

**CITY OF SYLVESTER WORK SESSION MINUTES
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2020 @7:00 PM**

PRESENT: Mayor Pro Tem Larry Johnson, Councilmen Walter Dupree, III, Isaac Jackson, Jr; City Manager, John Hayes; Deputy Clerk, Renee Johnson; City Attorney, Lester M. Castellow

ABSENT: Carolyn Williams, City Clerk

CALL TO ORDER: Larry Johnson, Mayor Pro Tem

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE: Dr. Willie Mae Marlin

1) SPEAKER APPEARANCES

Pastor Judy Hall, along with Minister Webbie Hill, welcomed the new Councilmen. They represent Family Visions Outreach, a local non-profit that provides food and affordable housing to needy families. They plan to submit an application for Senior Housing which is the next project for Sylvester. Pastor Hall would like to have a rib festival with a cook-off competition and make it an annual event. They request to use Holley and are asking the Police Department to volunteer their time that day. There will be a set-up charge for vendors and many activities for kids. This 1-day event will be May 2, 2020, from 7 am to 5 pm. *Consent Agenda*

Ms. Leigh Wiley, Margaret Jones Library, brought information regarding complete count for the census. A new feature this year is completing it on-line. She asked the City to place a note on utility bills to encourage the public to complete the census. An 800 number is available for those who do not use computers or want to use paper forms. Computers and help are available at the library and Probate Court. Many posters will be placed throughout the community. Forms will be in the mail about mid March.

2) EVENT APPLICATION-CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP DAY-

MAYOR PRO-TEM JOHNSON

Mr. Farley asked for approval of April 11, 2020 to have a community day at Jeffords Park. *Consent Agenda*

3) EVENT APPLICATION-AMERICAN LEGION 1-MILE WALK, 5K/10K RUN

JIM HAMSLEY

Mr. Hamsley, Sr. Vice Commander of American Legion Post 335, proposes to do a 5k/10k run fundraiser. This event will support the various Veterans and Youth Missions in the community. It will be held on the 21st of March with pre-registration beginning at 6:20 am. No security is required but asks permission to block Westberry from 82 to Pinson. *Consent Agenda*

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4) EVENT APPLICATION-TRI TURKEY TROT-RAY HUMPHREY

Mr. Humphrey, Commander of American Legion Post 335, presented a plan to have a Tri Turkey Trot which includes a 5k/10/ run, 25 mile bicycle race, and a 150 mile motorcycle bike-a-thon. All monies will go the needy during the holiday season.

Consent Agenda

5) EVENT APPLICATION-SYLVESTER HELICOPTER FLY-IN AND THE
SOUTHWEST GEORGIA VIETNAM VETERANS 2020 REUNION

RAY HUMPHREY

The fly-in with the Vietnam Era Helicopters was very successful last year and want to do the same this year. He is also scheduling to host the Southwest Georgia Vietnam Veterans Reunion. ***Consent Agenda***

6) FUTURE EVENTS-D-DAY MEMORIAL/FLAG DAY/MEMORIAL DAY/
PATRIOTS DAY/VETERANS DAY/PEARL HARBOR DAY- RAY HUMPHREY

Mr. Humphrey requests to use the West end of the Depot for the above events, which are open to the public. He has 53 events planned for this community. ***Consent Agenda***

7) MAIN STREET 2020 WORK PLAN / STAKEHOLDERS BREAKFAST
QUARTERLY SIP & STROLL APPROVAL KAREN SINGLETARY

Ms. Singletary reported that the Board has 4 committees, Design, Organization, Promotion and Economic Development. She proceeded to read every task which is required by Main Street. Ms. Singletary presented several projects underway in each committee for approval. The main idea is to get more traffic downtown.

Consent Agenda

8) CHANGES IN PUBLIC HOUSING PLATFORM –MICHAEL ALLEN, HOUSING
AUTHORITY

Mr. Allen briefed the Council stating that they were transitioning the Public Housing Portfolio to a RAD (Rental Assistance Demonstration) Conversion. This is a Section 8 platform that will streamline their funding at 100%. Currently the funding is 80-95% yearly; however, with RAD it will be 100% funding for 20 years with a renewal of 20 more years with same funding. They will also be allowed to use property to borrow funds to upgrade units. The Charter nor the residents will not be affected. Pre-bid for construction has been completed with an expected loan closing in June or July. A total of 6 million dollars is being borrowed. Local subcontractors will be used. There could possibly be a million dollar impact for the City.

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9) ANNUAL AUDIT REVIEW – JOHN NESMITH

Mr. Nesmith presented a hand-out of the audit and thanked the management and staff for their assistance in getting the audit timely submitted to the state. The money collected and spent in the City must have a financial audit. Grants may require additional audit procedures. Auditors, guided by Accounting Standards, verify that financial statements have related audit evidence. The overall goal is for the auditors to give the City an opinion based on audit evidence. At the end, an unmodified opinion is the goal of the City. This means everything necessary to support the financial statements was available, and the City is fine. Mr. Nesmith was happy to report that the City received an unmodified opinion. Mr. Nesmith stated that the City has a deficit of \$8,854,874 that needs to be addressed during the budget season. Mr. Nesmith will not be able to attend the retreat, but may accept an invitation at a later date.

10) PARTNERS BENEFIT GROUP-INSURANCE RENEWAL-COURTNEY HOWELL

Mr. Howell, Partners Benefit Group, is the city's benefits consultant and broker house. He presented a handout noting key areas of interests for the new plan year for insurance, beginning March 1. The plan is a partially self-funded plan, meaning their own monies are put in a fund to pay claims. If they go over the claims, they have a stop-loss insurer for protection. The current network used is Cigna. As the city's Broker, they search the stop-loss market and also the fully insured market. The biggest recognized savings is a network with maximum discounts. Based on his numbers, he does not recommend an increase in employee premiums. Mr. Howell is exploring a Wellness Plan for the City. United Health Insurance-Option 2 is recommended. *Consent Agenda*

11) BID AWARD-EAST COAST CONSTRUCTION

Mr. Hayes advised Council that bids went out for resurfacing of Kelly Street, Wenona Drive and Town Creek Drive. East Coast Construction was awarded the bid at \$194, 410. Funding for the project will come from a combination of LMIG and T-SPLOST. Mr. Hayes asks for approval of bid. *Consent Agenda*

CITY MANAGER

- CDBG Sewer Project on Ayers Street is now complete
- CDBG project Water Main replacement on Seabrook Drive applied for
- EDA grant application to address sludge removal and waste water treatment issues
- CDBG-MIT electrical improvements is applied for
- CDBG disaster relief mitigation funding is applied for

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- He is working with Renee and Finance to address pay disparities which will be addressed in the coming weeks

CITY ATTORNEY – NONE

WARD 1 – NONE

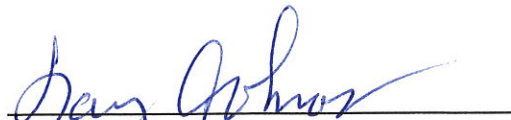
WARD 2

- Stop sign is taken care of
- Do City have plan in place for bad weather? Mr. Colby gave details of City's readiness for inclement weather. It only takes 15-20 minutes to set-up emergency station.

MAYOR PRO TEM JOHNSON - NONE

Mr. Johnson motioned to adjourn and was seconded by Mr. Jackson – *3-0 Motion Carries*

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson duly adjourned the meeting at 8:32 pm – *Unanimous Consent*



Larry Johnson, Mayor Pro Tem



Renee Johnson, Deputy Clerk

