

MINUTES
WAYCROSS CITY COMMISSION MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2012
7:00 P.M.

The regular meeting of the Commission of the City of Waycross was held in the Commission Chambers of City Hall on Tuesday, January 17, 2012. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Clarence E. Billups at 7:00 p.m. with Mayor Pro Tem Marian Solomon-Gaines, Commissioners Diane Hopkins, Norman Davis, and Alvin Nelson present for the meeting. Commissioner William Simmons was absent.

City Attorney Huey Spearman introduced Bishop Michael-Angelo James of Emmanuel International Cathedral of the Holy Spirit Church who offered the invocation which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Under Executive Duties, Mayor Billups presented several leadership awards from the National League of Cities to Commissioner Norman Davis. Mr. Davis received the Achievement in Leadership Excellence / Bronze Certificate – Leadership Fellow, the Achievement in Leadership Excellence / Silver Certificate – Leadership Executive and the Silver Certificate Proclamation.

Mayor Billups presented the 2012 State of the City Address.

Deron W. King, City Manager, presented the City Manager's Report. Mr. King congratulated Commissioner Norman Davis for his leadership awards. Mr. King extended his appreciation to the Police Department, Fire Department, Public Works Department and the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Commission for a successful Martin Luther King Jr. weekend celebration. He also commended Chief Tanner, Waycross Police Department and the Fraternal Order of Police for their Shop With A Cop program. The Police Department helped 30 kids have a great holiday through this program.

As a result of the sewer main failure on Suwannee Drive, Suwannee Drive will be closed until March of 2012 for repairs. This project has been expedited and should begin within two weeks. Mr. King reported that work on the 2011 Street Rehabilitation Project is continuing. The plans include resurfacing Dorothy and Riverside Streets (which is complete) and drainage, curb and gutter and resurfacing on Goodwin, Howe, Bunche, Bethune, and Carter Streets. The project is currently ahead of schedule and should be complete the first of 2012. Citizens are urged to exercise caution when traveling in construction areas.

Mayor Clarence Billups began the Mayor's Report by thanking the Police Department, Fire Department, Public Works Department and the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Commission for a successful Martin Luther King Jr. weekend. He commended Commissioner Solomon-Gaines for her work on the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Commission and also her work with the Debs, Junior Debs and the Delta Gems. Mayor Billups congratulated Bishop Michael-

Angelo James and Huey Spearman who served as Grand Marshalls of the Martin Luther King Jr. Parade.

Mayor Billups presented the Consent Calendar as read by City Clerk, Julie Dinkins for consideration of official action as follows:

Approval of Minutes: Waycross City Commission Planning & Information Session Executive Session, Waycross City Commission Meeting, Tuesday, January 3, 2012; Public Hearing for the FY 2012 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Application.

There were no consent resolutions, no ordinance second readings or privilege license renewals.

Commissioner Norman Davis made the motion to approve the Consent Calendar as presented. ~~Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines seconded the motion; all Commissioners~~ voted favorably and the motion carried with a 4-0 vote.

A Resolution to Accept the Quitclaim Deed from Ware County, Georgia Reconveying Title to the Real Property Known as the City Auditorium was presented.

RESOLUTION NO. 12-01

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA TO ACCEPT QUITCLAIM DEED FROM WARE COUNTY, GEORGIA RECONVEYING TITLE TO REAL PROPERTY KNOWN AS THE CITY AUDITORIUM; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, on April 3, 2001 the City of Waycross Georgia entered into an Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Waycross and Ware County, Georgia concerning the transfer and conveyance of certain City of Waycross property known as the “City Auditorium” to Ware County; and

WHEREAS, the said Intergovernmental Agreement provided that the City is transferring and conveying to the County all of City’s interest in said property with the express understanding and agreement that said property will be used for recreation purposes; and

WHEREAS, the said Intergovernmental Agreement also provided that if Ware County decides to abandon said property or any part thereof for recreational use, Ware agrees to transfer title and re-convey said property to City, at City’s option; and

WHEREAS, Ware County is no longer using the City Auditorium for recreational purposes and desires to transfer and re-convey said property back to the City of Waycross Georgia, and the City of Waycross desires and has requested that said property be re-conveyed to the City of Waycross by Ware County; and

WHEREAS, the City of Waycross is currently making plans for a total renovation of the City Auditorium pursuant to the 2008 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST)

Referendum, and requires that indisputable title to the City Auditorium be vested in the City of Waycross in connection with said SPLOST project; and

WHEREAS, the Ware County Board of Commissioners, in a spirit of intergovernmental cooperation desires to re-convey and transfer title to the City Auditorium back to the City of Waycross for all of the City's intended purposes for use of the said facility, in the form of a Quitclaim Deed attached hereto; and

WHEREAS, the said matter having been considered.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Commission of the City of Waycross that the City of Waycross hereby accepts the Quitclaim Deed from Ware County, Georgia re-conveying and transferring title to the City Auditorium back to the City of Waycross, Georgia in the form of a Quitclaim Deed attached hereto and approved hereby.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor, City Manager and City Clerk are hereby authorized, directed and empowered to execute any documents needful or necessary in connection with transferring title to the City Auditorium back to the City of Waycross Georgia.

SO RESOLVED, this 17th day of January, 2012.

CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA

**BY: CLARENCE E BILLUPS
MAYOR**

ATTEST: JULIE DINKINS, City Clerk

Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines made the motion to approve the Resolution to Accept the Quitclaim Deed from Ware County, Georgia Reconveying Title to the Real Property Known as the City Auditorium as presented. Commissioner Norman Davis seconded the motion; all voted in favor and the motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

A Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia to Approve Amendment Number One to the Intergovernmental Agreement for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program with the Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority and Associated Change Order was presented.

RESOLUTION NO 12-02

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA
TO APPROVE AMENDMENT NUMBER ONE TO THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL
AGREEMENT FOR
THE ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM
WITH THE GEORGIA ENVIRONMENTAL FACILITIES AUTHORITY AND
ASSOCIATED CHANGE ORDER;
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

WHEREAS, in June, 2010 the City of Waycross was awarded an Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) in the amount of \$250,000.00 for energy saving retrofits in City public buildings, and entered into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority (“GEFA”) to administer said grant through the South Georgia Regional Commission; and

WHEREAS, the City subsequently awarded a contract to Harold Ellis Smith Electric Company, Inc. for energy saving lighting & HVAC retrofits in various City buildings; and

WHEREAS, the City applied for additional funding and was approved by GEFA for an additional grant in the amount of \$32,083.00 for replacement of 21 pole-mounted exterior halogen lights with efficient LED fixtures at the Wastewater Treatment Plant; and

WHEREAS, Commission approval is being sought for the execution of Amendment Number One to the Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Waycross and the Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority, and associated Contract Change Order necessary to complete the additional lighting retrofits; and

WHEREAS, said matter having been considered.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Commission of the City of Waycross that the City of Waycross approve and execute Amendment Number One to the Intergovernmental Agreement for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program with the Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority, for additional grant funds of \$32,083.00 for the purposes stated in this Resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission of the City of Waycross hereby authorizes the execution of the associated Contract Change Order necessary to complete the additional exterior retrofits.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor, City Manager and City Clerk be and are hereby authorized, directed and empowered to execute said Amendment Number One to said Intergovernmental Agreement, and the associated Contract Change Order in the name of the City of Waycross, Georgia.

SO RESOLVED, this 17th day of January, 2012.

CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA

**BY: CLARENCE E BILLUPS
MAYOR**

ATTEST: JULIE DINKINS, City Clerk

Commissioner Norman Davis made the motion to approve the Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia to Approve Amendment Number One to the Intergovernmental Agreement for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program with the Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority and Associated Change Order as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Diane Hopkins. All voted favorably and the motion carried with a 4 – 0 vote.

A Joint Resolution By the Commission of the City of Waycross, Georgia and the Board of Commissioner of Ware county, Georgia Opposing the Proposed Consolidation of Waycross College with South Georgia College, and Making Waycross College a Satellite Campus of South Georgia College was presented.

CITY RESOLUTION NO. 12-03

JOINT RESOLUTION:

A JOINT RESOLUTION BY THE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA AND THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF WARE COUNTY, GEORGIA OPPOSING THE PROPOSED CONSOLIDATION OF WAYCROSS COLLEGE WITH SOUTH GEORGIA COLLEGE, AND MAKING WAYCROSS COLLEGE A SATELLITE CAMPUS OF SOUTH GEORGIA COLLEGE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, Ware County, Georgia and the City of Waycross, Georgia are political subdivisions of the State of Georgia; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia (“USG”) will receive a recommendation at its monthly board meeting on January 10-11, 2012 from Chancellor Henry “Hank” Huckaby to consolidate eight institutions, including Waycross college and South Georgia College in Douglas, Georgia; and

WHEREAS, the proposal to consolidate Waycross College with South Georgia college was not transparent, was made outside of any public forums or hearings, and was made without input from governmental and business entities, such as the Waycross City Commission and the

Ware County Board of Commissioners, Chamber of Commerce, local Development Authorities, and similar public entities; and

WHEREAS, said proposed consolidation would result in Waycross College becoming a satellite campus of South Georgia College, and reduction in staff, curriculum, educational programs and student body; and

WHEREAS, said proposed consolidation would have a major negative impact on the local economy in Waycross and Ware County, Georgia, including but not limited to the loss of jobs, careers in education, community resources normally associated with an institution of higher learning, and decrease in interest of industrial development prospects to locate to the Waycross and Ware County community; and

WHEREAS, the Commission of the City of Waycross, Georgia and the Board of Commissioners of Ware County, Georgia believe it to be in the best interest of the community to cancel any proposal to consolidate Waycross College with South Georgia College, particularly without public input in said proposed decision, and consideration of a quantitative and qualitative analysis of the economic and social impact on the local community resulting from such a major life altering decision that will impact all facets of the Waycross and Ware County Community life; and

WHEREAS, the Commission of the City of Waycross, Georgia, and the Board of Commissioners of Ware County, Georgia further believe it to be in the best interest of the community for the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia to consider any and all viable alternatives to consolidation of Waycross College with South Georgia College, including but not limited to restructuring of educational programs, staffing, facilities, consideration of greater community support financially and otherwise, other financial resources currently unknown to the Board of Regents, and exhausting all other alternatives to consolidation in partnership with the Waycross and Ware County community; and

WHEREAS, in a spirit of intergovernmental cooperation and a showing of “good faith” and “fair dealing,” the Commission of the City of Waycross, Georgia and the Board of Commissioners of Ware County assert that the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia should cancel any vote at the upcoming Board Meeting on January 10-11, 2012 to consolidate Waycross College with South Georgia College until the acts and things outlined in this Resolution have been fully and finally considered, with participation by all necessary parties identified herein; and

WHEREAS, the Commission of the City of Waycross, Georgia is adopting this Joint Resolution with the express understanding that the Board of Commissioners of Ware County, Georgia is adopting this same identical Joint Resolution, and shall not amend or repeal this Resolution without the expressed written consent of the City Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of Ware County, Georgia is adopting this Joint Resolution with the express understanding that the Commission of the City of Waycross, Georgia is adopting this same identical Joint Resolution, and shall not amend or repeal this Resolution without the expressed written consent of the County Commission; and

WHEREAS, said matters being considered.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA (“CITY COMMISSION”), AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY AUTHORITY OF THE SAME, AS FOLLOWS:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSISONERS OF WARE COUNTY, GEORGIA (“COUNTY COMMISSION”) AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY AUTHORITY OF THE SAME, AS FOLLOWS:

1. The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia (“USG”) shall not receive a recommendation at its monthly board meeting on January 10-11, 2012 from Chancellor Henry “Hank” Huckaby to consolidate Waycross College and South Georgia College in Douglas, Georgia.

2. The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia (“USG”) shall work closely with all necessary parties identified in this Resolution to explore each and every alternative to consolidation of Waycross College with South Georgia, in “good faith”, through the spirit of intergovernmental cooperation, and to make the process open, public and transparent, as traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice require be done.

SO RESOLVED THIS 17th DAY OF JANUARY, 2012.

CITY OF WAYCROSS

CLARENCE E. BILLUPS, Mayor

ATTEST:

JULIE DINKINS, City Clerk

WARE COUNTY, GEORGIA

JIMMY BROWN, Chairman

ATTEST:

PAM GIBSON, County Clerk

Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines made the motion to approve the Joint Resolution By the Commission of the City of Waycross, Georgia and the Board of Commissioner of Ware County, Georgia Opposing the Proposed Consolidation of Waycross College with South Georgia College, and Making Waycross College a Satellite Campus of South Georgia College as presented. Commissioner Diane Hopkins seconded the motion. The Resolution passed with a 4-0 vote.

A Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia to Award the Contract for the Franklin Street Sanitary Sewer Relocation Project was presented.

RESOLUTION NO. 12-04

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA
TO AWARD CONTRACT FOR FRANKLIN STREET SANITARY SEWER
RELOCATION PROJECT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

WHEREAS, in October, 2011, the City of Waycross rezoned the property located at the corner of Franklin Street and Dewey Street from R-90 Residential to C-2 Highway Commercial, to allow the owner to erect a storage building thereon; and

WHEREAS, a recent survey for the building permit exposed a sewer manhole on the property revealing a 15-inch sewer main bisecting the property falling squarely within the proposed building footprint, and

WHEREAS, City staff recommended relocating this infrastructure away from the building site by placing a new manhole on the right-of-way and extend a new sewer main approximately 400 feet on Franklin Street to serve upstream residents and allow removal and decommissioning of the existing main and manhole; and

WHEREAS, the project was offered by competitive bidding to place a new manhole on the right-of-way as recommended by City staff; and

WHEREAS, Allen Owens Construction and Paving, Inc., had the lowest and best bid for the project in the amount of \$24,198.99; and

WHEREAS, said matter having been considered.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor, City Clerk, and City Manager be and are hereby authorized, directed and empowered to execute the documents necessary to award the contract for Franklin Street Sanitary Sewer Relocation Project to Allen Owens Construction and Paving, Inc., in the amount of \$24,198.99, to be paid from W&S Capital Funding.

SO RESOLVED, this 17th day of January, 2012.

CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA

**BY: CLARENCE E BILLUPS
MAYOR**

ATTEST: JULIE DINKINS, City Clerk

Commissioner Diane Hopkins made the motion to approve the Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia to Award the Contract for the Franklin Street Sanitary Sewer Relocation Project was presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines. All voted favorably and the motion carried with a 4 – 0 vote.

A Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia to Propose Amending its Georgia Municipal Employee Benefits Services Retirement Plan was presented.

RESOLUTION NO. 12-05

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA TO PROPOSE AMENDING ITS GEORGIA MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS SERVICES RETIREMENT PLAN; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the City of Waycross, Georgia maintains a retirement plan for its employees through the Georgia Municipal Employee Benefits Services (“GMEBS”) Program; and

WHEREAS, under the current Retirement Plan all City employees are eligible for a pension at age 65 and 5 years of credible service to the City of Waycross; and

WHEREAS, based upon the results of a recent cost study analysis, the City of Waycross finds that it would be more economical to the City and more beneficial to the employees of the City to propose amending its Employee Benefits Services Retirement Plan by (1) adding an Alternative Normal Retirement Option Rule of 90 (for any combination of age and service) for General Employees, and (2) adding an Alternative Normal Retirement Option Rule of 85 (for any combination of age and service) for Public Safety Employees; and

WHEREAS, the Georgia Municipal Association will review and consider for approval the Alternative Rule for City of Waycross Retirement Program 90/85, as stated above, and upon such approval will forward the necessary amendment documents to the City of Waycross to be approved by the City of Waycross; and

WHEREAS, said matter having been considered.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Commission of the City of Waycross that the City of Waycross propose to the Georgia Municipal Association amending its Georgia Municipal Employee Benefits Services (“GMEBS”) Program by (1) adding an Alternative Normal Retirement Option Rule of 90 (for any combination of age and service) for General Employees, and (2) adding an Alternative Normal Retirement Option Rule of 85 (for any combination of age and service) for Public Safety Employees.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor, City Manager, Human Resources Director, and City Clerk be authorized and directed to execute any document needed or required

to propose said amendments to the City's retirement plan as provided in this Resolution, and be authorized to transmit this Resolution to the Georgia Municipal Association for further consideration and approval.

SO RESOLVED, this 17th day of January, 2012.

CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA

**BY: CLARENCE E BILLUPS
MAYOR**

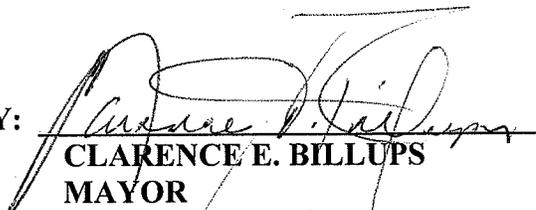
ATTEST: JULIE DINKINS, City Clerk

Commissioner Norman Davis made the motion to approve the Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia to ~~Propose Amending its Georgia Municipal Employee Benefits Services Retirement Plan as presented.~~ The motion was seconded by Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines; all voted in favor and the motion carried with a 4-0 vote.

Mr. Emory O Marcus addressed the Commission informing them that he would be work with Mr. Ricky Deal to provide clean-up services in the City of Waycross. Mr. Marcus will oversee Community Service workers and volunteers who will meet on Saturdays to work to clean-up the City of Waycross.

Following the Mayor's and Commissioners' closing remarks, Commissioner Norman Davis made the motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines; all voted in favor and Mayor Billups adjourned the meeting.

CITY OF WAYCROSS

BY: 
**CLARENCE E. BILLUPS
MAYOR**

ATTEST:


JULIE C. DINKINS, CITY CLERK

