

City Council Meeting Minutes

City of Sylvester  
City Council Regular Meeting  
City Hall Council Chambers  
Monday, December 2, 2024  
Call to Order 6:00 p.m.

**Attendees:** Mayor Harold Proctor, Jr.  
Councilman Melvin Powell, Ward 1 (via phone)  
Councilman Isaac Jackson, Jr., Ward 2  
Mayor Pro-Tem Mark Giddens, Ward 3  
Councilman Earnest Carter, Jr., Ward 4  
City Manager Chris Davis  
Assistant City Manager Richie Childers  
Assistant City Manager Tanita Norris  
City Attorney Lester Castellow  
Deputy City Clerk Teneisha Cushion

**Call to Order:** Mayor Harold Proctor, Jr.

**Invocation/Pledge:** Dr. Willie Mae Marlin

**Agenda Amendment/Approval**

With a request to remove New Business, Item B: Turkey Trot and add Item I: Downtown Development Removal/Appointment (Abby Hembry/Kayla Meyers), upon motion by Councilman Carter, seconded by Councilman Jackson, the Council Meeting Agenda gained approval. Voting yes were Mayor Proctor, Councilmen Carter, Giddens, Jackson and Powell. The vote passed 5-0.

**Approval of Minutes**

Upon motion by Councilman Jackson, seconded by Councilman Carter, minutes for the November 4, 2024 – Regular Meeting gained approval. Voting yes were Mayor Proctor, Councilmen Carter, Giddens, Jackson and Powell. The vote passed 5-0.

**Speakers Appearance**

Mrs. Connie Collier requested an update on the West Street Project. Per City Manager Davis, there were staffing changes, requiring research for grant funding, but this project is still ongoing.

Mrs. Beverly Smith informed the Mayor and Council of an incident that occurred on October 3, 2024 with a Sylvester Police Department officer. A complaint has been filed, and an investigation will take place concerning this issue.

## **Unfinished Business**

### **Street Abandonment for Brooks and Davis Streets**

The Public Hearing for this agenda item took place at the November 4, 2024 Council Meeting, with Attorney Lester Castellow providing details of the potential abandonment of public roads, and a map with documentation. There was no public comment, however, a vote is required to accept the work completed by the City Attorney and proceed with the street abandonment.

Upon a motion by Councilman Jackson, with a second by Councilman Carter, the abandonment of Brooks and Davis Streets gained approval. Voting yes were Mayor Proctor, Councilmen Carter, Giddens, Jackson and Powell. The vote passed 5-0.

## **New Business**

### **A. Event Application/Road Closure Request: Christmas Parade**

Mrs. Karen Singletary, Main Street Director, offered details for the Annual Christmas Parade. This annual, public event will take place on the standard parade route, closing Pope, Isabella, Front and Main Streets on Thursday, December 5, 2024 from 6:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m., with a tree lighting and pictures with Santa Claus at the Train Depot taking place afterwards.

Upon a motion by Councilman Powell, with a second by Councilman Jackson, the request to close streets application for the Annual Christmas Parade gained approval. Voting yes were Mayor Proctor, Councilmen Carter, Giddens, Jackson and Powell. The vote passed 5-0.

### **B. Enterprise Fleet Program**

Mr. Riche Childers, Assistant City Manager, introduced representatives from Enterprise, Mrs. Joslyn Mulkern and Mr. Ray Simpson, who presented details in reference to the Fleet Program. With no action taken, it was determined to revisit this agenda item in a future council meeting.

### **C. Jeffords Park Kiosk Signs & Worth County Middle School Tennis Court Request**

Mr. Childers and Mrs. Singletary provided details of the kiosk signs to be placed at Jeffords Park, highlighting the annual events that take place in Sylvester.

Upon a motion by Councilman Giddens, with a second by Councilman Jackson, the design for the kiosk signs for Jeffords Park gained approval. Voting yes were Mayor Proctor, Councilmen Carter, Giddens, Jackson and Powell. The vote passed 5-0.

The Worth County Middle School Tennis team requested usage of the Jeffords Park Tennis Courts for their practices on weekday afternoons, same scheduling as last year.

Upon a motion by Councilman Jackson, with a second by Councilman Giddens, the Worth County Middle School Tennis team gained permission to use the tennis courts at Jeffords Park for practices. Voting yes were Mayor Proctor, Councilmen Carter, Giddens, Jackson and Powell. The vote passed 5-0.

**D. Beer, Wine and Alcohol License**

**i. Application: CVS Pharmacy**

**ii. Renewals: J&J Grocery, Fat Boys Backyard BBQ, E-Z Corner #22**

Mrs. Tenneisha Cushion, Deputy City Clerk, informed the Mayor and Council of the new application for CVS Pharmacy, due to a change in Store Manager. Renewals listed: J&J Grocery, Fat Boys Backyard BBQ and E-Z Corner #22 for 2025 were provided as well, and staff is seeking approval for these businesses.

Upon a motion by Councilman Carter, with a second by Councilman Jackson, the Beer, Wine and Alcohol License Application for CVS Pharmacy and renewals for J&J Grocery, Fat Boys Backyard BBQ and E-Z Corner #22 gained approval. Voting yes were Mayor Proctor, Councilmen Carter, Giddens, Jackson and Powell. The vote passed 5-0.

**E. Agreement: Mutual Aid - Marine Corps Logistics Base, Albany, GA**

Sylvester Fire Department Chief Jack Colby advised the Mayor and Council of the annual mutual aid agreement for communication with the Marine Corps Logistics Base in Albany, GA. This is at no cost and the city is only required to allow communication, if needed.

Upon a motion by Councilman Carter, with a second by Councilman Jackson, the Agreement for Mutual Aid with the Marine Corps Logistics Base, Albany gained approval. Voting yes were Mayor Proctor, Councilmen Carter, Giddens, Jackson and Powell. The vote passed 5-0.

**F. First Responders PTSD Program & Resolution No. 2024-13**

Mr. Davis summarized the passing of House Bill 451 and the requirement for providing Full-Time First Responders PTSD Insurance. Information was provided in the packet for the Mayor and Council, with staff recommended approval for the Mayor to execute Resolution No. 2024-13.

Upon a motion by Councilman Carter, seconded by Councilman Jackson, the First Responders PTSD Program and Resolution No. 2024-13 were approved. Voting yes were Mayor Proctor, Councilmen Carter, Giddens, Jackson and Powell. The vote passed 5-0.

**G. Sylvester-Worth County Recreation Department Update**

Mr. Davis described the attempts to work with the Worth County Board of Commissioners and staff regarding the Sylvester-Worth County Recreation Department. Mr. Castellow provided a board proposal to the Mayor and Council and discussed ideas to better the department, such as a detailed budget, public meetings, grants, branching off as a separate entity using the JW Holley Gym. More information is required, and with no action taken, it was determined to revisit this agenda item in a future council meeting.

**H. MEAG Power Resolution No. 2024-14**

Mr. Davis advised the Mayor and Council of the need to execute Resolution No. 2024-14, referencing the change in City Manager. Discussion provided an update to the authorized officials for MEAG Power, naming Mayor Harold Proctor, Jr. and City Manager Chris Davis.

Upon a motion by Councilmen Jackson and Powell, seconded by Councilman Giddens, Resolution No. 2024-14 gained approval. Voting yes were Mayor Proctor, Councilmen Carter, Giddens, Jackson and Powell. The vote passed 5-0.

**I. Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Removal/Appointment**

Mayor Proctor informed that Mrs. Abby Hembry should be removed from the DDA Board, due to scheduling conflicts. Mrs. Kayla Meyers, the new Sylvester-Worth County Chamber President, has been appointed, with approval necessary by Mayor and Council.

Upon a motion by Councilman Giddens, with a second by Councilman Jackson, the change to the Downtown Development Authority Board (DDA) with removal of Mrs. Abby Hembry and appointment for Mrs. Kayla Meyers gained approval. Voting yes were Mayor Proctor, Councilmen Carter, Giddens, Jackson and Powell. The vote passed 5-0.

**J. 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 had no report.

Mayor Harold Proctor, Jr. – Mayor Proctor had no report.

City Attorney Lester Castellow – Attorney Castellow had no report.

City Manager Chris Davis – Mr. Davis reminded the Mayor and Council of the Christmas Parade and requested arrival at 5:30 p.m. to line up on the lovely first place float that staff created. The parade starts at 6:00 p.m. The upcoming training will have the Mayor, Council and key staff members out of the office from December 8 – 11. Mention of personnel changes in staff; Finance Department now holds Mrs. Shelia Pullins and Mr. Jonathan McDaniel on the first floor and Mr. David Holt, who has worked in the Water/Wastewater Department for three (3) months, with Mr. Brian Rowland's resignation, will be promoted to Director.

**Executive Session:** None

**Adjournment**

With all agenda items covered, Councilman Jackson motioned to adjourn, with a second by Councilman Carter. Voting yes were Mayor Proctor, Councilmen Carter, Giddens, Jackson and Powell. The vote passed 5-0.

Mayor Proctor duly adjourned the meeting at 6:59 p.m.

CITY COUNCIL  
SYLVESTER, GEORGIA

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HAROLD PROCTOR, JR., MAYOR

ATTEST:

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MARKESHA BIVENS, CITY CLERK

APPROVED