

MINUTES
WAYCROSS CITY COMMISSION PLANNING & INFORMATION SESSION
MONDAY, JULY 31, 2023 – 5:00 P.M.
WAYCROSS CITY COMMISSION CHAMBERS
(417 PENDLETON STREET, WAYCROSS, GA)

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The Waycross City Commission Planning and Information Session was called to order on Monday, July 31, 2023, at 5:00 pm by Mayor James. The meeting was held in the Commission Chambers of City Hall. Present was, Commissioners Norman Davis, Henry Strickland, Diane Hopkins (in at 5:04) and Mayor Pro Temp, Sheinita Bennett. The meeting went into break at 5:46 and started back at 5:51.

A. Invocation:

Invocation was led by Ulysess Rayford

B. Pledge of Allegiance

II. GUESTS:

Shawn Roberts, 907 Cresent, Street, Waycross Ga. 31501- spoke on the issue he is having getting water turned on at the property of 416 Quarterman Street. He is needing the city to work with him on a resolution to have the issue corrected.

III. TRAVEL/TRAINING SCHEDULE AND REQUESTS

IV. PLANNING & INFORMATION SESSION

A. Bids:

1. WAYX 24-91 Surplus

There was a consensus to place this on Tuesday Commission Meeting Agenda. Dist-1 Norman Davis- yes, Dist-2 Sheinita Bennett-yes, Dist-3 (not here), Dist-4 Diane Hopkins-yes, and Dist-5 Henry Strickland- yes,

B. Discussion Items:

1. WPD Purchase of Vehicles – Chief Tommy Cox

Chief Cox informed the commission regarding the purchasing of the five (5) new vehicles for WPD. The money would come from ARPA at the purchase price of \$180,000.00 approximate before the kits are bought and put on each.

2. Purchase of Zero Turn Mowers-

City Manager and James Smart, Public works director, spoke on the need for purchasing two mowers. He will also put a schedule out every week so citizens can see where the grass is being worked on. The asking price is under the \$10,000 threshold. Purchasing wanted to know if they could by-pass putting a bid out since under the \$10,000. The money for this purchase will come from a failed contract from correctional workers, which was already budgeted out.

3. National Registry of Downtown Waycross Expansion

Marc Hawkins, spoke on the expansion to explore including Oak Street and Tebeau Street along with McDonald Street to become a part of the Historical Downtown Area. There is a process to have this on the Historic Registry.

4. Rural King Project Funding Request

Jason Reubenbauer came and spoke to the commission about this project in hopes to gain monetary contributions for this project. The city manager stated he was not knowledgeable enough about this project and wanted to get back with the commission after he has had a chance to explore the plan.

There was a vote to table until the city manager has more information to bring back to the commission. Dist-1 Norman Davis- yes, Dist-2 Sheinita Bennett- yes, Dist-4 Diane Hopkins-yes and Dist-5 Henry Strickland-yes.

5. Community Center Update

The City Manager, spoke to the commission about a need to support our kids in the community with programs designed to keep them off the streets and hopefully out of our prison systems. A group of concerned citizens came and spoke with the council about the variety of issues facing our community members of all ages. The goal is to have services located in one location. There was some discussion from the commissioners and the city manager agreed to continue to gather information and report back to the commission on the progress.

6. Georgia Initiative for Community Housing (GICH)

City manager spoke about his concerns to over commit at this time, because of all the commitments that the city has currently. He asked to be able to come back to this in roughly two weeks for further discussion.

C. Privilege Licenses Renewals: n/a

D. Privilege Licenses: n/a

E. Proposed Ordinances:

1. An Ordinance of the Waycross City Commission to Amend the Zoning Map of the City of Waycross, Georgia; To Re-zone the Property Described Herein Located at 1202 House Street for R-75 Residential to RM-75 – Residential Manufactured Housing; To Set and Effective Date; To Repeal Conflicting Ordinances; and for Other Purposes.

There was a consensus to place this on Tuesday Commission Meeting Agenda

F. Proposed Resolutions:

1. A Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia, To Approve Annual Work Detail Agreement Between the Georgia Department of Corrections and the City of Waycross for One Inmate Work Detail for Fiscal Year 2024; and for Other Purposes.

There was a consensus to place this on Tuesday Commission Meeting Agenda

G. City Attorney's Report:

Attorney Rick Currie, spoke on a request to close a right-of-way at Long Bewick a 50ft ROW between "M" Street and Garlington Ave. Approximately 694'. In his opinion because we have water lines and sewer lines in that ROW, the city needs to deny the request. He needs a consensus to either approve or deny. There was a discussion and a point of order made by Mayor James. The city manager would like to investigate the property to familiarize himself with the area footage.

H. City Manager's Report:

City Manager, spoke on trying out a pilot program for new meters at cost of approximately \$69,000 for 300 meters. He wants to try them out for six to seven months to get feed back on their effectiveness. He would then come back to the commission to go over the results. There is no commitment to the program he wanted to bring to commission for discussion.

He also gave notice that a schedule will be coming to highlight the areas in which the city will be cutting grass, so that there is transparency of information.

I. Last Call

Commissioner Davis- he was pleased with the number of citizens who came to express their commitment to serve the community as one. He wants them to continue in hopes that he can see it grow.

Commissioner Hopkins- asked the city manager was he trying to replace all the meters. Yes, was his answer over time. She expressed her frustrations with the current meters and the cost the city incurred replacing them. She applauded the city manager for trying to investigate the issue for a resolve.

Commissioner Strickland- thanked all for coming out.

Mayo Pro Temp, Sheinita Bennett- thanked all for coming out.

Mayor James- thanked all for coming out. He also thanked our city manager.

J. Adjourn to Executive Session

K. Adjournment

The mayor asked for a motion to adjourn. A motion was given by Commissioner Davis seconded by Mayor Pro Temp, Sheinita Bennett. All voted in favor meeting adjourned at 6:56pm.

CITY OF WAYCROSS

BY:

+ Michael Angelo James
MICHAEL-ANGELO JAMES, Mayor

ATTEST:

Jacqueline Powell
JACQUALINE POWELL, City Clerk

