

City Council Meeting Minutes

City of Sylvester
City Council Regular Meeting
City Hall Council Chambers
Tuesday, October 7, 2024
Call to Order 6:00 p.m.

Attendees: Mayor Harold Proctor, Jr.
Councilman Melvin Powell, Ward 1
Councilman Isaac Jackson, Jr., Ward 2
Mayor Pro-Tem Mark Giddens, Ward 3
City Manager Chris Davis
Assistant City Manager Richie Childers
City Attorney Lester Castellow
City Clerk Markesha Bivens

Absent: Councilman Earnest Carter, Jr., Ward 4

Call to Order: Mayor Harold Proctor, Jr.

Invocation/Pledge: Dr. Willie Mae Marlin

Agenda Amendment/Approval

With a request from Mayor Proctor to remove New Business item B, Beer, Wine and Alcohol Application: DJ's Game Room & Event Center, upon motion by Councilman Jackson, seconded by Councilman Giddens, the agenda gained approval. Voting yes were Mayor Proctor, Councilmen Giddens, Jackson and Powell. The vote passed 4-0.

Approval of Minutes

Upon motion by Councilman Jackson, seconded by Councilman Giddens, Minutes for September 11, 2024 – Special Called Meeting, September 16, 2024 – Regular Meeting and September 25, 2024 – Millage Rate Public Hearings (2) gained approval. Voting yes were Mayor Proctor, Councilmen Giddens, Jackson and Powell. The vote passed 4-0.

Speakers Appearance: None

Hurricane Helene Update

Mr. Davis informed the Mayor and Council of the minimal damage following Hurricane Helene. Cost of employee-hours, equipment and supplies totaled between \$125,000 and \$250,000 with federal and state funding applications opening soon. An estimated turnaround time of two (2) to three (3) months for reimbursement is expected, should municipalities meet the approval threshold.

New Business

A. Request to Close Street – Worth County High School Homecoming Parade 2024

Mrs. Karen Singletary, Main Street Director, offered details for the Worth County High School Homecoming Parade. This annual event will take place on the usual parade route, closing Isabella, West King Streets and Bryant Drive with Highway 313; October 11, 2024 from 1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m.; and is open to the public.

Upon a motion by Councilman Giddens, with a second by Councilman Jackson, the request to close streets application for the Worth County High School Homecoming Parade gained approval. Voting yes were Mayor Proctor, Councilmen Giddens, Jackson and Powell. The vote passed 4-0.

B. Beer, Wine and Alcohol License Application: DJ's Game Room & Event Center

This item was removed from the agenda.

C. GMEBS 2023-2025 Defined Benefit Retirement Plan Restatement

Attorney Castellow advised the Mayor and Council of the need to approve this benefit addendum to ensure the city is in compliance with federal tax law.

Upon motion by Councilman Powell, seconded by Councilman Jackson, the addendum agreement for the GMEBS 2023-2025 Defined Benefit Retirement Plan was approved. Voting yes were Mayor Proctor, Councilmen Giddens, Jackson and Powell. The vote passed 4-0.

D. Non-Disclosure Agreement

Mr. Davis instructed the Mayor and Council of the Non-Disclosure Agreement NDA for a company concerning the broadband system. In order to proceed, the NDA would need to be signed. After a review from Mr. Castellow, with minimal changes, staff recommends execution of this agreement.

Upon motion by Councilman Powell, seconded by Councilman Jackson, the non-disclosure agreement gained approval. Voting yes were Mayor Proctor, Councilmen Jackson and Powell. Councilman Giddens recused himself from voting. The vote passed 3-0.

Reports/Remarks

Councilman Melvin Powell, Ward 1 – Councilman Powell had no report.

Councilman Isaac Jackson, Jr., Ward 2 – Councilman Jackson had no report.

Councilman J. Mark Giddens, Ward 3 – Councilman Giddens had no report.

Councilman Earnest Carter Jr., Ward 4 – Councilman Carter was absent.

City Attorney Lester Castellow – Attorney Castellow provided an update on the closure of Brooks and Davis Streets. Ads will run in the Sylvester Local with more information presented in November.

City Manager Chris Davis – Mr. Davis reminded the Mayor and Council that a Peanut Festival Parade head count is required as soon as possible, as well as a complete list of streets for the upcoming yearly LMIG Project. City Hall will be closed on Monday, October 14, in observance of Columbus Day, and he will be on vacation from October 15-18, 2024.

Mayor Proctor announced to the attendees of the Peanut Festival Parade, the start time is 9:00 a.m. this year, vs 10:00 a.m. in years past. Social media updates and posts have been made accordingly, so please continue to spread the word. He plans to ride in the antique fire truck with the Sylvester Fire Department. Discussion of the Worth County Alumni Weekend events were summarized and, although good and bad, it is time to come together as a community for a game plan to curb issues with size and containing the weekend. Law enforcement helps, but it will take the entire city to combat the issue.

Executive Session: None

Adjournment

With all agenda items covered, Councilman Powell motioned to adjourn, with a second by Councilman Giddens. Voting yes were Mayor Proctor, Councilmen Giddens, Jackson and Powell. The vote passed 4-0.

Mayor Proctor duly adjourned the meeting at 6:13 p.m.

CITY COUNCIL
SYLVESTER, GEORGIA

HAROLD PROCTOR, JR., MAYOR

ATTEST:

MARKESHA BIVENS, CITY CLERK