

CITY OF SYLVESTER, GEORGIA
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 101 N MAIN STREET
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2018, 7:00 P.M.



The Honorable William "Bill" Yearta, Mayor (present)
The Honorable Randy Hill, Ward 2, Mayor Pro Tem (present)
The Honorable Melvin Powell, Ward 1 Councilmember (absent)
The Honorable Charles Jones, Ward 3 Councilmember (present)
The Honorable Larry Johnson, Ward 4 Councilmember (present)
Autron Hayes, City Manager, (present) • Carolyn Williams, City Clerk (present)
Franklin T. Coleman, III, Esq. (present)

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor William Yearta

INVOCATION GIVEN BY: Dr. Willie Mae Marlin

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1) APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Upon motion by Mr. Johnson to approve Agenda and seconded by Mr. Hill – ***Motion Carries***

2) SPEAKER APPEARANCES

Dr. Connie Rivers Mitchell addressed the Mayor and Council with concerns regarding property that her family owns that has been cited by Code Enforcement. She stated that she had tried to contact the office but had not received any response. She was asking for a time extension to clear-up the problem. Attorney Coleman told her that at this point, she would have to go before the Municipal Judge in order to get the relief she was seeking.

3) SWEARING IN CEREMONY – CHIEF OF POLICE

Mayor Yearta administered the oath of office to Kenneth Washington, swearing him in as Chief of Police for Sylvester, Georgia.

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4) ANNOUNCEMENTS, AWARDS & SPECIAL RECOGNITION

The following employees received Special Recognition:

- Mr. Donnell Johnson received an award for Backhoe Operator of the Year. He will compete in the Nationals in Kansas City later this year.
- Amanda Hendricks was presented an award from Worth County High School for participation in Career Day at the school.
- Cecil Rash, Cari Colby and Denise Bozeman received the Distinguished Budget Award for 2017 from the Government finance Officers Association.

5) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- i) Regular Council Meeting – January 16, 2018
- ii) Public Hearing – February 5, 2018
- iii) Work Session – February 5, 2018
- iv) Special Called Meeting – February 6, 2018

Upon Motion by Mr. Hill to Approve the Minutes and seconded by Mr. Johnson – ***Motion Carries***

4) CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

- i) Worth County Rams Alumni Weekend
- ii) Lee Street Property Donation
- iii) Corrosion Control Quote
- iv) 2018/19 FY Budget Calendar

Upon motion by Mr. Jones to Approve Consent Agenda Items and seconded by Mr. Hill – ***Motion Carries***

GENERAL BUSINESS ITEMS

i) LARRY THOMAS – UPDATE SIDEWALK PROJECTS

Mr. Thomas gave an update on North Isabella and MLK Drive. He presented drawings from Rakestraw showing the portion of North Isabella that had been completed and the ongoing progress of the streetscape project. Drainage areas were identified and he gave a proposal to alleviate the water problem. Zane Construction submitted a cost estimate to address and fix the drainage issues. Mr. Thomas stated that he was confident that they could do the work themselves, and had already been looking into the cost of pipes. Mr. Johnson wanted to make sure this work did not void the warranty. Mayor Yearta asked the Council to authorize the City Manager to make the decision on the best course of action to take to address this problem.

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Upon motion by Mr. Johnson to authorize the City Manager to make the decision on the course of action for the MLK drainage problem and seconded by Mr. Hill – ***Motion Carries***

ii) WORK SESSION TIME CHANGE – MARCH 5, 2018

The Mayor and Council moved the time for the Work-Session from 7pm to 12pm on Monday March 5, 2018. This change was necessary due to the City Manager, Mayor, and Council will be touring Plant Vogtle in Augusta, Georgia.

Upon motion Mr. Johnson to change time and seconded by Mr. Hill – ***Motion Carries***

iii) CAR MEET LOCATION – COLBY LEDLOW

Mr. Ledlow was not in attendance to present his plan – ***No Action Taken***

iv) BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF ALBANY – DONATION

The City of Sylvester works closely with the Boys and Girls Club during the Summer and supports them by purchasing tickets for their Annual Steak and Burger Dinner.

Upon motion by Mr. Hill to purchase tickets in the amount of \$1000 and seconded by Mr. Johnson – ***Motion Carries***

v) RESOLUTION NO: 2018-01 – CDBG GRANT FUNDS

The City Manager asked for approval from Council to apply for CDBG Block Grant Fund.

Upon motion by Mr. Hill to approve request and seconded by Mr. Johnson – ***Motion Carries***

vi) EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE

Employee health insurance rates went up by 33.1 percent with an increase of \$212,320 for 87 enrolled employees. Wendell Strickland with Strongside Solutions presented recommendations to the Council that he believed would improve coverage and lower medical costs. The City Manager stated that the City Attorney had reviewed the contract and the Council should move forward with a recommendation.

Upon motion by Mr. Hill to accept Strongside Solutions recommendations with the Attorney's approval and seconded by Mr. Jones – ***Motion Carries***

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vii) CITY HALL RENOVATION BID AWARD

The Architect recommends accepting the bid from LE Harper in the amount of \$1,347.500. The City Manager also recommends approval.

Upon motion from Mr. Johnson to accept bid from LE Harper and seconded by Mr. Hill –
Motion Carries

Discussion: it was decided to pull entire amount from reserve MEAG fund and place in the bank. This will require two signatures, the Mayor and Mr. Johnson.

Upon motion by Mr. Johnson to pull funds from the MEAG account and place in the bank and seconded by Mr. Jones – ***Motion Carries***

CITY MANAGER

- GDOT has approved plans for transit depot and streetscape- will advertise and open bids in late March early April
- Landscape beautification grant plans have been approved by GDOT
- Almost all water main installation is complete
- Tyler with billing software will be here March 5-8 completing financial side of billing
- Pine Street sidewalk survey work has been finished-preliminary plans will be ready for review this week or next week
- Will come back to Council for grant funding for Pine Street

WARD 1 - Absent

WARD 2

- Mr. Hill commended Mr. Johnson on the Rodeo and on the work he and his crew do every day here in the City. Mr. Hill suggested that the City give Mr. Johnson \$500 to go to Kansas City since he will be representing Sylvester.

WARD 3

WARD 4

- Mr. Johnson had a concern about the trees downtown pushing up-what can be done. The Mayor asked that this item be explored later.

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MAYOR

- Advanced Disposal must be given a 90-day notice if the City wishes to make any changes. The Mayor asked for a motion to notice Advanced, along with Attorney Coleman looking at their contract.

Upon motion by Mr. Johnson to send notice to Advance of the intent of the City to possibly make changes and seconded by Mr. Jones – ***Motion Carries***

The Mayor asked for Executive Session for potential litigation with City

A motion was made by Councilman Johnson and seconded by Councilman Hill to recess for a closed Executive Session regarding potential litigation with the City – ***Motion Carries***

The Executive Session began at 7:45 pm and adjourned at 7:58 pm.

A motion was made by Councilman Hill to reopen the Regular Council Meeting and was seconded by Councilman Johnson – ***Motion Carries***

The mayor duly adjourned the Regular Council Meeting at 8pm- ***Unanimous Consent***

William Yearta, Mayor

Carolyn Williams, City Clerk