

City of Guyton, Georgia

Working Together to Make a Difference



CITY COUNCIL MEETING - July 9, 2019

MINUTES

ITEM OF BUSINESS

ACTION REQUESTED OF COUNCIL

1. *Call to Order*

Mayor Lariscy, 7:00pm

Mayor Lariscy, Councilman Collins, Councilman Goldwire, Councilman Lee, City Manager Hofman, City Attorney Smith, and City Clerk Bruton were all in attendance. Councilman Johnson was not in attendance.

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

3. *Invocation*

Councilman Goldwire led the Invocation.

4. *Pledge of Allegiance*

Mayor Lariscy led the Pledge of Allegiance.

5. *Approval of Agenda*

Consideration to approve the Agenda

Councilman Goldwire made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Councilman Collins. Motion carried.

6. *Approval of Minutes*

Consideration and approval of the June 11, 2019 Minutes, June 18, 2019 Minutes, and the June 28, 2019 Minutes

Councilman Goldwire stated he was not in attendance for these meetings, so he could not vote. Councilman Collins asked if they could be approved later. City Attorney Smith advised they could. Councilman Collins then asked if they could be approved following executive session.

7. *Planning & Zoning- No report.*

8. *Historic Preservation*

Ms. Lucy Powell stated that the Ice Cream Social was a success.

9. Other Committee Reports- Community Picnic Update

Mayor Lariscy stated that plans are coming together for the Community Picnic.

ALL PUBLIC COMMENTS WILL BE LIMITED TO AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

10. Old Business

A. City Manager Hofman Consideration of Volunteer Incentive Program
for the Fire Department

Councilman Collins asked if Council added a discussion about the rates proposed by City Manager Hofman (fire fee increase, millage rate increase). City Manager Hofman stated that the City either needs to merge with the County, raise the rates, or sustain the department as it is. Councilman Lee asked who decided we would do that, because Council said they would keep the department. A brief discussion followed regarding the fire department. Councilman Collins made a motion to table this discussion regarding the volunteer incentive until Council speaks to the County about a possible merger. Councilman Goldwire seconded the motion. Upon voting, Mayor Lariscy, Councilman Collins, and Councilman Goldwire voted in favor of the motion with Councilman Lee voting opposed. Motion carried.

B. Councilman Johnson Discussion regarding Delarae Subdivision

Councilman Johnson was not in attendance. Councilman Collins stated he has not spoken to Councilman Johnson in regards to this agenda item, but he did state there are areas that Public Works needs to fill in and re-grass, areas where the mowing crew is not mowing, and sign damage that needs to be repaired. Councilman Goldwire asked if the City or the contractor is responsible for the issues at the entrance to Delarae. Mayor Lariscy stated the contractor did what they were supposed to do. The issue is there was a drought period after the repairs, followed by heavy rain, so the grass seed did not germinate. After a brief discussion regarding the repairs, Councilman Collins stated that maintaining the grassed areas would not require a lot of time from Public Works, but it would need to be maintained until the grass is established. Councilman Lee asked how much the City paid for the repairs, and Councilman Collins stated it was approximately \$15,000, which was far less than the second bid received of \$40,000.00. He added that this is a City issue and not a contractor issue.

C. Councilman Lee Discussion regarding opening the riverfront
property to the public

Councilman Lee stated he wants this property open to the public. He added that there are deer stands on the property, so someone has been using it. Councilman Goldwire asked if those using the stands are trespassing. Councilman Lee added there was one

at the plant too. Councilman Collins asked if he was referring to the porta-potty, and Councilman Lee responded that he was. Councilman Collins stated that it has been out there since the beginning of the WWTP construction and he was told it was put there to be a deer stand by Mike O'Neal. When Councilman Lee questioned Councilman Collins about the 4-wheeler tracks, Councilman Collins stated those individuals were trespassing and the police had been called in the past and hunters have been caught and prosecuted by DNR. Councilman Lee made a motion to reopen the river property. Councilman Goldwire asked if there were still safety issues. Councilman Lee stated the boat ramp needs repairs, but the City could put up a sign that says "No boats." Councilman Goldwire said he doesn't want to jeopardize citizen safety. Councilman Collins stated there were additional reasons that the property could not be opened. Councilman Lee asked what they are. Councilman Collins stated that would need to be discussed in executive session. Councilman Goldwire stated he isn't against opening the property, but he is against opening it with issues. Mayor Lariscy stated that a motion had been made by Councilman Lee and asked if there was a second to the motion. No second was made on the motion and the motion died.

11. New Business

- A. City Manager Hofman** Approval of radio purchase for Fire Department utilizing SPLOST funds

Councilman Collins made a motion to table items A, B, and C. City Manager Hofman stated that tabling further funding of the FD now is dangerous to the citizens. Councilman Collins stated the department has a budget, and City Manager Hofman responded that the department needs these items. Councilman Goldwire questioned the urgency of these items and asked if they were critical to operations. Interim Chief Huntley spoke to Council and discussed the equipment that was going out of date. He stated that 11 SCBA's are going out of date. Councilman Collins asked when they would be out of date, and Interim Chief Huntley stated now, also adding that some of the gear is ragged and has holes, and the radios won't be able to be repaired anymore. City Manager Hofman spoke stating that four certified firefighters must respond to fire calls, and the only way to guarantee that is with paid staff. Councilman Collins stated that previous Chiefs didn't have these issues, and nothing was said previously about equipment going out of date or being in disrepair, and stated this could be a manufactured issue. Interim Chief Huntley stated this should have been taken care of already. A discussion took place about the SCBA's and equipment at the department. Interim Chief Huntley stated that tabling the purchase of this equipment would be a problem. At this time, Interim Chief Huntley got a page and left the room. Firefighter Andy Harville approached Council. He stated that on Monday night training's, only three volunteer's show up. He spoke for several minutes about the department and the benefits of merging with the County. He added that even with the equipment purchase, we could still drop to an ISO 10 because the equipment isn't the problem. Councilman Collins suggested Mayor Lariscy set up a meeting with the County to discuss a merger as soon as possible. After further discussion Councilman Collins made a motion to table items A, B, and C. Councilman Goldwire asked if there would be additional

conversations. Mayor Lariscy stated that is the reason to table, to have further discussions. Councilman Goldwire seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

B. City Manager Hofman Approval of gear/equipment for the Fire Department utilizing SPLOST funds

Tabled along with item A.

C. City Manager Hofman Discussion regarding a part-time Fire Chief

Tabled along with item A and B.

D. City Manager Hofman Consideration and approval of 3% pay increases for employees

City Manager Hofman stated that 3% cost of living increases were included in the budget that was approved. Councilman Collins asked if this rate gets applied to everyone, even if the Council is not satisfied with their performance. Councilman Goldwire stated he believed the cost of living increase to go to everyone, because it is not a merit increase. Councilman Lee stated if the employee is still employed, they should get the increase. Mayor Lariscy stated he believed the increases are justified to keep the positions competitive. Councilman Goldwire made a motion to approve the increase. Councilman Lee stated there was one employee not listed, Joseph Coppola. He added that because he is still an employee, he should get the increase too. Mayor Lariscy asked if the motion needed to be amended, and Councilman Goldwire clarified his motion was for the increase for all current employees. Councilman Lee seconded this motion. When the vote was called, Mayor Lariscy, Councilman Goldwire and Councilman Lee voted in favor of the motion. Councilman Collins opposed.

E. City Manager Hofman Consideration of \$1,150 case study to add elected officials to the GMA Retirement Plan

City Manager Hofman stated that this request came from Councilman Johnson, who was not in attendance. City Attorney Smith stated that because the City hasn't been paying into it, there is a buy-in for Council. This \$1,150 study would be to determine what that amount is. Councilman Collins stated he does not support this and made a motion not to approve this study. Councilman Goldwire asked for clarification that this was not a motion to table, but a motion to not approve all together. Councilman Collins stated that was correct. Councilman Goldwire seconded the motion and the motion carried.

F. City Manager Hofman Consideration and approval of contract with CRC to create new Zoning Ordinance

City Manager Hofman stated the Coastal Regional Commission would analyze everything, create a mock ordinance, then have the appropriate public hearings and amend what was needed. Councilman Collins asked how much this would cost. City Manager Hofman stated it would be up to \$20,000.00, which was included in the

budget. Councilman Collins asked if there were issues with our ordinances now, and City Attorney Smith stated there were some issues in our parallels between our ordinance and the County ordinances. After a brief discussion, City Manager Hofman stated this would be a more modern update. He added that the current codes are outdated and are obsolete. Councilman Collins stated with the current city ordinances and zoning ordinances, everything comes before Council for final approval. Councilman Goldwire asked how this got onto the agenda. City Manager Hofman stated this is a new way to approach zoning. There was a lengthy discussion regarding business in downtown Guyton, along with home based businesses. Councilman Collins asked if this new code would bypass Council approval. City Manager Hofman stated that everything would still go before Council. Councilman Collins stated that there is no point in spending \$20,000 for the same procedure. Councilman Collins then made a motion to deny the contract with CRC. Councilman Goldwire stated he would hate to throw this out if there was something that needed to be changed. Councilman Collins asked City Attorney Smith to explain an overlay to Council to explain what the CRC is offering. After his explanation, Councilman Goldwire stated he would not be in favor of this agreement either. Councilman Collins amended his motion to deny the contract with the CRC. Councilman Goldwire seconded Councilman Collins' motion, and the motion carried. Councilman Collins then made a motion to reallocate the \$20,000.00 budgeted to another line item, and have the budget amendment prepared for the next Council meeting. No second was made to the motion, and the motion died.

G. Councilman Johnson Discussion regarding Habitat for Humanity road damage

Councilman Lee stated he was familiar with this issue. He stated that the contractors brought in dirt and they broke up the corner of the road. City Manager Hofman spoke to Habitat for Humanity regarding this and they said they will be putting in skirting for the driveway in this area.

H. City Manager Hofman Approval to scan in all blueprint documents

City Manager Hofman stated he has a quote for \$0.50 per page for all of the blueprints, which will end up being approximately \$2,500.00. Councilman Lee made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilman Goldwire. Councilman Collins asked if this was budgeted, and City Manager Hofman stated that it was. Mayor Lariscy called for a vote and the motion carried.

I. City Manager Hofman Discussion and consideration of amendment to the Massage Parlor Ordinance

Mayor Lariscy asked if Council was only reviewing the fee at this time, and City Manager Hofman stated that was correct. City Attorney Smith stated that GMA advised to wait on the ordinance review due to the revisions of the state law. He explained some of the changes and stated that GMA will produce a mock ordinance that cities can then review. After some discussion of the current business license fees, Councilman Collins

made a motion to adopt a resolution to amend the fees to the current business license fee schedule. Councilman Goldwire seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

J. City Manager Hofman Approval of contract to work with Penn Credit

City Manager Hofman stated Penn Credit was recommended by GMA. Currently, when someone moved out and doesn't pay their final bill, it just stays on the books. Councilman Goldwire asked about the fee, and City Manager Hofman said it would be 16.5% of the money collected. Councilman Goldwire made a motion to move forward with the Penn Credit agreement, seconded by Councilman Lee. Councilman Collins asked how much is outstanding, and City Manager Hofman stated he wasn't sure, but it was more than \$20,000.00. After a brief discussion, Mayor Lariscy called for a vote and the motion carried.

K. City Manager Hofman Appointment of Jacob Ford to Interim Public Works Superintendent

Mayor Lariscy spoke for a few moments about Jacob Ford's value as an employee and stated he would be attending training to obtain his water license. Councilman Goldwire asked how long the interim placement would be. Mayor Lariscy stated policy states 90 days, then Council would review again. City Attorney Smith advised it could be longer than 90 days. After further discussion, Councilman Lee made a motion to appoint Jacob Ford as Interim Public Works Superintendent, seconded by Councilman Goldwire. Motion carried.

L. Mayor Lariscy Approval of agreement with TPN

Mayor Lariscy requested to table for for the time being. Councilman Goldwire made motion to table, seconded by Councilman Lee. Motion carried.

M. City Manager Hofman Consideration of Speed Limit Ordinance for Whitesville Plantation and Summer Place Subdivision

City Manager Hofman stated that speed limits signs are missing, and Council must adopt an ordinance to implement speed limits in the area. Councilman Collins stated that citizens complained about this a couple of months ago and asked City Manager Hofman if he spoke with DOT as directed. City Manager Hofman stated that before that can happen, the speed limit ordinance must be adopted. Councilman Collins asked Sheriff McDuffie, who was in attendance, if he had any recommendations. He stated that most areas are 25 mph, but said they could set up a system to track speeds in the area. After further discussion, Councilman Lee made a motion to approve the ordinance but change the speed to 25 mph from the 20 mph listed. Councilman Collins seconded the motion and the motion carried.

N. City Manager Hofman Discussion and consideration of quote for Public Works F-650 maintenance

City Manager Hofman stated the dump truck was taken in for an oil change and transmission work. While there, other problems were presented. Councilman Goldwire made a motion to approve the repair, seconded by Councilman Lee. Motion carried.

At this time, City Manager Hofman asked if he could add two more quotes for Council approval. One is a quote to replace two toilets in the bathrooms at the Leisure Service Room and the second is a quote for the repair of a PD vehicle. Mayor Lariscy stated the agenda would need to be amended to add items 11 O and 11 P.

O. City Manager Hofman Approval of quote to replace two toilets in bathroom at Leisure Services Room

The quote provided by City Manager Hofman was for \$850.00. Councilman Lee made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilman Goldwire. Motion carried.

P. City Manager Hofman Approval of quote to repair PD Tahoe

The quote provided by City Manager Hofman was for \$565.00. Councilman Lee made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilman Goldwire. Motion carried.

12. Reports from Committees

Legal City Attorney Smith

City Attorney Smith advised he would need to speak to executive session.

Finance & Taxes Councilman Goldwire

There was no finance report, but citizens were informed the new fiscal year has begun.

Streets & Lanes Councilman Johnson

Councilman Johnson was not in attendance. A citizen that resides at 723 Central Blvd informed Council of overgrown trees that are blocking the view of the road.

Water & Sewage Councilman Collins

No report.

Recreation & City Property Councilman Lee

No report.

Police Department Sheriff McDuffie

Wasn't informed that Council needed a report. He stated he will email a report to Council, and that he is not aware of any complaints.

Fire Department Interim Chief Huntley

Interim Chief Huntley gave the fire report.

13. Dates to Remember

Saturday, July 20, 4pm-8pm - Guyton Community Picnic

Wednesday, August 7, 4pm - Guyton Municipal Court

Tuesday, August 13, 7pm - City Council Meeting

Monday, September 2 - Labor Day, City Hall Closed

Wednesday, September 4, 4pm - Guyton Municipal Court

Tuesday, September 10, 7pm - City Council Meeting

15. Adjournment from Regular Session into Executive Session

A motion was made to adjourn to executive session by Councilman Goldwire. Councilman Lee seconded the motion and the motion carried.

16. Executive Session (as needed)

Executive Session was held to discuss personnel.

17. Adjournment of Executive Session back into Regular Session

Councilman Goldwire made a motion to reopen into regular session, seconded by Councilman Lee. Motion carried.

Councilman Collins made a motion to approve the June 11, 2019 Minutes, seconded by Councilman Lee. When the vote was called, Councilman Goldwire abstained, Mayor Lariscy, Councilman Collins, and Councilman Lee voted in favor, and the motion carried.

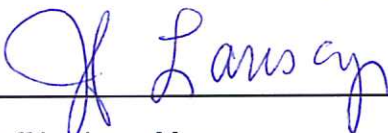
Councilman Collins made a motion to approve the June 18, 2019 Minutes, seconded by Councilman Goldwire. Motion carried.

Councilman Collins made a motion to approve the June 28, 2019 Minutes, seconded by Councilman Goldwire. Motion carried.


No motion was made in regards to the reopening the river property.

18. Adjournment

Councilman Collins made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Goldwire. Motion carried.



Jeff Lariscy, Mayor



Alison Bruton, City Clerk

