

Council Minutes  
City of Gordon  
August 5, 2019

The Council of the City of Gordon held a meeting on Monday, August 5, 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 not present when the meeting was called to order but did join at a later time as indicated in these minutes.

The mayor called the meeting to order and welcomed all present.

A motion was made by Councilman Wynn and seconded by Council Member Payne to accept the July 15, 2019 Council Minutes and the July 25, 2019 Work Shop Minutes as presented. Voting for the motion were 5 ayes and 0 nays. Motion carried.

City Clerk gave an update on implementing the new water billing system. There are issues with integrating the debit/credit card payments into the system. Hopefully, the first billing under the new system will be in September.

Mayor reported that two out of the five surplus vehicles advertized for sale were sold. Chief Hall would like to add the camouflage truck in his department to the surplus list. Mayor recommended adding the ditch witch trailer to the surplus list, also.

Councilman Wynn stated we have the ditch witch that goes on the trailer.

Mayor hopes to have an updated list of vehicles, trailers, etc. to declare as surplus by the next meeting.

Councilman Daniel joined the meeting at this time of 5:34 p.m.

The Zschimmer & Schwarz sewerage plant usage permit was discussed. Mayor reported that Zschimmer & Schwarz was told about 10 days ago that they could start using our Sewage Treatment Plant and has been pumping approximately 15,000 gallons per day in to the city's Sewage Treatment Plant since that time. The city will issue them authorization to do so, but no official permit will be issued from the city.

The Community Health Center will hold open house on August 8, 2019. The building will be 95% complete by that time. Fencing and drainage issues were discussed.

The cost for tree removal from Hartford South was discussed.

The Mayor stated that the 2019-2020 Draft Budget is not complete at this time. The budget will

depend largely on the tax digest figures when received. He may call a Work Shop to review the Draft Budget when completed. Mayor gave a memo to Council on some of the projected budget increases. (Copy of memo attached.)

Mayor has asked the Middle Georgia Regional Commission to assist the Clean, Green, and Safe Committee in developing a plan of action to address blight, etc. in the city. A Resolution was recommended to ask the Clean, Green, and Safe Committee to serve as advisors to Council on blight and nuisance abatement.

Mayor reported that the current six year SPLOST will end this year. He then presented A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE SUBMITTAL OF THE CITY OF GORDON SPLOST PROJECTS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE WILKINSON COUNTY 2020 SPLOST SERIES REFERENDUM. If passed on November 5, 2019, the 2020 SPLOST will remain in effect for 6 years, the same as the current SPLOST. The City's requested projects and money allotted to each will remain almost exactly the same as the current SPLOST. SPLOST funding for recreation and the location of recreation parks was discussed. The Recreation Board is being by-passed by the new county administration who are trying to move recreation activities toward the center of the county verses in Gordon where the highest percentage of the county population resides. After a lengthy discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Wynn and seconded by Councilman Densley to approve the RESOLUTION as presented. Voting for the motion were 6 ayes and 0 nays. Motion carried. (Copy of RESOLUTION attached.)

The Mayor will ask the City of Ivey to donate \$200.00 per month towards assistance with Gordon Library operations. The County currently contributes \$5000.00 towards library expenses each year. The Mayor will ask the county to increase that amount to \$10,000.00.

The next issue discussed was the title clearance for Hartford South. Hartford South is titled to the Gordon Development Authority which is no longer in existence. The property was originally given to the Gordon Development Authority by the City of Gordon. At some point, the property and the money that was in the Gordon Development Authority bank account, approximately \$85,000.00, were given to the Wilkinson County Development Authority. The Wilkinson County Development Authority accepted the money, but the property was never titled over to the Wilkinson County Development Authority. Due to this fact, the Mayor asked Attorney Green to get the property transferred back to the City of Gordon. At this time, Attorney Green distributed a Limited Warranty Deed and a plat of the property reflecting the information being discussed. (Copy of deed and plat attached.) Attorney Green explained the layout of the plat and explained the proper way to get the property transferred back to the City of Gordon. A motion was made by Councilman Eady and seconded by Councilman Densley to authorize Attorney Green to

develop a quit-claim deed from the Gordon Development Authority to the City of Gordon to transfer the property back to the city. Voting for the motion were 6 ayes and 0 nays. Motion carried.

Councilman Eady gave further background information on the Gordon Development Authority and the Wilkinson County Development Authority and the revolving fund money involved. He suggested requesting a paper trail to see if any of the money is still available that might could be used in developing the Hartford South property. After discussion, it was suggested that Attorney Green look into this issue.

Mayor reported on the GIRMA inspection by Vincent Scott last Monday. Mr. Scott made suggestions of items that need to be corrected for GIRMA insurance purposes.

Supt. Lawrence also met with Mr. Scott. Mr. Scott said there weren't really any big changes that are needed, however, he did suggest a cover and mud flaps for the dump truck. He also suggested a concrete pad be installed where the used oil is kept and in the meantime, until the concrete pad is poured, build a trench around it so if an oil spill occurs it will remain in the general area. He then complimented the improvements that have been made to the shop since his last visit.

City Clerk Towana Brown reported that Mr. Scott inspected the Motor Vehicle Reports on file at City Hall and all were in order. He encouraged the city to keep running these reports annually.

Councilman Eady stressed making sure all the lift stations are covered by GIRMA. Mayor will follow up on this.

The Mayor has been asked by GMA to serve on the Member Services Advisory Council which consists of two or three meetings a year mostly in middle Georgia. Mayor asked for Council's permission to serve on the Member Services Advisory Council. A motion was made by Councilman Eady and seconded by Councilman Wynn to allow the Mayor to serve on the GMA Member Services Advisory Council. Voting for the motion were 6 ayes and 0 nays. Motion carried. (Copy of related info attached.)

Mayor reported that Joel Ussery has begun electrical work at MLK Park for the upcoming Fall Line Festival. Some of the original underground wiring will need to be replaced in the next two to three years because it was not encased.

Roy Mixon reported on behalf of Main Street Gordon. The next meeting will be August 12,

2019 at 6:00 p.m. Everyone was invited to attend. The Fall Line Festival plans are well underway. He then presented the Fall Line Festival t-shirts that are being sold for \$15.00 each.

Mr. Mixon inquired if the Welcome to Gordon sign located near the Huddle House will be moved because it is no longer visible in the current location. The issue was discussed.

Mr. Mixon said they are accepting nominations for most improved business, most improved home, landscaping, etc. Mayor Turner nominated Brett's Cycle Barn for one of the nominations.

Councilman Densley presented a request from Wendell Little for a speed breaker to be placed on Menton Street.

The Mayor is aware of Mr. Little's request and he stated that he has told Mr. Little that he will not recommend a speed breaker on the short street that he is requesting it be placed on.

Council Member Lawrence asked for an update on the big water leak that is at BASF.

Supt. Lawrence spoke with a BASF rep this morning about the leak and he was told that they have hired Martin Contractors to put in a valve and cut it off going down from that side down. The work is supposed to be done this week.

Council discussed the leak. It is a large leak and is lowering the water pressure inside the plant and is draining the city's water supply. The water is for fire protection only and is not metered. Council discussed cutting the water off until repaired.

Council Member Lawrence reported that the Middle Georgia Food Bank will deliver food to the Shiloh Baptist Church on September 13, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. A team has been set up to bag food for 250 people. She will talk to the Police Department about the big trucks that will be delivering the food.

A motion was made by Council Member Payne and seconded by Councilman Eady to adjourn at 6:20 p.m. Voting for the motion were 6 ayes and 0 nays. Motion carried.

August 19, 2019  
Approved & Adopted

Herbert L. Turner  
Mayor

Imana Brown  
City Clerk