



CITY COUNCIL MEETING - April 9, 2019

MINUTES

ITEM OF BUSINESS

ACTION REQUESTED OF COUNCIL

1. Call to Order

Mayor Lariscy, 7:00pm

Mayor Lariscy called the meeting to order. Councilman Goldwire was not in attendance.

2. Moment of Repose for Those Who Practice Some Other Faith

3. Invocation

Mayor Lariscy led the Invocation.

4. Pledge of Allegiance

Councilman Lee led the Pledge of Allegiance.

5. Approval of Agenda

Consideration to approve the Agenda

Council members discussed the agenda and requested the following items be added to the agenda:

- 12 E. Discussion on hiring a Police Chief and Fire Chief
- 12 F. Discussion regarding water flouride treatment
- 12 G. Discussion regarding purchase of metal building for WWTP
- 12 H. Discussion regarding purchase of hay trailer
- 12 I. Discussion and consideration of budget amendment

Councilman Johnson made a motion to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Councilman Collins. Motion carried.

6. Approval of Minutes

Consideration and approval of March 12, 2019 City Council Minutes, and March 26, 2019 City Council Minutes

Councilman Collins made a motion to approve the March 12, 2019 Council Minutes, seconded by Councilman Johnson. Motion carried. Councilman Johnson made a motion

to approve the March 26, 2019 Council Minutes, seconded by Councilman Lee. Motion carried.

7. Planning & Zoning- No report

8. Leisure Services

Ms. Diann Hicklen reported to Council that the Committee is moving forward with the Easter Egg Hunt scheduled for April 20th, and that more volunteers are needed. Mr. Timothy Darvey II, from the Masonic Lodge in Guyton, gave the Committee a donation towards the Easter Egg Hunt.

9. Historic Preservation- No report.

10. Other Committee Reports-

Presentation regarding Boys and Girls Club- Group not in attendance.

Mr. Ron Webb- Whitesville HOA- Mr. Webb spoke to Council to address citizen concerns. The HOA is requesting speed bumps be installed in the neighborhood, especially along Biltmore Drive, or increased patrols in the area. He stated they would also like to have a conversation regarding Phase 3 on the South Camelia Court side of the neighborhood to make sure that area will be incorporated with the neighborhood's covenants and bylaws. He then added that a sign had been hit on Live Oak Trail that needed to be repaired/replaced. Councilman Collins asked if the citizens in the area would prefer increased patrol over speed bumps, and Mr. Webb stated that those he spoke to would prefer increased patrol. A discussion following pertaining to the covenants and the role of the City. Councilman Collins added that the plans for this phase of Whitesville are on hold due to drainage issues. Mayor Lariscy added he would speak to Public Works Superintendent Josh Collins about adding additional speed limit signs and repairing the sign on Live Oak Trail.

ALL PUBLIC COMMENTS WILL BE LIMITED TO AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

11. Old Business

A. Mayor Lariscy

Discussion and consideration of increase to water and/or sewer rates

Councilman Collins stated that revenue to date is approximately \$720,000 and expenditures is approximately \$701,000. The overage in revenue is not enough to cover the repairs needed to the water towers. One tower alone was approximately \$350,000.00 in repairs. He also stated the bond payment is approximately \$400,000.00 this year, and increasing to \$420,000.00 next year. He added Council should bring the water/sewer rates to a point where we can do the repairs needed. Councilman Johnson stated that Council should review the bond to see the percentage increase required, and Mayor Lariscy stated that the bond has been reviewed by staff and it does not state an increase percentage. During the discussion that followed, Councilman Collins also added there will be additional expense because the City needs to begin a fluoride

treatment that has not been budgeted. Councilman Johnson made a motion to table this discussion until all proper information has been gathered to make the best decision on the rate increase. The motion was seconded by Councilman Lee, and the motion carried.

B. Mayor Lariscy

Discussion and approval of replacement truck for public works

Mayor Lariscy stated that the City will receive \$22,073.50 from the insurance company for the theft of the city truck. Public Works Superintendent Collins requested a truck that would fulfill multiple uses: \$26,000, 2-door, 4x4. Councilman Johnson stated this is a downsize from the truck that was stolen. Mayor Lariscy agreed, but stated the needs of the City has changed since the purchase of the original truck with the opening of the WWTP. He added that he has spoken to city employee Calvin Nesmith about utilizing the trustees, and Mr. Nesmith stated they are not productive and employees are hindered when they use them. Mr. Nesmith also agreed with the purchase of the requested truck because of the use at the WWTP and city. Mayor Lariscy added he spoke with a hay farmer, Mr. Kessler, and he stated that you don't want to use a tractor to haul hay. Mayor Lariscy then added the City does have another 4-door truck if needed. He added the Calvin has been employed with the City for almost 30 years, and Public Works Superintendent Collins has a lot of experience in this area as well, and that Council should value their expertise. He recommended that Council approve the purchase of the requested truck. Councilman Johnson stated the City needs to purchase a 4-door truck and that he sees who is working and who is not. He then added that the City needs to be getting the trustees. Councilman Johnson then added that if the employees don't like working with the inmates, then the city's doesn't need them (the employee). After a heated discussion regarding the truck, Councilman Johnson made a motion to proceed with the lowest bid on the most qualified truck, a 250. Councilman Lee then questioned if the truck hadn't been stolen, what would happen with the hay. Councilman Collins stated that plans had already been underway to purchase a the truck needed. Councilman Johnson restated his motion. Motion died for lack of a second. Councilman Collins asked Councilman Lee what his hesitation was and why he didn't second the motion. Councilman Lee stated he doesn't want to the new truck to go to the WWTP at all. Councilman Johnson then made a motion to get bids on a 4-door truck to stay in the city limits to work streets and lanes. Councilman Lee seconded the motion. Motion carried. Mayor Lariscy stated he would work with Public Works Superintendent Collins and City Clerk Bruton to obtain quotes. City Attorney Smith advised they needed to be sealed bids and we could use SPLOST for the purchase.

C. Mayor Lariscy

Update on City Manager and Water Clerk Positions

Mayor Lariscy stated the new City Manager and Water Clerk would start employment on April 29th.

D. Mayor Lariscy

Discussion and consideration of request for bids for lawn care maintenance

Mayor Lariscy stated that previously Councilman Collins had requested cutting take place every 10 days instead of 14 days. Councilman Collins then asked why the city would accept new bids. Councilman Johnson stated his issue is the City needs to use the inmates; if another man was hired, and they got 4 inmates, that is 9 people working. Councilman Collins asked City Attorney Smith who decides if the City uses inmates. City Attorney Smith advised it was a Council decision. A discussion of the City Charter followed. Councilman Collins made a motion to table, seconded by Councilman Johnson. Motion carried. Councilman Lee stated the city employee Calvin Nesmith has never liked getting the inmates. Councilman Lee then asked why hire two new employees when you have free labor. Councilman Collins stated there have been reports of drug issues, and Councilman Lee stated there are issues with anyone.

12. New Business

A. Mayor Lariscy

Discussion of date for budget workshop and fire services workshop

Councilman Johnson stated if the new City Manager is starting April 29th, then Council should wait until then to schedule. Councilman Collins asked what the fire services workshop would be regarding, and Mayor Lariscy stated Interim Chief Stringer will discuss the future plans for the department with Council. Mayor Lariscy stated he would email availability dates to everyone to schedule.

B. Mayor Lariscy

Discussion and consideration of fire department volunteer incentive program

Interim Chief Scott Stringer addressed Council regarding the incentive program for the fire department volunteers. He stated that Effingham County, Bulloch County, and Rincon all have similar programs. There was lengthy discussion regarding the program submitted and the programs at the other departments. Councilman Collins stated that the Effingham County Department has added additional stations, and the City Department needs to be able to compete. Councilman Lee asked why the volunteers are not responding to calls now. Interim Chief Stringer stated that they are running calls, just not as well as the department would like. He stated there were 18 calls this month with 39 call responses. The issue is some of the volunteers are not first-responder certified, and other personnel issues that would need to be discussed outside of this meeting. Councilman Collins stated he appreciated their service and hoped to figure out a way to provide the best service to the citizens. Councilman Johnson made a motion to table to allow City Attorney Smith time to review the proposal, seconded by Councilman Lee. Motion carried.

C. Mayor Lariscy

Consideration and approval of request for bids for gym windows

Councilman Lee made a motion to table due to the measurements and request not being ready, seconded by Councilman Johnson. Motion carried. Councilman Lee stated he would provide the measurements to City Clerk Bruton.

D. Mayor Lariscy

Discussion and consideration of employee compensation

Mayor Lariscy stated the without a City Manager and Water Clerk, Mrs. Fort and City Clerk Bruton have been carrying the load and City Clerk Bruton has been staying late to keep up. Mayor Lariscy said he recommends stopping the \$250.00/pay period stipend and giving Mrs. Bruton a bonus of \$1,000.00, to be paid from the City Manager line item. Councilman Lee stated she is already got a raise for being the City Manager. Mayor Lariscy corrected him stating she was not given a raise, but a stipend, and she was not appointed as the City Manager. He added that stipend was because of her work without a City Manager, and now she is having to do the work load without a Water Clerk. Councilman Lee stated he does not agree with it and added the City shouldn't give raises to every employee that does a little extra. Councilman Collins asked if this would be \$500.00 extra from the stipend already granted, and Mayor Lariscy confirmed. Mayor Lariscy then added the City is saving a lot of money currently with those positions being empty. Councilman Lee stated again he was opposed. Councilman Collins made a motion to increase the \$250.00/pay period to \$500.00/pay period for the month of April. Councilman Lee became angry and asked how Councilman Collins' motion came before his. Mayor Lariscy stated he didn't realize that he had made a motion, he needed to clarify. Councilman Lee made a motion to deny the increase for City Clerk Bruton. Councilman Johnson said he is concerned. He knows City Clerk Bruton is doing multiple jobs, but she has already been granted the \$250 stipend. Mayor Lariscy asked if there was a second to the motion made by Councilman Lee. The motion died due to no second. Councilman Collins made a motion to move forward with the Mayor's recommendation. Mayor Lariscy seconded the motion. Councilman Johnson asked for clarification of the motion and that the \$1,000.00 should include the stipend previously paid to City Clerk Bruton, bringing the total to \$750.00. Mayor Lariscy agreed, and Mayor Lariscy, Councilman Collins, and Councilman Johnson voted in favor of the motion, while Councilman Lee voted opposed. Motion carried.

E. Mayor Lariscy

Discussion on hiring a Police Chief and Fire Chief

Councilman Collins stated the City needed to post ads for the Police Chief, Fire Chief, Public Works, and Police Officers. Council decided the ads would need to be run for 21 days.

F. Mayor Lariscy

Discussion regarding water flouride treatment

Councilman Collins stated that the city is in violation because we do not do a flouride treatment to the water. He added that Public Works Superintendent Collins is working

on gathering the information needed to move forward in regards to the treatment and storage of the fluoride, which will require a separate building.

G. Mayor Lariscy Discussion regarding purchase of metal building for WWTP

Councilman Collins stated this building is needed to protect the equipment at the WWTP. He stated one bid was \$60,000 for a 40 x 60 ft. building, and a 25 x 60 ft. shed. Council agreed to move forward with sealed bids.

H. Mayor Lariscy Discussion regarding purchase of hay trailer

Councilman Collins stated the hay trailer is needed to expedite the removal of the hay from the sprayfields. He added that a regular hay farmer can leave the bales on the fields, but EPD forbids that on sprayfields. The time it would save in removing one bale at a time would pay for itself. Council stated to obtain sealed bids.

I. Mayor Lariscy Discussion and consideration of budget amendment

Councilman Collins stated he had limited time to review the amendment, and that some of the professional fees that had been paid out of the water/sewer account could have come from the construction fund for the plant. Mayor Lariscy suggested approving the amendment tonight, and then revisit at the next meeting to make any changes necessary. Councilman Collins made a motion to that effect, seconded by Councilman Johnson. Motion carried.

Reports from Committees

Legal	City Attorney Smith
Present in Executive Session.	
Finance & Taxes	Councilman Goldwire
Councilman Goldwire was not in attendance. Mayor Lariscy stated a report is available at City Hall upon request.	
Streets & Lanes	Councilman Johnson
Councilman Johnson stated the City needs to revisit the ditches that need to be dug out, and added that he would provide a list.	
Water & Sewage	Councilman Collins
Councilman Collins stated the the timber is being harvested, and they will be finished this week.	
Recreation & City Property	Councilman Lee
Councilman Lee had no report.	
Police Department	Interim Chief Coppola
Interim Chief Coppola gave the police report.	
Fire Department	Interim Chief Stringer

Interim Chief Stringer gave the fire report.

14. Dates to Remember

Friday, April 19 - City Hall Closed, Good Friday
Saturday, April 20, 8am-2pm - Sale on the Trail
Saturday, April 20, 2:30pm - Guyton Easter Egg Hunt
Wednesday, May 1, 4pm - Guyton Municipal Court
Monday, May 13, 7pm - Leisure Service Meeting
Tuesday, May 14, 7pm - City Council Meeting
Monday, May 27 - City Hall Closed, Memorial Day

15. Adjournment from Regular Session into Executive Session

A motion to adjourn into executive session was made by Councilman Collins, seconded by Councilman Lee. Motion carried.

16. Executive Session (as needed)

Executive session was held to discussion litigation and personnel.

17. Adjournment of Executive Session back into Regular Session

A motion to open to regular session was made by Councilman Collins, seconded by Councilman Johnson. Motion carried and the meeting was reopened.

18. Adjournment

There being no further business, Councilman Collins made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman Lee. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned.



Jeff Lariscy, Mayor



Alison Bruton, City Clerk

