

**CITY OF SYLVESTER WORK SESSION MINUTES
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2019 @7:00 PM**

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

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor William Yearata

Mayor Yearata welcomed everyone back to the old City Hall and thanked the Council for their vision and the staff for their hard work. He expressed that our thoughts and prayers were with those in the Bahamas and other affected areas.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE: Dr. Willie Mae Marlin

1) SPEAKER APPEARANCES

Ms. Sharon Lyles addressed the Council and requested \$2000 for the Annual Sylvester, Georgia Pink-Out Day. There will be a short program and the Pink Fire Truck will be present. The event will be October 23rd at noon.

Electric Cities of Georgia Representative, Chau Nguyen, was present to familiarize everyone with the Sylvester Electric Fund. His power point presentation identified the various funds and how they impacted the city's financial status. In balancing the budget, revenues must equal expenses. He cited three direct issues that would trigger an electric fund imbalance. In conclusion, Mr. Chau offered three recommendations to the Council that were outlined in his presentation. In his observation, he strongly suggests the City reduce costs.

Mr. Powell would like for the Council to be informed when the PCA is raised. Mr. Hayes noted to Council that no changes had been made by staff and they would be informed if this should occur. Mayor Yearata suggested a rate study.

2) EVENT PERMIT-BLOCK PARTY – UNITY BAPTIST CHURCH

Unity Baptist has this event each year at Gervaise Park. *Consent Agenda*

3) ANIMAL CONTROL – JODY YARBROUGH

Mr. Yarbrough gave Council a flyer on "How to Get Help with Animal Situations in Sylvester." This information will appear in the utility bills during the month of September. He stated he was asked to come and speak on animal protection. Strengthening the Ordinances will be more inline with needs and allow better enforcement. Mr. Yarbrough brought out that BFHS has a 90%

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adoption rate. Ward 1 has a problem with people not abiding by present laws. It will take a dedicated effort on everyone's part to alleviate the situation. The Council needs to look at ways to counter this problem.

4) PINE STREET CHANGE ORDER – CHARLIE TUCKER

Charlie Tucker from Carter and Sloope Engineers was present and had submitted their final bill to the city for \$15,129.83 over the contract amount. Because they failed to adequately bid for sod, they will absorb the overage. He updated Council on the 2019 CDBG \$750,000 grant award which will go towards Seabrook Drive water improvements. Lift stations are being improved with the 2018 CDBG award. They are working on a GEFA clean water application. They are looking at infrastructure in the city and considering prioritizing potential problems. Mr. Hayes believes a GIS mapping system is needed. The Mayor thanked Charlie and also Mr. Sloope for the great job they do.

5) BANKING RESOLUTION NO: 2019-12

This Resolution is to authorize Mr. Hayes and others to do online banking and sign checks for the City. *Consent Agenda*

CITY MANAGER

- Interviewed 7 candidates for the Chief position, additions and changes to the Finance Department-both should be ready the end of this week
- Will submit a recommendation from private developer for project on Hwy 82
- Zoning Department working with new businesses that are locating here
- Reviewing capital needs and plans
- Main Street is preparing for 100 mile yard sale, September 19

CITY ATTORNEY

- Update on JW Holley contract, Mr. Michael Allen has agreed to terms. There are a couple of issues with policies and would like a secure room. Mr. Johnson was concerned about the transition with the current employees.

WARD 1

- Mr. Powell desires Council meetings broadcasted on the City's Access Channel. It was voted previously to terminate contract with Mr. Hatcher, but former City Manager kept Mr. Hatcher on and paid him. Mayor Yearta said the school was ready to take it over, but he should not have been continually paid in the past. There was an issue with the content that was run on the channel. Mr. Hatcher asked for a 30-day notice of termination from the City

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and payment for two months of service. Mr. Hayes will give Mr. Hatcher the letter from the City.

- Mr. Powell asked if Advance Disposal was on their regular schedule this week

WARD 2

- Mr. Hill asked for spending money for two employees going to Seattle to represent the City at the APWA

WARD 3 – NONE

WARD 4

- Mr. Johnson would like for blinds to be installed at City Hall. It was decided that blinds will be better than tint
- Requests that Utility Billing allow 2 extensions every 6 mos., 4 times per year.
Place on Agenda
- Have received complaints from HVAC contractors that only one company is being used by the city for repairs

EXECUTIVE SESSION: 8:31PM

Mr. Johnson moved to convene an Executive Session to discuss Potential Litigation and was seconded by Mr. Hill – *Motion Carries*

REGULAR SESSION RECONVENED: 8:50

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

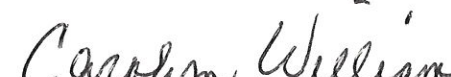
Mt. Johnson motioned to adjourn and was seconded by Mr. Powell – *Motion Carries*

Mayor Yearta duly adjourned the meeting at 8:53 pm – *Unanimous Consent*





William Yearta, Mayor



Carolyn Williams, City Clerk