of the budget year, he thinks the General Fund will be a little short, but the Water & Sewage Fund will probably break even. Just for future reference, in 2 or 3 years the sewage pond will have to be dredged at an estimated cost of approximately \$300,000.00.

The Council discussed how a county tax increase would benefit the city. If the tax is decreased, the city will have to make some hard decisions concerning the upcoming budget.

No updated information has been received from Robbie Mixon on insurance claims.

The City Clerk gave an update on the new water billing system. It appears that it will be September before the first set of bills will be ran on the new software. She reported on issues with integrating debit/credit card payments directly into the new system. At this time the payments will have to be manually entered. For a cost, the software company might can figure out a way to integrate the payments without having to manually enter each one.

Mayor stated that the delay in the billing system may delay the installation of the new water meters until October.

Mayor gave an update on the renovation of the nitrification chamber. ISM will scrap out everything in the chamber such as hoses, piping, cubes, etc. at an estimated cost of \$16,000.00 to \$18,000.00. Mike Avery has agreed to store the cubes for the city. LEMNA will come in after ISM has completed their job and install the new equipment at a cost of \$138,000.00 to be paid out of SPLOST.

Mayor gave update on the clearing of property at Hartford South. He presented quotes from Jerry Veal and Gettis.

Mayor stated he will not have a draft 2019-2020 Budget prepared by the next Council Meeting as planned. He asked Council to consider promoting Dontavious Jackson up to Heavy Equipment Operator to include salary increase. He also presented a request from the Gordon Library Board that both library employees be given a \$1.00 an hour increase.

The Mayor will be meeting with the City of Ivey and request that they put \$2400.00 back into their budget to be given to the City of Gordon to help with library expenses as they have done in the past. The City of Ivey ceased library funding to the City of Gordon last budget year.

Mayor recommended decreasing library funding for shrubbery trimming since the library board has requested the city take over the responsibility.

Mayor would like to increase the salary for all city employees with this being contingent on the digest figures, etc. Options were discussed.

Council Member Rose Lawrence reported on a call from the school system concerning the Middle Georgia Community Food Bank. They would like to set up a food bank in Gordon to feed 250 low income families. It requires a big paved parking lot.

Mayor has approached the Middle Georgia Regional Commission requesting assistance with zoning and mapping, etc.

The Charter also needs to be updated.

A motion was made by Council Member Payne and seconded by Councilman Eady to adjourn at 5:51 p.m. Voting for the motion were 5 ayes and 0 nays. Motion carried.

August 19, 2019
Approved & Adopted

KAREN L. TURNER
Mayor

Imana Brown
City Clerk