

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MAY 17, 2021

PRESENT: Mayor Carswell, Vice Mayor Jones, Council Members Anderson, Bates, Byne, Tinley, Williams, City Manager Valerie Kirkland, Asst. City Manager Trinetta Skinner, Human Resource Director Latonya Wimberly, City Clerk Jermaine Evans, Waynesboro Police Chief Burley, Law Enforcement Consultant Lewis Blanchard, Waynesboro Fire Chief Robert Parrish, Public Works Superintendent Robert Seamans, Parker Engineering Representative Mr. Robert Ellis, City Attorney Frails

ABSENT:

1. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Carswell at 6:05 p.m.
2. Vice Mayor Jones gave the invocation.
3. Council Member Tinley led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Mayor Carswell addressed Council and those in attendance informing them that he will regretfully be taking a leave of absence due to pending legal issues, the recent murder of his brother and being newly informed that his son will need to undergo a major surgical procedure. In wanting to ensure that the citizens of Waynesboro have full faith and confidence in the Mayor's office and the additional added pressures he is facing personally, he has decided it would be best to focus his attention on his family and allow Vice Mayor Jones to lead in his stead. His leave of absence will take effect immediately. Mayor Carswell then turned the meeting over to Vice Mayor Jones.
5. Council reviewed the following minutes:
 - Public Hearing & Regular City Council Meeting 4/19/21
 - Housing/Recreation/CDBG Committee Meeting 5/12/21
 - Public Safety Committee Meeting 5/12/21
 - Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting 5/12/21Council Member Byne made a motion to approve the minutes. Council Member Williams seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously in favor of the motion.
6. Vice Mayor Jones presented a certificate honoring Mr. Roger Jenkins who is retiring after 44+ years of dedicated service. Mr. Jenkins spoke briefly thanking Mr. Seamans, Mayor, Council and other city employees for his time being employed with the city.
7. City Manager Kirkland introduced Public Works Superintendent Robert Seamans and engineer Robert Ellis representing Parker Engineering to open the bid packages for the Shadrack Storm Drain Project. Mr. Ellis opened the first bid which was from Shockley Plumbing for \$1,926,864.00. The second bid was from John R. Walker Inc. for \$3,690,073.80. Mr. Ellis recognized that Shockley Plumbing was the lowest bid. Superintendent Seamans and Mr. Ellis

will confirm the accuracy of the bid information and if so will recommend that council approve the hiring of Shockley Plumbing to complete the project.

8. City Manager Kirkland completed the first reading of the updated Procurement of Services Ordinance #88, previously discussed and accepted at the April 12, 2021 Finance and Personnel Meeting. Council Member Tinley motioned to approve the 1st reading of the ordinance. Council Member Anderson seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously in favor of the motion.
9. City Manager Kirkland reviewed the resolution authorizing membership into the Georgia Interlocal Risk Management Agency contract and bylaws. Council Member Tinley motioned to adopt the resolution. Council Member Anderson seconded the motion. Council Member Tinley questioned whether GIRMA would provide rebates related to their service. City Manager Kirkland clarified that after the City has been a member for two years, the City would then be eligible for rebates. A representative from GIRMA will be visiting the city in the upcoming week to ensure all properties and equipment are accounted for with coverage. Council voted unanimously in favor of the motion.
10. City Manager Kirkland reviewed the DCA-1.A Resolution to Submit 2021 CDBG Application. Council Member Anderson motioned to approve the resolution. Council Member Bates seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously in favor of the motion.
11. City Manager Kirkland provided an update on the Hart Dairy Project. Representatives of Hart Dairy informed City Manager Kirkland that their utilities request currently remains the same. In order to circumvent product container issues, they are exploring using a carton in place of a bottle for their product. City Manager Kirkland has a meeting update during the first week of June and will provide Council an update at that time. Council Member Williams questioned City Manager Kirkland about the length of time the Hart Dairy Project had been underway and the City's related investment cost for completion of the project. City Manager Kirkland stated that communications regarding the project can possibly be traced back to 2019 or earlier. City Manager Kirkland stated that the city has no costs thus far. Financing for the project is contingent on the city receiving grant funding from the federal government. In the event the federal grant funding isn't approved, City Manager Kirkland informed Council that the engineer who has been working on the Hart Dairy project has not received compensation. If the grant funding is not approved, compensation options for the engineer will need to be discussed at that time.
12. City Manager Kirkland reviewed the quote from Synergistic for the software and equipment upgrades to the new E-911 system for Waynesboro's Police and Fire Department. City Manager Kirkland asked Law Enforcement Consultant Blanchard and Waynesboro Police Chief Burley if the quote received was the only vendor or were there others quotes that could be petitioned. Mr. Blanchard stated that the quote received was from the preferred vendor whose software and equipment could integrate Waynesboro's Police and Fire Department with Burke County's E-911 system. Mr. Blanchard further informed City Manager Kirkland that Burke County will be assuming the \$30K cost of the CAD System contract and services previously contracted by Major Duncan and Chief Burley. Mr. Blanchard estimated the cost for the upgrades for dispatch and police related equipment was \$82K and \$25K for the Fire Department. Mr. Blanchard alerted City Manager Kirkland that Chief Burley had previously agreed to and signed a contract for the

services. City Manager Kirkland stated that at the time, the contract was not reviewed and approved by Council nor was Chief Burley imbued with the authority to enter into the contract without Council's approval. City Manager Kirkland recommended that Council delay voting until further review for adjustments to the contract could be made before the next Regular Council Meeting. Council Member Tinley made a motion to table the approval of the contract with Synergistic until the next City Council Meeting. Council Member Williams seconded the motion. Council Members Anderson and Bates opposed the motion. Council Members Tinley, Williams and Byne voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried 3-2.

13. City Manager Kirkland reviewed the request to discuss the frequency change of the Regular Council Meetings. Pre-pandemic frequency was twice monthly on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month. During the Covid-19 Pandemic the meetings were reduced to once a month scheduled on the third Monday. City Manager Kirkland recommended that Council maintain the current meeting schedule of once monthly on the third Monday at 6pm. Council Member Tinley made a motion to accept City Manager Kirkland's recommendation. Council Member Anderson seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously in favor of the motion.
14. At 6:42 p.m. City Attorney Frails requested that Council enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel. Council Member Byne made a motion to enter into Executive Session. Council Member Williams seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously in favor of the motion. At 6:58 p.m., Council Member Byne entered a motion to end Executive Session and return to Open Session. Council Member Williams seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously in favor of the motion.
15. Open Session resumed at 6:59 p.m. Waynesboro Police Chief Burley requested to address the Council before closing the meeting. He expressed his need to fill the open Assistant Chief of Police position. Making note of recent and increased violent criminal acts in the city, medically imposed staff shortages and a Major, having someone in the Assistant Chief leadership position would provide much needed support administratively and also free up lieutenant officers to resume policing duties at the street level. Vice Mayor Jones expressed his viewpoint questioning the appropriateness of filling the Assistant Chief position whose responsibilities are mainly administrative instead of hiring more officers. Vice Mayor Jones then stated that the request should be brought before the Public Safety Committee. City Manager Kirkland stated to Vice Mayor Jones that because the recommendation was not an agenda item, it could not be voted on. Vice Mayor Jones agreed, repeating that the recommendation to hire an Assistant Police Chief will be reviewed by the Public Safety Committee. Council Member Bates asked City Manager Kirkland if the funds for the Assistant Chief salary position were available. City Manager Kirkland stated that one of the documents provided to council was a salary budget for the city. The city's revenues are anticipated and not readily available. Council Member Tinley expressed his belief that the funds for the Assistant Chief position were spent to purchase vehicles for the police department. Council Member Anderson motioned that a review of Chief Burley's request as well as other staffing and salary considerations be conducted at a Public Safety Committee Meeting to be held before the next City Council Meeting in June. Council Member Williams seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously in favor of the motion.
16. Vice Mayor Jones scheduled a Public Safety Committee meeting for Monday June 7th, 2021 at 5 p.m.

17. With no further business on the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 7 p.m.

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