

CITY OF SYLVESTER, GEORGIA
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 101 N MAIN STREET
TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2020 @ 7:00 P.M.



The Honorable Larry Johnson, Ward 4, Mayor Pro Tem (present)
The Honorable Walter Dupree, III, Ward 1 Councilmember (present)
The Honorable Isaac Jackson, Jr., Ward 2 Councilmember (present)
John Hayes, City Manager (present); Carolyn Williams, City Clerk (present)
Lester Castellow, City Attorney (present)

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

1) **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Pro Tem Larry Johnson

2) **INVOCATION GIVEN BY:** Dr. Willie Mae Marlin

3) **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

4) **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Councilman Jackson motioned to approve the agenda and it was seconded by Councilman Dupree - **3-0- Motion Carries** –

5) **SPEAKER APPEARANCES** - None

6) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Called Meeting Minutes – December 26, 2019

Called Meeting Minutes – December 27, 2019

Work Session Minutes – January 6, 2020

Called Meeting Minutes – January 10, 2020

Councilman Dupree moved to approve the Minutes and Councilman Jackson offered a second-
3-0 Motion Carries

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7) CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

- i) Carl Rowland's presentation-Grant Application**
- ii) 2020 Mayor and Council Appointments**
- iii) Beer License Application – Mekeshia Travis/Circle K**
- iv) Council Approval to Appoint Mayor Pro Tem Larry Johnson / Certifying Official for CDBG**
(NOTE: The appointment as Certifying Official for CDBG was unanimously approved at a Called Meeting by Mayor and Council on January 10, 2020)

Councilman Dupree motioned to approve the Consent Agenda and it was seconded by Councilman Jackson – **3-0 - Motion Carries**

DISCUSSION OF GENERAL BUSINESS ITEMS

8) BONNIE KELLY – GRANT PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR / PUBLIC SAFETY

Ms. Kelly was absent. Mr. Hayes said the City was unable to do a joint grant with the County; however, Ms. Kelly is pursuing a separate grant through CDBG. She has submitted two grants-one for 4 million dollars for utility infrastructure and another 3 million for utilities, which is geared toward broadband. These were filed and we are awaiting the usual processing time. In addition, a third grant was applied for thru Carter and Sloope. Ms. Kelly's grant writing for the City will focus on public safety and law enforcement. Chief Urquhart said Ms. Kelly may also write grants for the Fire Department. Ms. Kelly is currently working on a HVE (High Visibility Enforcement) grant for the Police Department, which is due February 20th. This grant may be used for any essential equipment for the Police Department. Equipment must be purchased by the City and then reimbursed. The Chief stressed that the City must come into compliance regarding bulletproof vests. Data from 2017-2019 must be submitted to determine the amount of the grant.

9) SPEED BUMPS-MARKEL/CALVIN/DEWEY STREETS – COUNCILMAN DUPREE

Councilman Dupree submitted petitions from previous projects for speed for bumps. Markel needs two speedbumps but the other streets already have them in place.

Councilman Dupree moved for the installation of speed bumps on Markel, Calvin and Dewey Streets and a second was offered by Councilman Jackson- **3-0 Motion Carries**

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10) ITEMS FROM:

CITY MANAGER

- March 6 and 7 will be slated as retreat dates
- Recent salvage sales netted \$29,400. Thanked Mr. Childers for his efforts
- Introduced Ms. Karen Sanders as the new Finance Director. She stated she was proud to be a member of the team
- A budget meeting is planned to familiarize the new Council with the challenges facing the upcoming fiscal year budget prior to the retreat. A date will be identified later.
- Introduced new initiatives for the New Year- Ms. Singletary, Mr. Adams and Chief Urquhart.

KEEP SYLVESTER BEAUTIFUL – Mr. Adams

Mr. Adams explained the intent of this endeavor is to *“Inspire and Educate People to Take Action Every Day to Beautify Their Own Community.”* This program is driven by three pillars- ending litter by reducing waste, promoting recycling, and also beautifying the community. One pillar is already being accomplished through the Great Sylvester Clean-Up that is held in April. The goal is to promote unity and ownership of their own community.

SYLVESTER YOUTH COUNCIL – Ms. Singletary

This program will invest in our youth, which are the future leaders. The program will be modeled around our City Council. It will be offered to grades 10-12 and will offer a hands-on approach to local government. The program also brings an awareness of opportunities available in the public sector. The goal is to steer youths away from risky behavior.

SYLVESTER NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION/WATCH PROGRAM-Chief Urquhart

Chief Urquhart stated the Neighborhood watch program will be implemented by the people. The Police Department acts as a liaison for educating the public regarding the laws surrounding the program. She suggested that the Council identify Block Captains and she would move forward with setting the place and time for meetings. This program is designed to cut down on crime. Mr. Hayes emphasized that part of this program is to create unity across the community. Mayor Pro Tem Johnson remarked that the Council is already involved in the community and the City is ready to engage in this program.

CITY ATTORNEY – NONE

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WARD – 1

- Mr. Dupree brought the concern of the residents of Lee Street. There is a speed bump installed but it is too high, and would like it shaved down. Mr. Hayes will handle.
- On Crockett Street, people are driving around the speed bumps. Mr. Williams will do a work order and take the appropriate action to alleviate the problem

WARD – 2

- Mr. Jackson thanked Tyree for fixing a gas line problem.
- There is a speeding problem at Washington and Williams Streets. The residents would like a four-way stop sign placed on Williams Street. The installation of the stop sign will have to be published, and Mr. Hayes initiate a work order. As to the speed limit, Chief Urquhart has a concern of illegally running radar on City Streets; she is awaiting an answer from the DOT Director in Tifton.

WARD – 4 /MAYOR PRO TEM

- Mayor Pro Tem Johnson said he and the Council are looking forward to supporting the Neighborhood Watch program, as well as the other initiatives presented

Mr. Jackson motioned to adjourn and was seconded by Mr. Dupree-**Unanimous Consent, Motion Carries**

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson duly adjourned the meeting at 7:34 pm.




Larry Johnson, Mayor Pro Tem


Carolyn Williams, City Clerk