

CITY OF SYLVESTER WORK SESSION MINUTES
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
MONDAY, AUGUST 5, 2019 @ 7:00 PM

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

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor William Yearta

Mayor Yearta expressed that our thoughts and prayers are
with El Paso, Texas and Dayton, Ohio

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE: Dr. Willie Mae Marlin

1) SPEAKER APPEARANCES – NONE

DISCUSSION OF GENERAL BUSINESS ITEMS

2) BEER VENDOR-BARK IN THE PARK – ADAM HEARD

Mr. Heard addressed the Council requesting permission to sell beer at Jeffords Park at the above event on September 27 and 28. Mayor Yearta asked for clarification on our Ordinance from Attorney Reid. She noted that the sale of beer in the park did not meet the criteria under the Ordinance, since it is not a City-sponsored event. Mayor Yearta questioned the city sponsoring the event, in which case the criteria would be met; but, it would only be by majority vote of the Council. Mr. Jones was not in favor of beer sales in the park. It was decided that it would be discussed and a decision made at the next meeting. *Place on Agenda*

3) ADVANCE DISPOSAL CONTRACT

Mayor Yearta stated that this contract was presented at the last meeting with no increase for a year and a CPI for the remaining term. The Council asked for a 3% cap per year. Mr. Powell was not in favor of automatic renewal; he would like to follow a standard contract with a 90-day renewal which requires Council approval. All were in favor of this process and the changes would be conveyed to Advance for their review. *Place on Agenda*

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4) SYLVESTER POLICE DEPARTMENT UPDATE – DOUG BROOKS

Officer Brooks presented the Council with a detailed review of the activities of the past month. He specifically highlighted entering autos, arrests, and warrants taken. Several were charged and arrested. All vehicles involved were unlocked and on the Northside of town. All three suspects are incarcerated. The Mayor thanked SPD for the Night out Against crime- great job, along with all the sponsors and vendors. All around great event.

5) AIRPORT UPDATE JAMES BARKER

Mr. Barker informed the Council of a conference call with DOT Aviation. All discrepancies on the inspection report have been worked out except blockage of the beacon and the windsock. Mr. Hall said the Airport was awarded \$175,000 for airport safety projects only. They are considering purchasing both sets of properties that block the windsock and beacon. They will do all work except talking with property owners, which falls on the City. They are getting an appraisal and survey on the land to see if it can be purchased out of the \$175,000. The motor on the beacon is not operational, and needs replacing. The City may be reimbursed for work done at the airport. Charlie Williams will provide documentation for man hours and equipment usage. Mr. Barker would like to look at next year's budget and add resurfacing and other improvements for the airport. Fencing is coming along very well. Vegetation is growing and needs to be addressed and cleared along fencing area. Mr. Barker has a name of gentleman to handle clearing with proper equipment. Mayor Yeara thanked Mr. Barker and Charlie for getting the work done.

6) 30-DAY FINANCE SUMMARY – J HAYES/C RASH

Mr. Hayes presented the Council with a 30-day summary of where we are financially. He shared present data along with expected goals of the budget. He noted that we fell short of the year to date revenue for the general fund. The FEMA reimbursements should give a boost and updates will be forthcoming. Mr. Powell wanted to know where we were last year at this time. Mr. Hayes will provide that comparison later, and send it to all the Council

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CITY MANAGER

- Move to new facility held up on technology. Hope to be in place next meeting
- filling vacant positions
- Shipp Park-recurring problem. Becoming a nuisance. Will give recommendation to Council next couple of days
- Mayor Yearata asked if a tree buffer would be feasible. Cypress trees absorbs some noise and are expensive. Other neighbors are not annoyed. Is the nuisance the person calling or the people renting the facility. Will get estimate on trees.
- SOWEGA requests a budgeted increase. Mr. Powell asks that it be granted

CITY ATTORNEY

- JW Holley contract is drafted and being reviewed, should be on next agenda
- Board of Elections contract-waiting to hear from County attorney
- Drug Task Force put on pause until new chief is in place

WARD 1

- Would like for Council Meetings to be on our local station. *Place on Agenda* for vote at next meeting

WARD 2

- Officially announced that he will not seek re-election for Ward 2. He was thanked for doing a fine job

WARD 3

- Fishing rodeo was a success. Thanks to all city employees for job well done

WARD 4

- Is Council still in favor of placing benches in our Pedestrian Mall. Mayor would like to see more trees. Mr. Hayes stated that Ms. Stephens was in contact with an Arborist and looking at other options-benches and landscaping

MAYOR


- Night out Against Crime was a great success
- Excited about what is happening downtown and other businesses coming
- Proud of community and what we can provide for our citizens.

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The meeting was duly adjourned by Mayor at 7:45 PM – *Unanimous Consent*



William J. Yearta, Mayor



Carolyn Williams, City Clerk

