

CITY OF SYLVESTER, GEORGIA
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 101 N MAIN STREET
MONDAY, JULY 15, 2019, 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)
John Hayes, City Manager; Carolyn Williams, City Clerk (present)
Kimberly Reid, City Attorney (present)

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

- 1) **CALL TO ORDER: Mayor William Yearta**
- 2) **INVOCATION GIVEN BY: Dr. Willie Mae Marlin**
- 3) **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Yearta administered the Oath of Office to the City Manager, John Hayes

CITY MANAGER OATH

"I, **JOHN HAYES**, do solemnly swear that I will properly perform the duties of the office of **CITY MANAGER** in and for the City of Sylvester, to the best of my knowledge, skill and ability; so help me God." The oath shall be entered upon the minutes of the Mayor and Council.

4) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- i) Called Meeting – June 17, 2019
- ii) Public Hearing – June 17, 2019
- iii) Council Meeting – June 17, 2019
- iv) Called Meeting – June 27, 2019
- v) Work Session – July 1, 2019

Councilman Johnson moved to approve minutes and was seconded by Councilman Jones

**CITY OF SYLVESTER, GEORGIA
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 101 N MAIN STREET
MONDAY, JULY 15, 2019, 7:00 P.M.**

DISCUSSION: It was brought to the attention of the Council that the June 17 minutes were inaccurate. The minutes reflect the Mayor cast an opposing vote for City Manager, but the recording of the meeting did not substantiate that position. It was asserted again by the Mayor that he opposed, and at the time it was awkward to call for vote and make his vote.

FOLLOWING DISCUSSION:

Councilman Powell motioned to accept the minutes excluding the June 17 minutes and was seconded by Councilman Johnson – ***Motion Carries***

5) SPEAKER APPEARANCES

Mr. **Ira Cheevers** expressed his opinion regarding the situation at Shipp Park a few weeks ago. He was concerned that the Police Department was being hindered from performing their duties. Mr. Cheevers was disturbed about the activities at the park that he feels are a nuisance to peace in his home. He told the Council he was considering action against the City under the nuisance law.

Ms. Singletary asked for permission to have a Sip and Stroll Friday, July 19.

Mr. Hill moved to approve the Sip and Stroll and was seconded by Mr. Powell – ***Motion Carries***

6) CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

- i) Consider for action Resolution to approve funding for the 2019 Peanut Festival in the amount of \$2,500.00. This item is budgeted in the General Fund under GA Peanut Festival.
- ii) Consider for action Resolution to approve renewal of the annual contract for Economic Development Services with the Worth County-Sylvester Chamber of Commerce. This item is budgeted in the General Fund under Chamber of Commerce in the amount of \$25,000.00

Mr. Powell offered a motion to approve the Sip & Stroll and Mr. Johnson seconded-
Motion Carries

7) REVOLVING LOAN FUND

Mayor Yearta asked for a motion to approve the Revolving Loan Fund application that was discussed in the Public Hearing.

**CITY OF SYLVESTER, GEORGIA
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 101 N MAIN STREET
MONDAY, JULY 15, 2019, 7:00 P.M.**

Mr. Johnson moved to approve the Revolving Loan and Mr. Powell offered a second on the motion –*Motion Carries*

8) ADVANCE DISPOSAL CONTRACT

Steve Edwards was present to discuss the renewal of their contract. Advance Disposal has gone beyond the scope of contracted services for the City. He is proposing a price increase after the first year, after that, there would be a CPI for the years that follow. He would like for the contract to reflect a rate increase every year at the anniversary date. Mr. Johnson suggested it go back to Work Session. Mayor Yearta noted that complaints are down and they have made great improvements, and he think it is a reasonable request. It was decided that the contract will coincide with the City's fiscal year.

9) FAMILY CONNECTIONS CONTRACT

Mayor Yearta stated that we are the physical agent for Family Connections and asked for a motion to approve.

Mr. Powell motioned to approve the Family Connections Contract and was seconded by Mr. Hill – *Motion Carries*

10) POLE ATTACHMENT LICENSE AGREEMENT/VERIZON

The Mayor informed the Council that ECG prepared this agreement and it is to protect the cities with regards to pole attachments, and asked for approval.

Mr. Powell motioned to approve the agreement and it seconded by Mr. Hill – *Motion Carries*

11) POLE ATTACHMENT LICENSE/CINGULAR

The Mayor informed the Council that ECG prepared this agreement and it is to protect the cities with regards to pole attachments, and asked for approval.

Mr. Hill motioned to approve the agreement and it seconded by Mr. Johnson – *Motion Carries*

12) RESOLUTION NO: 2019-11– ESTABLISHING QUALIFYING PERIOD WARDS 1 AND 2

Mayor Yearta stated this resolution was in keeping with elections and asked for approval.

**CITY OF SYLVESTER, GEORGIA
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 101 N MAIN STREET
MONDAY, JULY 15, 2019, 7:00 P.M.**

Mr. Hill moved to approve Resolution No: 2019-11 establishing qualifying period for Wards 1 and 2 and it was seconded by Mr. Johnson – *Motion Carries*

CITY OF SYLVESTER, GEORGIA

RESOLUTION NO. 2019 - 11

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SYLVESTER, GEORGIA ESTABLISHING THE PERIOD FOR
QUALIFYING FOR THE ELECTION OF CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 1 AND CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 2**

AND FOR OTHER LAWFUL PURPOSES

STATE OF GEORGIA

COUNTY OF WORTH

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Sylvester is responsible for qualifying candidates for its municipal elections.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Sylvester (hereafter "City Council") that:

ELECTION

The City of Sylvester shall hold an election on Tuesday, November 5, 2019 for the purpose of the election of a City Council Member for District No. 1 for a four (4) year term beginning January 1, 2020 and the election of a City Council Member for District No. 2 for a four (4) year term beginning January 1, 2020.

QUALIFICATION PERIOD FOR CANDIDATES

Anyone eligible to run for such Council posts may qualify by filing notice of his or her candidacy with the City Clerk, Carolyn Williams, at City Hall, 101 N Main Street, Sylvester, Georgia, beginning at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, August 21, 2019 and ending at 4:30 p.m. on Friday, August 23, 2019.

QUALIFYING FEE FOR CANDIDATES

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 21-2-131, a candidate for an elected office who would receive compensation for serving in such office must pay a qualifying fee. Therefore, the following qualification fees shall be paid at the

time of qualifying as provided in O.C.G.A. § 21-2-131. The qualifying fee for City Council District 1 and District 2 shall be \$144.00 each.

**CITY OF SYLVESTER, GEORGIA
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 101 N MAIN STREET
MONDAY, JULY 15, 2019, 7:00 P.M.**

CONDUCT OF ELECTION

Pursuant to an Intergovernmental Agreement between the City Council and the Worth County Board of Elections and Registration, the elections for City Council District 1 and District 2 shall be conducted by the Worth County Board of Elections and Registration.

PUBLISHING OF QUALIFYING PERIOD

Pursuant to O.C.G.A § 21-2-132(d)(3), the public notice attached hereto as Exhibit A shall be published in the local legal organ, The Sylvester Local, once during the week of July 22, 2019.

RESOLVED this _____ day of July, 2019.

William Yearata

Mayor, City of Sylvester

Attest: _____

Carolyn Williams

City Clerk

13) ITEMS FROM:

CITY MANAGER

- Appreciation to Karen, Law Enforcement, and all Public Safety personnel- Fireworks was success
- Drive-Thru is ready to receive customers
- Great progress on proposed business incubator, information to follow
- Will get strategic plan for next 90-180 days- finances, ISO rating, etc.
- Cemetery plot prices are competitive, recommends no change
- Parks are amenities to community, and participation should be encouraged

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CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 101 N MAIN STREET
MONDAY, JULY 15, 2019, 7:00 P.M.**

CITY ATTORNEY - NONE

WARD – 1

- Mr. Powell asked Mr. Hayes to have the staff begin looking at health insurance

WARD – 2 –NONE

WARD – 3 –NONE

WARD – 4

- Councilman Johnson would like the permit fee waived for a construction project at the Community Garden

Mr. Johnson moved to allow construction and waive the permit fee for the Community Garden and a second was offered by Councilman Hill – ***Motion Carries***

Mr. Hill motioned to convene an Executive Session for Personnel, second by Mr. Johnson – ***Motion Carries***

EXECUTIVE SESSION: 7:35 PM

REGULAR SESSION RECONVENED: 7:45

Mr. Powell moved to accept the minutes as read in Executive Session and was seconded by Mr. Johnson – ***Motion Carries***

Mr. Powell moved to enter into the Employee Agreement between the City of Sylvester and Johnny Melvin Hayes, second by Councilman Hill – ***Motion Carries-UNANIMOUS***

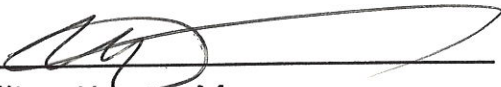
MAYOR

- Thanked all employees for great job done for Fireworks Celebration
- Thanks to all businesses who donated, which defrayed much of the cost for the event
- Good job for Camp Sylvester

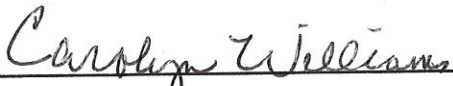
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CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 101 N MAIN STREET
MONDAY, JULY 15, 2019, 7:00 P.M.**

- Mr. Hill thanked all for their condolences in the death of his brother
- Mr. Powell would like names submitted for the 2020 census. Mr. Hayes will take on this task to find good partners to work on the count

Mayor Yearta duly adjourned the meeting at 7:53 pm.



William Yearta, Mayor



Carolyn Williams, City Clerk



CITY OF SYLVESTER
PUBLIC HEARING
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
MONDAY, JULY 15, 2019 @ 6:50 PM

PRESENT: Mayor William Yearta; Councilmembers, Randy V. Hill, Melvin Powell, Larry Johnson, Charles Jones; John Hayes, City Manager; Carolyn Williams, City Clerk; Kimberly Reid, City Attorney

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor William Yearta

SUBJECT: MVW PROPERTY, LLC – MITCH WILLIS
REVOLVING LOAN FUND

Mayor Yearta opened by stating this hearing addressed the application of Mr. Willis for the Revolving Loan Fund. There were not any comments from the public. He asked Mr. Hayes to discuss the application. Mr. Hayes explained that this \$150,000 loan was in keeping with the downtown revitalization effort. This is a participating loan with South Georgia Banking. Interest will be paid during construction. Repayments on all Revolving Loan Funds come back to the City in the form of program income for the purpose of relending to continue ongoing projects within the City. As a requirement of the loan, three new jobs will added as a result of this project.

Mayor Yearta added that this is a good program that has been done before, and it looks like a good application. Mr. Johnson stated Mr. Willis had spent time, energy and money on this location and he deserved the support of the City. The Mayor said he was excited about the building being used and not becoming an eyesore.

There were no other comments regarding the application.

The Mayor duly adjourned the Public Hearing at 6:55 PM. *Unanimous Consent*



William Yearta, Mayor



Carolyn Williams, City Clerk