

## City Council Meeting Minutes

City of Sylvester  
City Council Regular Meeting  
City Hall Council Chambers  
Monday, April 21, 2025  
Call to Order 6:00 p.m.

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

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

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

### **Agenda Amendment/Approval**

Upon motion by Councilman Carter, seconded by Councilmen Giddens and Jackson in unison, the Council Meeting Agenda gained approval. Voting yes were Mayor Proctor, Councilmen Carter, Giddens, Jackson and Powell. The vote passed 5-0.

Attorney Castellow enters at 6:02 p.m.

### **Minutes Approval**

Upon motion by Councilman Jackson, seconded by Councilman Carter, the March 17, 2025 – Regular Meeting minutes gained approval. Voting yes were Mayor Proctor, Councilmen Carter, Giddens, Jackson and Powell. The vote passed 5-0.

### **Speakers Appearance**

Pastor Ronnie Banks of New Vision Worship Center expressed thanks to the City, Mayor, Councilman Jackson and the First Responders for their attendance and blocking the roads for the church's 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Christian Community Event held April 19, 2025.

### **Unfinished Business**

- A. Agreement: Southern Regional Technical College (SRTC) at Daisy Gamble Center**  
City Manager, Chris Davis, summarized details of the current rental agreement for usage of the Daisy Gamble Center by SRTC for GED and Adult Education Classes. They have rented the facility for the past year, are currently under an unsigned contract, with no changes. In preparation for the following year's facility usage, staff recommended approval to have Mayor Proctor sign the agreement for continued rental.

Upon motion by Councilman Giddens and Powell combined, seconded by Councilman Jackson, approval for the Mayor to sign the Agreements for SRTC at Daisy Gamble Center gained approval. Voting yes were Mayor Proctor, Councilmen Carter, Giddens, Jackson and Powell. The vote passed 5-0.

## **New Business**

### **A. Resolution No. 2025-05: Bank Resolution Update**

Mr. Davis informed the panel that with staffing changes, Resolution 2025-05 allows an update to bank access for the city. With the removal of former employees and granting access to new finance staff, with standard language, Mrs. Shelia Pullins has been added.

Upon motion by Councilman Jackson, seconded by Councilman Carter, the bank resolution update, Resolution No. 2025-05 gained approval. Voting yes were Mayor Proctor, Councilmen Carter, Giddens, Jackson and Powell. The vote passed 5-0.

### **B. Resolution No. 2025-06: Aerial Fire Truck CD**

Mr. Davis advised Mayor and Council of Magnolia Bank's requirements for securing the Aerial Fire Truck for the Sylvester Fire Department. This resolution summarizes the details to obtain a low interest loan, and the creation of a new CD in the amount of \$50,000, guaranteeing a better rate with Georgia Municipal Association (GMA).

Upon motion by Councilman Powell, seconded by Councilman Giddens, Resolution No. 2025-06 for the Aerial Fire Truck CD gained approval. Voting yes were Mayor Proctor, Councilmen Carter, Giddens, Jackson and Powell. The vote passed 5-0.

### **C. City-Wide Water Meter Upgrade Quote**

Mr. David Holt, Water/Wastewater Director, informed of how water meters would soon transition from manual to radio read system, as discussed in prior council meetings. This project is in its beginning stage. However, discussion of how the Master Meter Brand is currently at each residence and only requires a dowel change, versus a total replacement meter. This will allow an overall project cost savings.

Additionally, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has mandated water utilities to identify and inventory water service lines throughout municipalities. Grant funding has been approved to inspect and survey for lead or copper pipes. As the project nears, Consolidated Pipe & Supply provided a quote for the current equipment in Sylvester and staff recommended approval for this company to provide material, with this change will affect each home with an approximate 1-day downtime.

Upon motion by Councilman Jackson, seconded by Councilman Powell, the city wide water meter upgrade quote from Consolidated Pipe & Supply gained approval. Voting yes were Mayor Proctor, Councilmen Carter, Giddens, Jackson and Powell. The vote passed 5-0.

## **Reports/Remarks**

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

Councilman Isaac Jackson, Jr., Ward 2 – Councilman Jackson extended thanks to the Public Works Department for striping and improving the highways; reported more damage at the J.W Holley gym and boards are needed to repair windows and holes preventing access, cameras and charging for damages also took place.

Councilman J. Mark Giddens, Ward 3 – Councilman Giddens also complimented the striping and mentioned appreciation of work near the Football Field on Price St, also of a Ward 3 alley requested.

Councilman Earnest Carter Jr., Ward 4 – Councilman Carter reported lighting issues near Parker's Chicken; two (2) lights heading west, and also requested a lighting check, resulting in a total blackout at Williams Trailer Park in Ward 4.

Mayor Harold Proctor, Jr. – Mayor Proctor also mentioned striping, inquired on where the new fire truck will be housed and its expected arrival date.

City Attorney Lester Castellow – Attorney Castellow had no report.

City Manager Chris Davis – Mr. Davis informed the new fire truck will be housed at the City's Maintenance Shop, until discussion of Fire Station #2, such as raising the door level and other contingencies of the facility is finalized. Two (2) fixes need to be made on the fire truck in Pooler, GA and then the new truck will arrive in the Sylvester soon. Mr. Davis also gave kudos to the Public Works Department for their dedication on repairs of the sidewalks, streets and various other requests made throughout the city, utilizing the same staff. Mention of Georgia Cities Week happenings and the additional event on Arbor Day, with a tree dedication for Councilman Larry Johnson, Friday, April 25, 2025 at 10 a.m., at Shipp Park.

## **Executive Session**

Councilman Jackson moved to convene an Executive Session to discuss personnel and real estate, seconded by Councilman Giddens. Voting yes were Mayor Proctor, Councilmen Carter, Giddens, Jackson and Powell. The vote passed 5-0.

## **Executive Session Begins: 6:27 p.m.**

Councilman Giddens motioned to accept minutes as read in Executive Session and reconvene, seconded by Councilman Jackson. Voting yes were Mayor Proctor, Councilmen Carter, Giddens, Jackson and Powell. The vote passed 5-0.

## **Regular Session Reconvenes: 7:28 p.m.**

**Announcements:** None

**Adjournment**

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

Mayor Proctor duly adjourned the meeting at 7:29 p.m.

CITY COUNCIL  
SYLVESTER, GEORGIA

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HAROLD PROCTOR, JR., MAYOR

ATTEST:

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MARKESHA BIVENS, CITY CLERK