

# City of Guyton, Georgia

*Working Together to Make a Difference*



## **SPECIAL CALLED CITY COUNCIL MEETING - March 26, 2019**

# MINUTES

### **ITEM OF BUSINESS**

### **ACTION REQUESTED OF COUNCIL**

#### **1. Call to Order**

Mayor Lariscy, 6:00pm

The meeting was called to order. All of City Council was in attendance.

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

#### **3. Invocation**

Councilman Collins led the invocation.

#### **4. Pledge of Allegiance**

Mayor Lariscy led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **5. Approval of Agenda**

Consideration to approve the Agenda

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

## **ALL PUBLIC COMMENTS WILL BE LIMITED TO AGENDA ITEMS ONLY**

#### **A. Mayor Larisy**

Discussion and consideration of ISO consultant contract

Mr. Thad Dixon was in attendance of the meeting. Mayor Lariscy thanked him for his work up to this point with the Fire Department (FD), but the department feels it can move forward independently. Councilman Collins stated that the FD is behind and could benefit from utilizing Mr. Dixon later. Mr. Dixon spoke to Council and stated he contract would include follow-up after the initial inspection, as ISO allows time for corrections. Councilman Goldwire asked where the FD was in preparing for the inspection. Interim Chief Stringer stated the FD knows what they need to assemble. He added that he has 75 days remaining on his Interim Chief appointment, so when a more permanent decision is made, ISO could be called back. Councilman Collins made a motion to not approve the contract at the moment but to look at it after the ISO inspection and move a



more permanent plan into place. Councilman Goldwire seconded the motion based on the recommendation of Interim Chief Stringer. Motion carried.

**B. Mayor Lariscy**

Discussion and consideration of bids for trucks for water/sewer department, and trailer

Mayor Lariscy stated the City is in need of a new truck, due to the theft of a truck and trailer from the City shop. Insurance will not move forward with the claim for 30 days, and currently a Calvin Nesmith is having to utilize the City Buick. Mayor Lariscy stated he would like to use funds from the construction account for the WWTP to purchase the vehicle and then reimburse that account with the insurance funds once available. Council has been given a quote for a 4WD F-150, the least dollar amount of other quotes obtained. He recommended Council approve the dollar amount for the purchase, as Councilman Collins stated Interim Police Chief Coppola had stated there is a group that may offer better prices for governments. Councilman Lee asked if this would be a truck for Calvin, and Councilman Collins stated this would be utilized at the WWTP. Councilman Lee stated if he was going to approve it, it needed to stay in the City. Councilman Johnson stated there needed to be more time to review. Councilman Lee stated again in a defiant tone that the new truck would not be going to the plant. Councilman Goldwire asked how the department is being handled now without a truck. Councilman Collins stated that Calvin has been using the Buick, and had recently fallen out of it when his foot became stuck in the pedals. Councilman Goldwire then asked if it was critical enough that a decision was needed at this time, and Councilman Lee and Councilman Johnson stated it was not. Councilman Johnson then said his only hold-up was not seeing the other bids. City Clerk Bruton immediately presented him with the other bids obtained, all for higher amounts. A heated discussion followed regarding the recent purchase of equipment for the plant and the new truck. Councilman Collins made a motion to purchase the truck requested at the lowest price. Councilman Goldwire stated that obviously Council needed more discussion. There was more heated debate, and the motion died. Councilman Collins asked City Attorney Smith if Mayor Lariscy could second a motion, and he replied in the affirmative. Councilman Collins then made a motion to move forward with the purchase of the truck, and Mayor Lariscy seconded the motion. Councilman Collins and Mayor Lariscy voted in favor of the motion. Councilman Johnson, Councilman Lee, and Councilman Goldwire voted against the motion, and the motion failed.

**C. Mayor Lariscy**

Discussion regarding personnel

Mayor Lariscy stated that applicants have been interviewed for City Manager. The hiring board all agreed on the candidate that is currently serving as an Interim Town Administrator in South Carolina. He added that he is still waiting on background checks to clear. He asked Council to approve moving forward with offering him the position starting at \$54,000 salary. There was a brief discussion regarding the candidate and his salary. Mayor Lariscy stated that more detailed information will be shared in executive session. He added that the current Water Clerk has turned in her notice, with her final day as April 3rd. Mayor Lariscy would like to offer one of the other candidates that was interviewed the Water Clerk position. She has experience as a City Clerk and other finance positions. He added that he would like to offer her the hourly amount based on her years of experience and again, more details will be shared in executive session.



Councilman Lee asked if there was any particular reason the Water Clerk was resigning, and Mayor Lariscy stated he did not have that information.

**D. Councilman Lee**

Discussion regarding plat for Michael Garvin for property on Samuel Smalls Sr. Ave.

Mr. Michael Garvin approached Council. He stated he submitted a building permit for a mobile home that was approved, but the mobile home is crossing over two lots that he owns. Former City Manager Grubbs told him at the time to take footage from the neighboring lot to accommodate the mobile home. Mayor Lariscy stated the survey had incorrect information; in one area is stated that 15' was being added to the lot, but is said 22' in another area. Mr. Garvin stated that the 15' notation was an error. Councilman Collins stated the property is listed under the name of Samuel Smalls, not Michael Garvin. He then asked City Attorney Smith is the City would need a deed or something to show Mr. Garvin as the owner, and Mr. Smith stated the City would need a record. Councilman Collins stated that the same day this was submitted, he met with Councilman Lee at the property for the funeral home (also shown on the plat submitted), and the building for the funeral home crosses over onto another piece of property as well. Councilman Lee became agitated and stated that property had nothing to do with the property in question. Councilman Collins advised that all the property is listed on the survey presented, so it does matter. Councilman Johnson stated that the City didn't need to hold him up anymore and made a motion to approve the plat and water and sewer connections. Councilman Collins spoke saying that wasn't a discussion, that there was not a water and sewer tap to that property. There was a heated debate regarding the water/sewer taps. Councilman Johnsons stated again that the City didn't need to hold Mr. Garvin up any further. City Attorney Smith stated that the plat had to be corrected. Councilman Goldwire made a motion to approve the plat once those corrections are made, and Councilman Johnson seconded the motion. Councilman Collins asked who was going to review the plat. Mayor Lariscy stated he would send it to the City Engineer for review. Mayor Lariscy then asked for the vote on the motion. Councilman Goldwire, Councilman Johnson, and Councilman Lee all voted in favor of the motion, and Councilman Collins voted opposed stated it was being done incorrectly. The motion carried. Councilman Goldwire then objected to the comment from Councilman Collins. Councilman Collins stated the plat is not done correctly, and Mr. Garvin would have to supply a deed. City Attorney Smith stated the motion could be amended. Councilman Goldwire amended his motion to include the City be provided with a deed or documentation that Mr. Garvin is the executor of the property. Councilman Johnson seconded the motion and the motion carried. Councilman Goldwire then clarified that he misunderstood Councilman Collins' objection.

**E. Councilman Collins**

Discussion regarding sewer rates, debt service Payments

Councilman Collins stated there are approximately 682 sewer customers, that brings approximately \$21,158.00 monthly in sewer revenue; however, \$35,000 is being paid out monthly for the debt payments. He stated that the water revenue is paying for the sewer, and if we don't want to increase the water rates to accommodate the water tank repairs, then the sewer rates will need to be increased to better support the sewer. Mayor Lariscy suggested increasing the rates in accordance to the CPI increase at a minimum. There was lengthy discussion regarding the water/sewer budgets.



Councilman Collins then added the city is still paying a locator that wasn't budgeted. Mr. Michael Garvin spoke to Council saying the bond agreement for the WWTP stated the rates needed to be increased each year. Mayor Lariscy stated it said the rates would be reviewed, but not an automatic increase. There was further discussion regarding the agreement. It was stated that water would have the money to support itself; however, it is being eaten up by sewer. Mayor Lariscy recommended increasing rates 3% and then review to see if that increase is adequate. Councilman Collins stated that the current average water bill is \$32.00, and to break even it would need to be \$52.00, and that the 3% increase would not get you there. Mr. Michael Garvin stated again that the increase was already set in the bond agreement. Councilman Johnson made a motion to table this discussion until City Attorney Smith has a chance to review the bond agreement. Councilman Lee seconded the motion. Councilman Collins then asked if the City could spend money that isn't budgeted. City Attorney Smith advised the City could move money from one line item to another, but it could not spend money that it didn't have. There was then a heated debate regarding the operation of the WWTP.

**F. Councilman Collins**

Discussion regarding Planter's Release

City Attorney Smith advised he needed more time to review the release.

**6. Adjournment from Regular Session into Executive Session**

Mayor Lariscy called for a motion to adjourn into executive session. At this time, a gentleman named James working for Rincon Chevrolet came forward to present Council with information sheets on trucks. Councilman Goldwire made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Johnson. Motion carried.

**7. Executive Session (as needed)**

Executive session was held to discuss personnel and litigation.

**8. Adjournment of Executive Session back into Regular Session**

A motion to open back into regular session was made by Councilman Johnson, seconded by Councilman Lee, and the motion carried.

Councilman Johnson made a motion to hire Mr. Daniel Hofman, seconded by Councilman Lee. Motion carried.

Councilman Johnson made a motion to hire Ms. Cathy Rushing as the Water Clerk, seconded by Councilman Goldwire. Motion carried.

**9. Adjournment**

There being no further business, Councilman Johnson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Goldwire. Motion carried.

  
Jeff Lariscy, Mayor





Alison Bruton, City Clerk