

MINUTES

WAYCROSS CITY COMMISSION MEETING

TUESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2011

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 18, 2011. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Clarence Billups at 7:00 p.m. with Commissioners Marian Solomon-Gaines, Diane Hopkins, William Simmons, Norman Davis and Daniel Yarbrough present for the meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem Diane Hopkins presented Reverend Dan Pegrem, Trinity United Methodist Church who offered the invocation which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner and Mayor Pro Tem Diane Hopkins made the motion to add two items to the agenda under Executive Duties as follows: II. A. Presentation to Police Chief Tony Tanner and II. B. Presentation to Commission; changing Schedule Street Closure Public Hearings to II. C. and State of the City to II. D. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Norman Davis; all voted in favor and the Agenda was amended.

On behalf of the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Commission, Dr. Jackson presented a plaque to Police Chief Tony Tanner. The plaque honored the Waycross Police Department as the finest, and thanked the Department for 25 years of service.

Mayor Clarence Billups, on behalf of Susan Lott Clark, presented a copy of her book "The Unusual Story of the Okefenokee Heritage Center and Southern Forest World".

Mayor Clarence Billups scheduled two street closure public hearings as follows:

1. Unopened Alley from James Street abutting Paulk and Blair Parcels for Tuesday, February 15, 2011 at 6:30 p.m.; and
2. Open Right-of-Way ("Bailey Drive", formerly known as "Middle Street) between Buchanan Street and Walter Street (i.e., pursuant to swap of Housing Authority property aligned with Walter Street.) Tuesday, February 15, 2011 at 6:45 p.m.

Mayor Clarence Billups presented the “State of the City” address.

Good Evening. To the City Commissioners, our Staff, all of our viewers from home, and the audience here this evening, I want to thank you for this opportunity to deliver to you the State of the City for 2011.

As I reflect upon my words to you during this same time last year, I recall speaking of our looking forward to a recovery of the economy. In fact, just recently in the January 6th edition of the Times-Union, there was news from a report that said the country added 300,000 jobs in the month of December. It is truly my hope that this is a sign that our economy is showing signs of a turn-around.

I am proud to say that through the tough economic times which have befallen our city and nation over the past several years, the City Commissioners and our staff have remained steadfast in their commitment to excellence in providing quality services to our citizens. It is because of this commitment to excellence by our Commissioners and Staff that our city has been truly fortunate to continue to forge ahead building toward a brighter economic future. I want to personally thank each and every one of you for your dedication and commitment to our community. We are truly blessed to have you as a vital part of our TEAM here with the City of Waycross.

As we head into the last six months of our Fiscal Year for 2011, our overall financial projections for the city remain on a positive course. Revenues for the city from our various funds such as Water and Sewer, and the General Fund, are slightly ahead of our projections for the year. State revenue numbers are also on pace to meet this year’s projections. Also, our overall expenditures are in line with our fiscal year projections. By aggressively taking on difficult financial decisions, the city has provided for a sound financial future.

We owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to each city department and all of our employees for their commitment to “holding firm” to sound financial principles in providing the day-to-day operations of our city. The intestinal fortitude of our employees and morale remains stronger than ever as we head into the second half of our fiscal year. As a result, I think that you will agree that the quality of services provided to our citizens remain at a very high level.

There are numerous accomplishments that we have attained over this past year which include the following:

The Finance Department has completed its’ installation of enhanced technical upgrades. The department staff has also continued to perform at an award winning level in providing financial services for our city.

Our Police Department has been protecting our city on a level which has merited both State Certification and National Accreditation. And once again is beginning the process to continue to maintain this prestigious level of recognition. In fact, this past year, several of our officers have performed notable acts of heroism along with providing for the excellent performance of their duties.

The Fire Department has begun on-line training in an effort to ensure that our firefighters continue to receive the most up-to-date training requirements for providing fire protection and safety for our city. I am also happy to report that the department is hiring three new firefighters this month in the suppression division.

The Human Resources Department received the Georgia Teen Work 2010 Star Award in recognition for providing our youth valuable experience in summer employment here with the

city. The Department also continues to provide opportunities to enhance training for our employees.

The Community Improvement Department demolished 11 uninhabitable homes at the owner's expense as well as assist 4 low income families achieve the status of becoming first time homeowners through the Down Payment Assistance Program. The city also completed construction of a new health center and head start facility which created 18 new jobs.

The Public Works Department staff has provided excellent service toward the continued maintenance of our city parks as well as providing for the removal of over 107 trees, and the overall maintenance of our clean city streets.

The Engineering Department has spearheaded the city's ambitious capital project program having been awarded over \$1.8 million for construction and an additional \$1.8 million in active capital projects.

I am also happy to report that the anticipated start date for both the City Auditorium and Police Department renovations are due to be underway in the first quarter of fiscal year 2011.

As you can see, we have much to look forward to in our city as we head into the second half of this fiscal year. New businesses beginning services this year in our community such as Georgia Biomass, only serves to add to our anticipation and optimism of the continued growth of our local economy.

We have been truly blessed as a city government to have weathered the storm of the economic crisis that has hit many of our cities across the country. It has been accomplished by the hard work and determination of our Commissioners and employees who seek positive solutions each and every day in providing the essential city services to our citizens.

I can assure you that we will remain vigilant in our efforts to seek opportunities to not only continue to provide for excellence in government but to also provide opportunities to attract economic development in our community.

In closing, I remain excited about the opportunity to work with each and every one of you in our city to develop new ideas and solutions for improving the quality of life in our community. Working together, we will continue to remain strong, united in a common goal to enhance quality services and expanding opportunities for our citizens. I truly pray for a prosperous 2011 for each of us this evening. God bless you and God bless the city of Waycross.

Deron W. King, City Manager, presented the City Manager's Report. The City Manager reported that the 2010 SPLOST Street and Drainage Improvements Projects have been completed. Construction has begun on the Lee Avenue Project. The Project will last approximately two weeks and citizens are urged to exercise caution when traveling in that area. Mr. King also stated that had a great time during the Martin Luther King festivities.

Commissioner Norman Davis requested an update on Bailey Street School and Baylor Heights. Mr. King responded that meetings are being scheduled with owners and bank on the Bailey Street School and Baylor Heights is waiting on Folkston Housing Authority to award bids for demolition.

There were no public remarks on official actions.

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 Meeting, Tuesday, January 4, 2011; Execution Session to Discuss Personnel and Real Estate Issues, January 4, 2011; Called Meeting and Execution Session to Discuss Personnel and Real Estate Issues, January 7, 2011. Resolution Authorizing Mrs. C. L. Tuten to Reconvey Section A, Lot S ½ of 8, spaces 3 & 5, Oakland Cemetery to H. Lawrence & Jeanette Hengeveld. No Ordinance second readings and no Privilege License Renewals.

Commissioner Daniel Yarbrough made the motion to approve the Consent Calendar as presented. Commissioner Williams Simmons seconded the motion; all Commissioners voted favorably and the motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

A Resolution Approving Borrow Pit Agreement between the City of Waycross and James M. Boatright was presented for approval as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 11-01

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA
TO APPROVE BORROW PIT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF WAYCROSS,
GEORGIA AND JAMES M. BOATRIGHT TO PROVIDE THE CITY OF WAYCROSS
WITH USEABLE MATERIALS FOR PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS; AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES.**

WHEREAS, the City is in need of soil, sand, dirt, chert, stone, gravel, aggregate, etc., (hereinafter materials) customarily used for City public works projects; and

WHEREAS, it is beneficial to both the City and James M. Boatright to partner in this project of excavating materials from Mr. Boatright's property to provide the City with useable materials for public works projects and to provide the owner with a pond site; and

WHEREAS, said matter being considered and determined to be just and adequate compensation for the premises and for the use of said materials.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Commission of the City of Waycross that the City of Waycross enter into a Borrow Pit Agreement for the City to excavate needed materials from the owner's property, and to provide the owner with a pond site, and for the owner to grant to the City of Waycross a temporary access easement as may be required for the City to enter the owner's property for the period of time necessary to complete the terms of the Agreement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and City Clerk be and are hereby authorized, directed and empowered to execute the Barrow Pit Agreement.

SO RESOLVED, this 18th day of January, 2010.

CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA

CLARENCE E. BILLUPS, Mayor

ATTEST:

Julie Dinkins, City Clerk

Commissioner Norman Davis made the motion to approve the Resolution Approving the Borrow Pit Agreement between the City of Waycross and James M. Boatright as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner William Simmons. Commissioners voted 5-0 to approve the Resolution.

A Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia to Approve Payment for Microsoft Licensing for 2011 was presented for approval:

RESOLUTION NO. 11-02

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA
TO APPROVE PAYMENT FOR MICROSOFT LICENSING FOR 2011;
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

WHEREAS, the City of Waycross, Georgia makes use of Microsoft computer software on all City computers; and

WHEREAS, by purchasing a licensing agreement, the City is able to load the software lawfully onto all computers; and

WHEREAS, the rate for the licensing agreement for 2011 is \$18,471.90 (the same as 2010) under the state enterprise agreement; 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 the annual payment for the Microsoft License Agreement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor, City Clerk, Finance Director, and City Manager be and are hereby authorized, directed and empowered to execute the agreement on behalf of the City.

SO RESOLVED, this 18th day of January, 2011.

CITY OF WAYCROSS

CLARENCE E. BILLUPS, MAYOR

ATTEST:
JULIE C. DINKINS, CITY CLERK

Mayor Pro Tem Diane Hopkins made the motion to approve the Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia to Approve Payment for Microsoft Licensing for 2011 as presented. Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines seconded the motion; all voted in favor of the motion and the motion carried.

A Resolution to Establish Qualification Fees for the City of Waycross 2011 Election was presented:

RESOLUTION 11-03

**A RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH QUALIFICATION
FEES FOR CITY OF WAYCROSS ELECTIONS FOR 2011**

WHEREAS, *O.C.G.A.* Section 21-2-131 (Georgia Municipal Election Code) requires the governing authority of each municipality to establish qualification fees for candidates for compensated municipal offices; and

WHEREAS, *O.C.G.A.* Section 21-2-131 of the Georgia Municipal Election Code authorizes the local governing authority to fix and publish a qualification fee not to exceed three percent of the income derived from such office.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Commission of the City of Waycross that the qualification fee for candidates for Mayor of the City of Waycross for the election to be held in the year 2011 shall be three percent (3%) of the annual compensation of the prospective office and is hereby set at \$240.00.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Commission of the City of Waycross that the qualification fee for candidates for the Commission of the City of Waycross for the election to be held in the year 2011 shall be three percent (3%) of the annual compensation of the prospective office and is hereby set at \$180.00.

SO RESOLVED, this the 18th day of January, 2011.

CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA

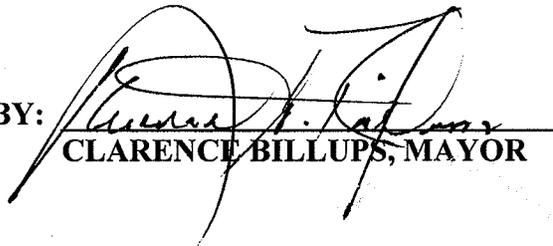
CLARENCE E. BILLUPS, MAYOR

**ATTEST:
JULIE C. DINKINS, CITY CLERK**

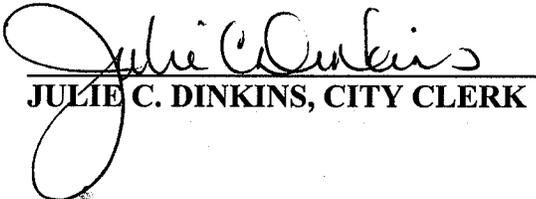
Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines made the motion to approve the Resolution to Establish Qualification Fees for the City of Waycross 2011 Election as presented. Commissioner Daniel Yarbrough seconded the motion; all voted favorably and the motion carried.

Following the Mayor and Commissioner's reports, Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines made the motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Diane Hopkins; all voted in favor and Mayor Billups adjourned the meeting.

CITY OF WAYCROSS

BY: 
CLARENCE BILLUPS, MAYOR

ATTEST:


JULIE C. DINKINS, CITY CLERK