

City of Guyton, Georgia

Working Together to Make a Difference



CITY COUNCIL MEETING - June 11, 2019

MINUTES

ITEM OF BUSINESS

ACTION REQUESTED OF COUNCIL

1. *Call to Order*

Mayor Lariscy, 7:00pm

City Attorney Smith was running late for the meeting due to traffic, and Councilman Goldwire was not in attendance. Mayor Lariscy, Councilman Collins, Councilman Johnson, Councilman Lee, City Manager Hofman, and City Clerk Bruton were all in attendance.

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

3. *Invocation*

Reverend Lon Harden led the Invocation.

4. *Pledge of Allegiance*

Mayor Lariscy led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Lariscy presented City Attorney Smith a Resolution regarding the 2009 Service Delivery Strategy upon his arrival to review.

5. *Approval of Agenda*

Consideration to approve the Agenda

After some discussion, Councilman Johnson made a motion to add the following items to the agenda:

12 I) Appointment of Chris Huntley as Interim Fire Chief

12 J) Discussion regarding Delarae Subdivision

12 K) Discussion regarding Certificate of Occupancy for 24 B Hidden Creek Drive

Councilman Lee seconded Councilman Johnson's motion to amend the agenda, and the motion carried.

6. Approval of Minutes

Consideration and approval of the May 14, 2019 Minutes and the June 6, 2019 Minutes

Councilman Johnson stated he had an issue in section 12 C. of the May 14, 2019 Minutes. When asked for further clarification he stated he would discuss with Council. Councilman Johnson then made a motion to approve the minutes from May 14, 2019, which was seconded by Councilman Collins. Motion carried.

Councilman Collins made a motion to approve the June 6, 2019 Minutes. Councilman Johnson stated he believed the because the meeting died, there would be no minutes. Mayor Lariscy stated that a meeting did in fact take place, so there are minutes. Councilman Johnson then requested a few moments to review the minutes presented. After a few moments, Mayor Lariscy offered a second to the motion to approve the minutes from June 6, 2019. Councilman Lee stated that the minutes reflect that Councilman Johnson was present in the room during the vote, and Councilman Johnson added that the minutes should be changed because he excused himself from the meeting during the vote. After some discussion with City Attorney Smith, he advised the minutes were correct as written. With a motion and a second already made, Mayor Lariscy called for the vote. The motion carried.

7. Planning & Zoning

Ms. Diann Hicklen approached Council and stated they met to discuss the rezoning of 4 Hidden Creek from C-1 to R-1, and added that this was approved by the Planning and Zoning Board.

8. Leisure Services

Mayor Lariscy informed Council and those in attendance that he has reached out to Coca-Cola and Ken's IGA in regards to the Community Picnic scheduled for July 20, 2019. He added he would provide more information as he could.

9. Historic Preservation

Ms. Lucy Powell reminded Council of the upcoming Ice Cream Social and stated they are planning to move to the Leisure Services Room due to the weather.

10. Other Committee Reports

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

City Manager Hofman presented the increased rates to Council. Mayor Lariscy reminded Council that this has been discussed numerous times, and suggested Council

move forward. There was discussion regarding the percentage of the increase. Councilman Johnson asked if the City could tell the citizens that the bill won't be increased again for two years, and City Manager Hofman stated that he was not comfortable making that statement. Council then discussed the rates based on the CPI. A citizen asked Council if the City was losing money. Mayor Lariscy responded the City was not currently losing money, but there are fiduciary obligations that have to be met. Councilman Collins then asked about school water/sewer rates, to which Mayor Lariscy stated they may need to be a little higher, but he would review the rates for other schools in the area. Councilman Johnson made a motion to approve the increase presented but not allow an increase higher than the CPI moving forward. He was informed that this motion could not be made. Councilman Johnson then made a motion to approve the increase, seconded by Mayor Lariscy. When the vote was called, Mayor Lariscy and Councilman Johnson voted in favor of the increase, with Councilman Lee and Councilman Collins voting opposed. The motion died due to a tied vote.

B. Mayor Lariscy

Discussion regarding current RFP for water tower maintenance

City Manager Hofman stated that once the RFP for the water tower maintenance was posted, a company came out and stated that all of the items listed on the RFP were not necessary. Councilman Collins asked who came up with the RFP information and asked if it was Wesley Parker. City Manager Hofman stated the RFP was created based on Mr. Parker's recommendation. City Manager Hofman stated he reviewed with Pittsburg Tank and Wesley. He added that after the other company gave their recommendation, Mr. Parker did say that some of the work was only necessary under certain circumstances. Councilman Collins then asked if the \$1,500.00 review for information the City obtained from Mr. Parker was bad information. After some discussion, City Manager Hofman stated he would like to review the RFP with American Tank and Mr. Parker to move forward. Councilman Lee made a motion to that effect, seconded by Councilman Johnson. When the vote was called, Mayor Lariscy, Councilman Johnson, and Councilman Lee voted in favor of the motion, with Councilman Collins voting opposed. Motion carried.

C. Councilman Johnson

Discussion regarding digging out ditches

Councilman Johnson stated he spoke to City Manager Hofman and the County Commissioners at the SDS meeting about sending out a GIS map to contractors to show the work that needs to be completed.

D. Mayor Lariscy

Discussion regarding SDS

Mayor Lariscy stated that Effingham County and the municipalities did have a meeting yesterday to discuss the SDS. He reminded those in attendance that the 2011 SDS was never received by the DCA, and the new agreement is due to DCA in October. The county and municipalities have been told the DCA is demanding the 2011 SDS forms by the end of June, or all state funds will cease. Councilman Collins asked for Mayor Lariscy to explain a certain section of the Resolution presented, and Mayor Lariscy

stated that because the "Municipal Economic Development" form was added to the agreement from 2011, he wanted to make sure the City was covered. City Attorney Smith advised this Resolution should be discussed with the SDS Consultant. After some discussion, Councilman Johnson made a motion to table, seconded by Councilman Lee. Motion carried.

E. Mayor Lariscy

Discussion and appointment of Mr. Richard Zapal as the Director of Public Safety

Mayor Lariscy stated that Mr. Zapal was in attendance for the meeting this evening, and stated that Councilman Lee was on the hiring board that completed the interview. A citizen addressed Council stated he had heard rumors as to why the Council would hire from outside the City for the position and asked why Council finds the current employee incompetent for the position. Mayor Lariscy stated that he could not discuss that in open session. Councilman Lee stated that Mr. Zapal was the best man out of those that were interviewed, but the Interim Chief would have made a good interview. He added that Mr. Zapal was the best of the three (3) interviewed but not of the six (6) who applied, and now his mind has changed. Mayor Lariscy stated that the applicants were reviewed by City Manager Hofman and himself. Another citizen then spoke and stated that since the City has invested in Interim Chief Coppola, why wasn't he granted an interview. Mayor Lariscy again stated that it was a personnel matter that could not be discussed. Councilman Johnson stated that he excused himself from the previous meeting where this was discussed, but he also has questions about why Interim Chief Coppola was not interviewed. He then added that he did find more information on Mr. Zapal, and asked if Council could discuss further after executive session. Mayor Lariscy agreed.

12. New Business

A. Mayor Lariscy

Discussion regarding the City Council pay increase voted on during the April 10, 2018 Council Meeting

Councilman Johnson stated that previously Council had discussed raising the salary for Mayor and Council across the board at the same time, but the minutes state otherwise. He stated he wanted to pull the recording to review. Mayor Lariscy stated that the City Attorney would advise that the law is what was stated in the minutes. Councilman Johnson then stated he wanted to vote to remove the increase, because it wouldn't be fair that a new Councilman would have a higher salary. Councilman Johnson stated that Council voted in 2010 to increase salaries, and asked why it was allowed then. Mayor Lariscy stated he could not recall that happening, but if it did, Council needs to follow the law now. Councilman Johnson then asked if the increase could be changed now, and City Attorney Smith advised it would have to be published as before. Councilman Johnson requested that to happen.

B. Mayor Lariscy

Discussion and consideration of rezoning of 4 Hidden Creek from C-1 to R-1

Mayor Lariscy stated that Council has two stipulations in regards to the rezoning. One being a storm water drainage study and two being that any structures on the subdivided lots meet the covenants of Hidden Creek at a minimum. Councilman Johnson asked if the hill on the property will be moved once approved, and Mr. Scott Thompson (the owner of the property) stated it was not in the plans. There was some discussion regarding the covenants. Councilman Johnson made a motion to approve the rezoning with the two stipulations. Councilman Collins asked that a stipulation be added that it meets water/sewer availability. Councilman Johnson stated there should be a tap already on the property. After further discussion, Councilman Johnson amended his motion to approve the rezoning from C-1 to R-1 Conditional to include the three stipulations presented by Council. Councilman Collins seconded the motion and the motion carried.

C. Councilman Johnson Discussion regarding Public Works
Superintendent/WWTP Operator position

Councilman Johnson stated he has been riding around and never sees the Public Works Superintendent, and added that if he is out at the plant, that needs to be fixed. Mayor Lariscy asked if Council Johnson missed the email stated Mr. Josh Collins was resigning, and Councilman Johnson stated he has seen it and the matter doesn't need to be discussed any further.

D. Councilman Lee Discussion regarding the water/sewer rates
for residences that have home businesses,
charging the commercial rate instead of
residential rate

Councilman Johnson stated he believed that City Manager Hofman and City Clerk Bruton were going to review this issue. At this time, several citizens spoke up against the water rate change for home based businesses. Mr. Scott Thompson, a business owner in Guyton with commercial property, spoke and said he believed this change would further discourage small businesses from Guyton. Mayor Lariscy stated that no action would happen this evening.

E. Councilman Lee Discussion regarding opening the baseball
fields

Councilman Lee stated that the tin has been replaced on the dugout and the electrical outlet cover has been replaced. Mayor Lariscy asked if the ballfield was ready to be open, and Councilman Lee stated it was. Councilman Collins made a motion to open the ballfields, seconded by Councilman Lee. Motion carried.

F. Mayor Lariscy First reading of the FY 2019-2020 Budgets

Councilman Collins asked if the budget has changed since the last time Council reviewed it. City Manager Hofman discussed the changes that include the water/sewer rates, and professional fees. He added that there were other changes due to the

resignation of the WWTP Operator as well, and contractors were being contacted to manage operations. City Attorney Smith advised that the contractor position should be bid out. After some discussion regarding the position and time periods, Mayor Lariscy stated he would need a motion to move forward with a contractor for a 90 day interim service for the WWTP. Councilman Johnson asked when the contractors would begin, and City Manager Hofman stated they could start as soon as needed. Councilman Johnson stated if final day of employment for Mr. Josh Collins is June 20th, we should have the contractors start as soon as possible. After further discussion regarding the interim 90-day period and long term moving forward, Councilman Lee made a motion to ask if Mr. Wesley Parker plans to bid on the RFP for WWTP Operations, and if not, City Manager Hofman will work with him to put together an RFP for a 90-day interim period. Councilman Johnson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

City Manager Hofman then discussed with Council the other updates in the budget. Councilman Collins asked if the budget needed to be published, and Mayor Lariscy stated it would be put on the website. Councilman Collins asked if the presented budget reflected and increase in the millage rate. City Manager Hofman stated the rate would go from 2.65 to 4.16. Councilman Johnson stated he thought Council had discussed 3.65. City Manager Hofman stated the insurance premium tax has been going to the general fund, and with this budget, he had moved some to the Fire Department to assist that budget. There was discussion between Council and citizens regarding the millage rate increase, and Mayor Lariscy that the millage would have to be increased to compensate for the SDS funds that the County will no longer be sending the cities. Citizens then asked if the fire fee would be increased as well, and City manager Hofman stated that it would. After further discussion, Councilman Johnson made a motion to approve the first reading of the budget with the understanding that further discussion of the millage rate and fire fee would have to take place. Councilman Lee seconded the motion. When the vote was called, Mayor Lariscy, Councilman Johnson, and Councilman Lee all voted in favor of the motion, and Councilman Collins opposed.

G. City Manager Hofman Discussion and approval of quote to repair roof at Public Works Shop

City Manager Hofman informed Council that the roof of the public works shop has been leaking. He added that the Public Works Superintendent obtained a quote to repair in the amount of \$2,180.00. After some discussion, Councilman Johnson made a motion to repair the roof and additional repairs as needed as approved by the City Manager. Councilman Lee seconded the motion and the motion carried.

H. Mayor Lariscy Consideration and approval of the General Addendum to the GMA Defined Benefit Retirement Plan

City Manager Hofman stated this was an update for 2019, and City Manager Attorney Smith advised this was standard. Councilman Collins recused himself from this discussion and left the room. City Attorney Smith stated a quorum was still present.

Councilman Johnson asked if the retirement program would cover an employee that was laid off for a while and came back to work, and it was stated that would have to be reviewed. Councilman Lee then asked if an employee was responsible for submitting all of the paperwork. Mayor Lariscy states that the employee gives the information to the City Clerk. Councilman Lee then stated that an employee has told him his bill isn't getting paid. After some confusion, Mayor Lariscy stated that was a worker's compensation issue, not retirement. City Clerk Bruton then spoke and said that all of the information had been submitted to worker's comp in regards to that issue, and she has informed them that the bill was sent to the employee. They are working to fix the issue. Councilman Lee made a motion to approve the retirement addendum, seconded by Councilman Johnson. Motion carried.

I. Mayor Lariscy Appointment of Interim Fire Chief

Mayor Lariscy stated that the 90 interim period that Mr. Stringer agreed to serve as Fire Chief has passed. He added that he would like Council to appoint Mr. Chris Huntley as Interim Fire Chief for a 90-day period. Councilman Collins asked if a certificate could be given to Mr. Scott Stringer for her service. Mayor Lariscy stated he would create the certificate. Councilman Collins then made a motion to appoint Chris Huntley as the Interim Fire Chief. Councilman Johnson seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Councilman Johnson requested to discuss item 12 K. prior to 12 J. Council agreed.

J. Councilman Johnson Discussion regarding Delarae Subdivision

Councilman Johnson passed out photos from the entrance to the Delarae Subdivision where repair work had been done in March. He stated that the work is not holding up and the contractors need to be contacted again. Councilman Collins stated he disagreed with Councilman Johnson's assessment, and Councilman Johnson told him to prove him wrong. Mayor Lariscy directed Mr. Hofman to contact the contractor and involve Mr. Wesley Parker to move forward.

K. Councilman Johnson Discussion regarding 24 B Hidden Creek Drive Certificate of Occupancy Letter

After a brief discussion, City Clerk Bruton stated she would make sure the CO was completed prior to leaving for the evening.

Reports from Committees

Legal City Attorney Smith

City Attorney Smith stated he needed to discuss matters in executive session, and also stated that the permit is finalized for the WWTP.

Finance & Taxes Councilman Goldwire

Mayor Lariscy gave the report due to Councilman Goldwire's absence.

Streets & Lanes Councilman Johnson

Councilman Johnson stated there was a tree hanging over the road in Delarae, and that he would work with City Manager Hofman to review the LMIG program.

Water & Sewage Councilman Collins

Councilman Collins stated he didn't have a water/sewer report, but there was vandalism to the Delarae entrance sign that would need to be addressed.

Recreation & City Property Councilman Lee

Councilman Lee stated they are still waiting on bids for the Old School Gym windows.

Police Department Interim Chief Coppola

Interim Chief Coppola gave the police report. He then added that he would like to discuss his personnel issue and asked if his refusal to do something unethical the Mayor allegedly asked him to do was the reason. Mayor Lariscy stated that he has never directed Interim Chief Coppola to do anything unethical, but again can't discuss personnel issues in the open meeting. Interim Chief Coppola then laughed and stepped away from the podium.

Fire Department Interim Chief Stringer

Newly appointed Interim Chief Huntley gave the fire report.

Mayor Lariscy took a moment to congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Mydell for being awarded Small Business of the Year by the Chamber of Commerce!

14. Dates to Remember

Thursday, June 13 - Ice Cream Social

Wednesday, July 3, 4pm - Guyton Municipal Court

Thursday, July 4 - City Hall Closed, Independence Day

Monday, July 8, 7pm - Leisure Services Meeting

Tuesday, July 9, 7pm - Guyton City Council Meeting

Saturday, July 20 - Guyton Community Picnic

15. Adjournment from Regular Session into Executive Session

Councilman Collins made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Johnson. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned to executive session.

16. Executive Session (as needed)

Executive Session was held to discuss litigation and personnel.

17. Adjournment of Executive Session back into Regular Session

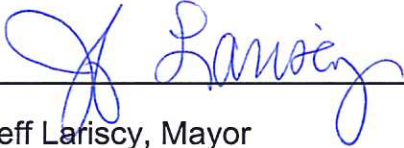
Councilman Collins made a motion to open the meeting, seconded by Mayor Lariscy. Motion carried.

Mayor Lariscy stated that there were two actions that needed to be made. Councilman Collins made a motion to proceed with Mr. Welsh to move forward with SDS litigation. The motion was seconded by Councilman Lee, and the motion carried.


Councilman Collins made a motion to approve the employment of Mr. Richard Zapal as the Police Chief. The motion was seconded by Mayor Lariscy. When the vote was called, Mayor Lariscy and Councilman Collins voted in favor of the motion, and Councilman Johnson and Councilman Lee voted opposed. Due to the tie vote, the motion failed.

18. Adjournment

Councilman Collins made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Lee. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned.



Jeff Lariscy, Mayor



Alison Bruton, City Clerk

