

CITY OF SYLVESTER, GEORGIA
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 101 N MAIN STREET
MONDAY, JULY 16, 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 (present)
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) SPEAKER APPEARANCES

Mr. Courtney Howell with Partners Benefit addressed the Council to clarify the City's current insurance plan. He stated that they were now the broker of record, and they would be able to handle the services for the City. Mr. Howell said that there would be no disruption in service. He told the Council that the current plan was not widely accepted in this area.

2) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- i) Public Hearing – June 14, 2018
- ii) Regular Council Meeting – June 14, 2018
- iii) Regular Council Meeting – June 18, 2018
- iv) Work Session Minutes – July 2, 2018

Councilman Hill offered a motion to approve the Minutes and it was seconded by Councilman Johnson – ***Motion Carries***

**CITY OF SYLVESTER, GEORGIA
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 101 N MAIN STREET
MONDAY, JULY 16, 2018, 7:00 P.M.**

3) CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

- i) Event Application – Jerry Kirkland
- ii) Night Out Against Crime – Lt. Dean King
- iii) GDOT Tap Grant Application
- iv) Zoning Code Update Agreement
- v) Revitalization Plan Amendment
- vi) MEAG Bond Validation
- vii) Supplemental Agreement GDOT

Councilman Johnson offered a motion to approve the Consent Agenda and it was seconded by Councilman Hill – ***Motion Carries***

GENERAL BUSINESS ITEMS

4) PEST CONTROL – DOUG HUGHES

Mr. Hughes stated that he asked in the Work Session to be approved to provide pest control for the City. He was asking the Council to bring it to a vote tonight, and be effective August 1st. Mr. Hill noted that his contract excluded the weekend, and many of the City's activities were on the weekend. Mr. Hughes stated that if there was a problem, he would be able to respond. Mr. Hill would like to get bids from other companies. Mr. Hughes disagreed because he lives in Sylvester, does business in Sylvester and pay taxes here.

Mr. Hill offered a motion to table the decision and put out for bid to other companies and the motion was seconded by Powell

DISCUSSION: Councilman Powell said that all companies should bid on the same spec and criteria. The length of time will be annually.

Following discussion: ***MOTION CARRIES***

5) IT POSITION – CITY OF SYLVESTER – COUNCILMAN JOHNSON

Mr. Johnson offered a motion to add the job description to the City of Sylvester and take applications. He believes this position would save the City money. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hill

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CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 101 N MAIN STREET
MONDAY, JULY 16, 2018, 7:00 P.M.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Jones was told that MEAG did not provide this service. Mr. Hayes will bring the job description back to the Council.

Following Discussion: ***MOTION CARRIES***

6) ORDINANCE NO: 2018-03 CELL TOWER REGULATIONS

The Mayor explained that this was the second reading after giving the public opportunity to voice their concerns, and none was brought to the Council.

Councilman Powell offered a motion to approve the Ordinance and it was seconded by Councilman Jones – ***MOTION CARRIES***

7) FRONT STREET BID AWARD - HAYES

Mr. Hayes said the bid opening was last week and the Engineer recommended low bid to AC Blount, and also approve the Alternate. This project has been budgeted for several years.

Mr. Jones motioned to approve the Bid Award and it was seconded by Mr. Johnson – ***MOTION CARRIES***

8) PINE STREET BID AWARD- HAYES

Charlie Tucker told the Council that the low bidder was HTS Construction. Lighting was added, grading work, additional piping, which increased bid from first time. Mr. Hayes recommended approval of low bid from HTS Construction.

A motion was made by Councilman Johnson to accept the low bid from HTS Construction on the Pine Street project and it was seconded by Councilman Powell-***MOTION CARRIES***

CITY MANAGER

- Will bring quotes back for approval in regards to the survey on citizens services
A request to lower speed limit from 30 to 15 on Dewey Street. Joe Hitt explained that he has replaced 2 mailboxes, and is afraid a child will be hit. The Mayor asked the Attorney if City could lower speed limit. Attorney said he believed the City can control the speed limit. He added that they would need an Ordinance because it would be a law that was general for all cul de sacs.

**CITY OF SYLVESTER, GEORGIA
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 101 N MAIN STREET
MONDAY, JULY 16, 2018, 7:00 P.M.**

- DCA said the Plan First application was done so well, they did not require a site visit. If the City wins, it will allow the City to apply for CDBG every year. Ms. Stephens was congratulated on a job well done.
- Utility collections are 2 cycles behind
- Isabella and Pine Street lights are in
- Need more time for transition from Mr. Hatcher to the school for TV station

WARD 1

- Mr. Powell stated that he has heard great things about fireworks, and the public will want it again next year

WARD 2

- Expressed appreciation for the fireworks and how the public enjoyed it.
- Complaint about street sweeper, not cleaning as it should

WARD 3

- Congratulations to our Mayor for re-election to MEAG board

WARD 4 – NONE

MAYOR

- PSC approved C LEC application which means City may do telecommunications in its name, 5-0 approval.
- Budget is tight, big projects underway, watch spending

EXECUTIVE SESSION – PERSONNEL, LITIGATION

7:45 PM

A motion was made by Councilman Johnson to recess for a closed Executive Session regarding personnel and litigation, seconded by Councilman Jones – ***MOTION CARRIES***

REGULAR SESSION RECONVENED: 9:30 PM

A motion was made by Mr. Johnson to terminate Perry & Walters as legal Counsel for the City effective immediately, seconded by Mr. Powell.

**CITY OF SYLVESTER, GEORGIA
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 101 N MAIN STREET
MONDAY, JULY 16, 2018, 7:00 P.M.**

DISCUSSION: Mr. Jones wanted to know if there were grounds for this action. Attorney Coleman replied that grounds were not necessary for dismissal. The Mayor said that Mr. Coleman had done all he could to protect the City and he would not be in favor of termination.

Following Discussion: Mayor Yearata and Councilman Jones opposed the motion –
MOTION CARRIES

Mr. Johnson offered a motion to officially appoint Partners benefit for the remainder of this contract term, seconded by Mr. Hill – ***MOTION CARRIES***

The Mayor duly adjourned the meeting at 9:35 PM – ***Unanimous Consent***

William Yearata, Mayor

Carolyn Williams, City Clerk