

WAYCROSS CITY COMMISSION PLANNING & INFORMATION SESSION
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2024, 5:00 P.M.
WAYCROSS CITY COMMISSION CHAMBERS
(417 PENDLETON STREET, WAYCROSS, GA)

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The Waycross City Commission Meeting was called to order on Tuesday, February 5, 2024, at 5:00 pm by Mayor James. The meeting was held in the Commission Chambers of City Hall. Present were Commissioners, Katrena Felder, Sheinita Bennett, and Mayor Pro Temp, Alvin Nelson.

A. Invocation: Commissioner Diane Hopkins

Led by Public Works Director, James Smart

B. Pledge of Allegiance

II. GUESTS:

Shawn Taylor, 404 Spurgeon Street, Waycross Ga. 31501-SGRC AGENCY ON AGING, she is advocating to ensure the aging residents have all that is available to them to live healthy and independently in the community. She spoke about a grant to be used to create an environment to help aid in that effort. She made mention of a gazebo in one or two of the parks to make it available for them. She is asking to see what parks would be available for use with the permission of the commission. Her director will be responsible for finding and writing the grants.

III. TRAVEL/TRAINING SCHEDULE AND REQUESTS

IV. PLANNING & INFORMATION SESSION

A. Bids:

1. Surplus-WAYX 24-07 1989 GMC Vandura Van

There was a consensus to place this on Tuesday agenda.

2. Bid-FY24-12 Used Forklift

There was a consensus to place this on Tuesday agenda.

B. Discussion Items:

1. **Infrastructure Update**

The City Manager- met with the county, last week, and they proposed returning two parks back for use. The two parks they manage as well as the swimming pool for the next fiscal year. Currently, they want to sign an MOU about the pool operations for this summer. I told them I would get back to them when I talk to the commission. They want to have two of their commissioners and two of our commissioners sit down to discuss the MOU. At this time, and I'll put this up front that the pool is probably not cost efficient to maintain but that's one of the things they want to discuss. I'm presenting that now so we can go ahead and start the discussions on returning the two parks.

2. **Talent Management:**

a. **Approval to Include Recruitment and Retention Package to FY25 Budget**

The City Manager- spoke on proposed Cola increase. As you remember, it's my goal moving this year to present anything financial to y'all at least three times prior to bidding. This is the third time as far as the cola. You should have in front of you Cola 2.5 increase. And the recommendation to do at least a 1.0 to 1.5 every year, moving forward for the next five years to catch up with inflation. That can be sustained in the budget with no issues. And with that, I would like to say, I know it's been a lot of discussions about the Cola, for our workforce. I know you all want to help the workforce, and you've done so. I'm going to go over a few notes real fast about what's been done this past year, so everybody can kind of understand how we got to the decision that we are at now. Some of this happened prior to me getting here. From 2015 to 2022, we've done either a 3% or 4% cola adjustment each year. Also, when I got here in 24, the commission decided to do the longevity increase that had been promised a few years before that. You also raised CDL raises to \$18 per hour, and that's anybody who gets a CDL. You gave birthday passes so they could either take that day off or put that into their salary. You also put it in the handbook, which we are almost done with. Also, anyone who gets degrees can get raises as well. You also get a Christmas bonus, which is \$200 every year. So, I say that because you've done a lot for the workforce as payroll, as much as you can. right now, we're to the point for another Cola adjustment. And at the same time, we're trying to make some retirement changes. Most financial experts will say not do those at the same time. So that's why it took so long for us to figure this out. We were trying to go back and forth about should we do them doing the same pay year? That made it kind of where the cola was not as high as it was in the previous years, being 3 or 4. That's why we came to 2.5. If you decide to do the Retirement and Retention package upgrade, this will be the second briefing on the retirement piece. So, I understand you need more time to

consider that, and that's understandable. But on the Cola, we can maintain that. And we're going to go ahead and ask for a vote on that.

3. City Retreat Dates and Proposal

The City Manager proposed retreat dates of April 12th and 13th. And then the next ones will be October 11th and 12th. I want to go ahead and put these dates on the calendar so we don't run into the same issues we had trying to make them last year with holidays and people schedules so the entire workforce will know these are the dates. And like I said, the first retreat, we have a heavy focus on finances. We need a consensus and a resolution to keep it consistent moving forward.

There was a vote taken approving the dates for the Retreats. Dist-2 Sheinita Bennett-Yes, Dist-3 Katrena Felder-Yes, and Dist-5 Alvin Nelson-Yes

4. Business License Letter

The City Manager spoke briefly about the letter going out to businesses concerning the proper procedures for businesses to operate and maintain compliance.

5. Approve Fireworks Contract for July 4th

Marc Hawkins spoke briefly about awarding the contract to Pryotecnico for \$22,000.00.

6. Wrecked Vehicle Replacement

Chief Cox spoke on the need to replace two vehicles that were wrecked earlier this year. He stated if we went with the 2023 models Dodge Durango's, which I would recommend, we already have the equipment for them. So, we've taken the equipment out of the two wrecked vehicles, and we're going into a one-year newer model vehicle. The hit as far as the budget is concerned is 327 extra dollars. Approximately a month is what will be outgoing. And I'm speaking with the finance director about it. He said that money is already in the budget. That doesn't stretch that account thin, and no amendment would be necessary. But I'm just looking for approval to go ahead and replace the 2022 models with 2023 model Dodge Durango.

There was a consensus from all three commissioners to place on tomorrow's agenda for approval.

7. Appointment to the Library Board of Trustees

C. Privilege Licenses Renewals: n/a

D. Privilege Licenses:

1. Hampton Inn, K. Thomas, 1720 Brunswick Hwy, Waycross, Ga. 31501, Package Sales Only.

E. Proposed Ordinances:

1. An Ordinance to Amend the Code of Ordinances of the City of Waycross, Georgia; To Amend Chapter 32-Streets, Sidewalks and Other Public Places, Article V.-Parks, Grass, Plats, Squares by Amending Section 32-139 Pertaining to the City's Policy for Renaming Streets; To Provide for an Effective Date; To Declare an Emergency to Allow for Second Reading; and for Other Purposes.

There was a consensus to place this on Tuesday agenda.

2. An Ordinance to Abandon and Close an Unopened Alley in Block 7 of Watrusco Subdivision; To Authorize Quitclaim Deeds to Abutting Landowners; To Establish an Effective Date; To Repeal Conflicting Ordinances; and for Other Purposes.

There was a consensus to place this on Tuesday agenda.

3. An Ordinance of the City of Waycross, Georgia, To Create the Business Integration, and Information Systems Department; and for Other Purposes.

There was a consensus to place this on Tuesday agenda.

F. Proposed Resolutions:

1. A Resolution of the Waycross City Commission to Approve Fireworks Display Agreement with Pryotecnico, Inc. for the Fourth of July 2024 Fireworks Exhibition; and for Other Purposes.

There was a consensus to place this on Tuesday agenda.

2. A Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia, to Approve Amendment Number 4 to Contract Previously Awarded to Coastal Engineering Consultants, Inc. to Now Include the Paving of Certain Designated Dirt Roads; and for Other Purpose.

There was a consensus to place this on Tuesday agenda.

3. A Resolution of the Waycross City Commission to Approve a Deferred Payment Loan to the Owner of 636 Owens Street for Rehabilitation Assistance as Part of the Community Development Block Grant Neighborhood Revitalization Program; and for Other Purposes.

- There was a consensus to place this on Tuesday agenda.
4. A Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia, to Declare a Certain 1989 GMC Vandura Van to be Surplused Property; To Provide for its Sale on GOVDEALS.COM; and for Other Purposes.

There was a consensus to place this on Tuesday agenda.

5. A Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia, To Approve Purchase of a Forklift for the City Warehouse; and for Other Purposes.

There was a consensus to place this on Tuesday agenda.

G. City Attorney's Report:

Rick, announced the need to advertise and set up two public hearings for February 20th both for street renaming. One starts at 4:30 and the other at 4:45.

H. City Manager's Report:

I. Last Call

J. Adjourn to Executive Session

K. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Mayor Pro Temp, Alvin Nelson seconded by Commissioner Bennett. All voted in favor and the meeting adjourned at 6:01pm.

CITY OF WAYCROSS

BY:


MICHAEL-ANGELO JAMES, Mayor

ATTEST:


JACQUALINE POWELL, City Clerk

