

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



The Honorable William "Bill" Yearata, 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)
Jack Colby, Interim City Manager, (present) • Carolyn Williams, City Clerk (present)
Kimberly Reid, Interim City Attorney (present)

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor William Yearata

INVOCATION GIVEN BY: Dr. Willie Mae Marlin

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilman Powell motioned to approve the Agenda and it was seconded by Councilman Hill – *Motion Carries*

1) SPEAKER APPEARANCES – NONE

2) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- i) Called Meeting – March 18, 2019
- ii) Public Hearing – March 18, 2019
- iii) Council Meeting – March 18, 2019
- iv) Work Session – April 1, 2019

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

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3) CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

- i) Event application – American Legion Post 335 Inc., Ray Humphrey
- ii) Road Closing Permit “A Taste of Worth” – Karen Singletary
- iii) Resolution No: 2019-06 – Georgia Cities Week

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

GENERAL BUSINESS ITEMS

4) EVENT APPLICATION WRESTLING WITH A MESSAGE – PASTOR WILLIS

Pastor Willis shared with the Council that his church does a lot of outreach in the community. He wanted to use the Henry Hall Woolard Center to bring a wrestling event to reach the young people. He has already reserved it for that day, along with security.

Mr. Hill motioned to allow the event and it was seconded by Mr. Powell – ***Motion Carries***

5) INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT TERRELL COUNTY INMATE WORK DETAIL

Mr. Colby stated that this was basically the same agreement as with Colquitt County. Mike Dees went out and found Terrell County was willing to do the same as Colquitt County. Mr. Powell wanted to know how the Inmates began work today without a contract. Mike Dees stated the warden was fine with starting without a contract. Mayor Yearta thanked Mr. Colby and Mr. Dees for getting this done which saves the City money. Colquitt inmates were pulled to work on the parks and recreation for their county. Mr. Powell was concerned about the reason they were pulled, and felt they were misused. There was also a concern regarding micromanagement.

Mayor offered a motion to accept the Intergovernmental Agreement with Terrell County and it was seconded by Mr. Jones. After discussion – ***Motion Failed***

6) 2019 MGAG ANNUAL ELECTION

The Mayor was willing to allow Mr. McGee to serve as the delegate.

Mr. Johnson offered a motion to allow Mr. Powell to serve as the voting delegate for MGAG and it was seconded by Mr. Hill – ***Motion Carries***

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7) **RESOLUTION NO 2019-08 – MGAG VOTING DELEGATE**

Mr. Johnson motioned to accept the Resolution and it was seconded by Mr. Hill –
Motion Carries

8) **AGREEMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES-CITY OF SYLVESTER/ROBERSON & ASSO.**

Mr. Powell offered a motion to accept the above agreement with Roberson and Associates and it was seconded by Mr. Hill – *Motion Carries*

9) **IDP PROPERTIES – STEVE BROOKS**

Mr. Brooks is real estate company based in Valdosta that build multi-family apartments. He is working with Ms. Hall and Family Visions Outreach to develop a complex on Pine Street for age 55 or older. They are asking for a letter of support from the City, the GICH team, and to waive tap fees. Mr. Brooks stated they hope to break ground in June 2020. Mayor Yearta suggested to approve the resolution. Attorney Reid said the resolution should be amended to strike the language of the tap fees.

Mr. Jones offered a motion to approve the letter of support without the tap fees and it was seconded by Mr. Hill – Motion Carries

Mr. Johnson offered motion to ask GICH team for letter of support and was seconded by Mr. Powell – *Motion Carries*

10) **RESOLUTION NO 2019-07 IDP PROPERTIES**

Mayor and Council decided to put a hold on the Resolution until the tap-fee issue was researched and resolved.

11) **DDA BOARD MEMBERS APPOINTMENT APPROVAL – KAREN RACKLEY (Replaces Glenice Stephens); TIMOTHY HAIRE (Replaces Angel Webb) – MR. POWELL**

Mayor Yearta said Ms. Rackley and Mr. Haire had expressed an interest in these appointed positions, and asked for a motion

Mr. Powell moved to appoint the candidates named above for the respective Board Members and it was seconded by Mr. Hill – *Motion Carries*

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12) CAMERAS INSTALLED IRENE P HALL and JEFFORDS PARK – MR. POWELL

Mr. Powell informed the Council of numerous vandalism acts that had been discovered at Irene P Hall Park. He asked Mr. Dees to get quotes on the same cameras he installed at Shipp Center. There will be 4 cameras in each park on poles, records for 7 days.

Mr. Hill moved to approve the installation of the cameras at the parks and it was seconded by Mr. Johnson – ***Motion Carries***

13) PAVING IRENE P HALL PARK (completed)

14) UTILITY RATES

Mr. Powell is asking to make the winter rate year round. Mayor Yearta would like ECG to do a rate study. The Mayor supports lower rates for the citizens but would like to make sure the City is covered budget wise. The City's PCA is affecting the utility rate.

Mr. Powell moved to use the winter rate year round effective immediately and it was seconded by Mr. Hill

Discussion: Mr. Jones wanted to know how this would affect our revenues, are we cutting our monies in half. Mr. Hill asked what the difference between the 2 we now have was. Mayor Yearta answered that it was not a significant difference, but a rate study would be feasible

After discussion – ***Motion Carries***

15) HIRING CITY ATTORNEY

Mr. Powell stated that Ms. Reid had been with the City for 6 mos and he wanted to go ahead and hire her full time effective May 1. Mayor Yearta said he thought the City should do the courtesy of interviewing the other applicant, and both were qualified. Mr. Johnson said he was in favor of elevating her to permanent City Attorney.

Mr. Powell moved to hire Ms. Reid as City Attorney effective May 1 and it was seconded by Mr. Johnson- ***Motion Carries***

16) ORDINANCE NO: 2019-01 GRAVE MARKERS IN CEMETRIES 2ND READING

Mayor Yearta asked for a motion to approve the 2nd reading of the Ordinance

Mr. Powell moved to adopt the Ordinance and it was seconded by Mr. Hill – Motion Carries

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17) MOA-SFD / MCLB COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Powell moved to accept the MOA seconded by Mr. Johnson – *Motion Carries*

18) SET DATE TO REVIEW CITY MANAGER APPS – MR. JOHNSON

Mr. Johnson is ready to set a date for reviewing the applications. Mayor suggested meeting before the Work Session in May, at the Library at 3pm.

CITY ATTORNEY

- Next 2 hearings are set for April 22nd

CITY MANAGER – NONE

- Should know about property for airport middle of the week
- No new completion date for City Hall, treating for termites

WARD – 1

- Mr. Powell requested an Executive Session to discuss personnel

WARD – 2

- Mr. Hill asked why and who authorized gates to be installed at Holley
Mr. Johnson said it was an old work order that was completed but the Fireworks committee changed their mind. Mr. Hill asked if the school board was aware of this, since it was put on their property

WARD – 3 – NONE

WARD – 4 – NONE

Mr. Powell moved to convene to Executive Session to discuss Personnel and it was seconded by Mr. Johnson – *Motion Carries*.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: 7:53 PM

RECONVENE REGULAR SESSION: 8:36

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

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Mayor Yearta pointed out that an alternate voting delegate should be selected to MGAG

Mr. Powell moved to appoint Tyree Mcgee as the alternate and it was seconded by Mr. Johnson – Motion Carries

Mr. Powell proposed that the positions of clerk for Zoning and the Assistant for Code Enforcement should be eliminated and it was seconded by Mr. Johnson – ***Motion Carries***

Mr. Powell motioned to adjourn the Work Session and it was seconded by Mr. Johnson
Motion Carries

The Mayor duly adjourned the meeting at 8:45 PM

William Yearta, Mayor

Carolyn Williams, City Clerk