

**MINUTES**  
**WAYCROSS CITY COMMISSION MEETING**  
**TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2015**  
**7:00 P.M.**

The Regular Session of the Commission of the City of Waycross was held on Tuesday, January 20, 2015 in the Commission Chambers of City Hall. Mayor Clarence E. Billups called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Those in attendance with Mayor Billups were Mayor Pro Tem Diane Hopkins; Commissioners, Marian Solomon-Gaines, Norman Davis, and Alvin Nelson and Larry Ethridge.

Kelvin Durham, Deacon, Macedonia Baptist Church offered the opening invocation. Mayor Billups led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines nominated Commissioner Alvin Nelson to serve as Mayor Pro Tempore' for 2015. Commissioner Norman Davis seconded the motion. The Commissioners voted unanimously in favor and Commissioner Alvin Nelson was elected Mayor Pro Tem. Mayor Pro Tem Alvin Nelson moved into the Mayor Pro Tem's seat at the right hand of the Mayor.

Mayor Clarence Billups scheduled two Zoning Public Hearings as follows:

- 1) Map Amendment Rezoning for 2089 Golf Course Road, Parcel 025 002 N and Parcel 025 002 O; Tuesday, February 17, 2015; 6:30 p.m.
- 2) Text Amendment for Section 908.2 (d) and (e); Tuesday, February 17, 2015; 6:45 p.m.

Mayor Clarence Billups presented the State of the City address for 2015.

**STATE OF THE CITY 2015**

Good Evening. To the Waycross City Commissioners, our staff, and our audience here this evening and to our viewers from home, I want to thank you for this opportunity to deliver to you the State of the City for 2015.

As I look ahead to the 2015 calendar year, I believe that our community is properly positioned for seeing enhanced economic opportunities coming to our city. A strengthening labor market will not let up this year, economists say, with job growth approaching or exceeding the estimated 15-year high reached in 2014.

The stronger U.S. economy and increased employer confidence should continue to bolster job gains, and economists expect sluggish wage growth to finally accelerate, though they're divided on how quickly that will happen. I, therefore, truly envision increased economic growth for our community both this year and the years ahead.

The City of Waycross has diligently worked with and approved plans for several large corporations planning opening in Waycross (i.e.: Hobby Lobby, Sav-A-Lot, Wal-Mart Neighborhood Market, Ollie's Bargain Outlet). A total of 52 new business open in the City during 2014. Many other national chains are also heading to Waycross this upcoming year; Kay Jewelers and negotiations with a Pet Store, Department Store, Restaurants, and a major Shoe Chain. By working together, our entire community will prosper and our families and children will benefit from our efforts.

It is also because of the tireless efforts of our city commission and staff that our city has continued to operate both effectively and efficiently as an organization. I want to personally thank you, our city commissioners, our city manager and our entire staff for the high level of dedication that you have exhibited for enhancing the quality of life for our citizens. The City Commission along with our current City Manager has successfully have put together a strong multiplicity management team. With such a team in place allows for the City of Waycross to grow steadily over the coming years. The City Commission and City Manager have set a clear vision to which the team can jointly work towards together. I would like for us to give them an applause for their efforts (hand clap applause by mayor and audience).

As we head into the second half our 2015 fiscal year, I am extremely proud to say that our city continues to remain on a positive financial course. Revenues from our various funds, such as the Water and Sewer Fund and the General Fund, are on pace to meet our financial projections for the year. In an effort to further enhance our financial stature, our city formed an investment committee in 2014. This committee will be devoted to seeking ways to maximize our financial return on city funds. Also, in an effort to aid stimulating our economy, our city completed two local business loans in 2014 which created additional jobs within our community. As we look back to the 2014 calendar year, we see that our city achieved numerous accomplishments which are well worth noting. These accomplishments include the following: Our city, through the Finance Department, Implementation of online bill payments for our residents to be able to pay their bill online. Upgrade Cashier area for additional security and better customer service. As a result, our city continues to be primed for financial success for not only this fiscal year but the coming years ahead.

Our Police Department trained for eight thousand one hundred twenty four hours in 2014. The Community Response Team conducted thirty community walks exceeding the stated yearly goal of twelve. WPD maintained the distinction of being one of only a handful of municipalities within our state to receive national accreditation from C.A.L.E.A., the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies. Our Police Department has maintained this Gold Standard level of accreditation since the 1990s.

Our Fire Department has maintained an ISO Class Rating of 3. This rating places our Fire Department among the top 9 percent of Fire Departments out of 1,020 Fire Departments in the entire State of Georgia. The Waycross Fire Department underwent a lot of changes as a result of the retirements of all three Battalion Chiefs. Overall 13 members were promoted to various positions. A new fire safety inspector was hired. This position will help the department to be more efficient with annual business inspections and public safety education.

Our Human Resources Department welcomed the newest member to our team of leaders, Mrs. Trinija Molina-Martin joins the City of Waycross with years of military, civilian and local government experience. We look forward to our Human Resources Department being one of the top HR staffs in the State of Georgia. The department recently completed a successful open enrollment for all the City great employees. The department will continue to provide a positive HR service experience for applicants, employees, and retirees and collaborate with departments to recruit, develop, support, and retain diverse and talented employees who are the key to Waycross's reputation and success.

Our Community Improvement Department has provided for increased enforcement of housing code violations throughout our entire city. The net result has been the steady elimination of blight across our entire city. Our Employee of the year all yields from this great department under the Leadership of Mrs. Sloan Russell Fountain.

In 2014, our city also continued sponsorship of a number of community events aimed at providing for high quality activities and events for our families. The 2014 Swampfest saw one the largest attendance numbers in its history. New entertainment acts as well as a Kid's Zone provided much fund for families at this event last year. Our other annual events, such as the Mother-Daughter Tea, Waycross Fest, our Christmas Parade, the J FLY Festival and several other events aided to further enhance the opportunities of our families to enjoy themselves within our community. The department also secure the City's first ever Dr. Pepper Snapple and national non-profit KaBOOM! awarded the City of Waycross a \$15,000 Let's Play Community Construction Grant that will be used to build a playground at Elizabeth Park in 2015. Waycross Tourism was presented a Distinguished Service Award from Easter Seals of Southern Georgia. Waycross Main Street received a National Main Street Accreditation for 2014.

Our Public Works Department provided for the removal of 25 burned and blighted houses in 2014. Ensuring Waycross is the cleanest cities in the state, Public works has begun weekly door to door pickup of five (5) household items for the citizens of Waycross. Last year they picked up 168 tons of yard debris. Our Public Works staff also provided for the much needed stabilization of eroding canal banks within various areas within our city. The city will also continue in 2015 its "Green Initiative" which turns collected yard debris into mulch. This mulch has been given to citizens and businesses at no cost which can be utilized for outdoor maintenance needs.

Each year the City's Engineering Department spearheads an ambitious Capital Project Program. This fiscal year has been no different than previous years. Our City has provided for numerous street resurfacing improvements as well as water and sewer improvement projects, with the completion of a left turn lane to George Street. Our Water Treatment Plant received recognition by receiving both the Platinum Award for perfect regularity compliance and the Water Treatment Plant of the Year Award. Our engineering staff also played a vital role in overseeing the project management process involved in the City Auditorium rehabilitation. The City Auditorium, which was completed in February of last year, has provided our City with a

venue unlike any other in Southeast Georgia for hosting events and activities. Staff also updated many of the local parks throughout the City. The installation of shelters, basketball courts and repairs of many other items to insure the citizens of Waycross have a safe and comfortable environment to play and relax.

As 2015 begins, the IT department is involved not only with traditional items of technology that relate to information handling – computers, software, and communications – but also with television, web-based learning systems. Mr. Carlos Jamie is currently working on updating City Hall 30 plus year old telephone system and working to expand our Local government broadcasting to other Cable networks in the coming year.

We also thank our city manager for providing his leadership by ensuring that our city remains financially sound, that our departments achieve specified goals and accomplishments, as well as recommending the key policies and legislation approved by our city commission each year. I also would like to thank Mrs. Marcia Kilmark for her tireless effort to our city commission, to our city management, city employees and citizens for over 40 years. She has been a blessing to us each day.

We have much to be proud of as a city for our accomplishments as well as much to look forward to in our future. We, therefore, must continue to surge ahead with our goal to provide each and every citizen within our city with an opportunity to prosper and live a healthy and full life.

As city government officials, we are literally and figuratively “closer to the people” within our community than any other government officials within our country. We have grown with you together in our community as a family. We have seen our children grow and raise their own families in our great town. We have experienced the difficult times with you throughout economic hardships and we have celebrated with you our successes within our city. I can assure you that we will continue to be vigilant in our efforts to provide for us a quality of life within our city that we can be proud of in our community.

We, therefore, must continue to be united as I have said many times before, under the goal to be a city that has “Opportunity in Every Direction”.

God bless each and every one of you and God bless the City of Waycross and the United States of America!

During the City Manager’s Report, Raphel Maddox thanked Mayor Billups for an encouraging State of the City address. Mr. Maddox stated that the address included all of the important topics. Mr. Maddox also thanked citizens and staff who organized or planned the Martin Luther King celebration events.

Mayor Billups stated that the Martin Luther King Celebration events were well attended and thanked the organizers and community for a great event.

There were no public remarks on official action.

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 and Executive Session, Monday, January 5, 2015; Waycross City Commission Zoning Public Hearings and Waycross City Commission Meeting, Tuesday, January 6, 2015.

There were two Ordinance Second Readings as follows:

**ORDINANCE NO. 15-01**

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA; TO AMEND CHAPTER 23, ARTICLE IV, PERTAINING TO THE CITY AUDITORIUM; TO REPLACE SECTIONS 23-81 THROUGH SECTION 23-88 PERTAINING TO MANAGEMENT, FEES AND RULES FOR USE AND OCCUPANCY OF THE CITY AUDITORIUM; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO PROVIDE FOR SEVERABILITY; TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; TO PROVIDE FOR RENUMBERING OR RELETTERING; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**ORDINANCE NO. 15-02**

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE WAYCROSS ZONING ORDINANCE TEXT; TO AMEND ARTICLE VIII – SIGNS, SECTION 807 – GENERAL REGULATIONS, SECTION 807.9 (c), BY REDUCING THE DISTANCE REQUIREMENT FROM 1250 FEET TO 1000 FEET FROM ANY OTHER OFF-PREMISES SIGN; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

There were no Consent Resolutions or Privilege License Renewals.

Commissioner Norman Davis made the motion to approve the Consent Calendar as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines. All Commissioners voted in favor and the motion was approved with a 5 – 0 vote.

One Privilege License was presented for review:

Privilege License Renewals: The Food Market (Ora Lee Wright), 1302 Sweat Street, Package Sales, Beer Only.

Commissioner Diane Hopkins made the motion to deny the Privilege License for The Food Market (Ora Lee Wright), 1302 Sweat Street, Package Sales, Beer Only due to the fact that

Ms. Wright no longer operates the business at that location. Commissioner Norman Davis seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 5 – 0 vote.

Purchasing Director Linda Jones presented WAYX 15-08 Surplus Property for approval. A list of property no longer needed in any City Department (Gravelly Mower) was submitted to be declared surplus and sold on GovDeals.Com and One Glock Revolver to be presented to retiring police officer, Captain Hilton Boyett. Commissioner Norman Davis made the motion to approve the Surplus Property. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Larry Ethridge; all voted in favor and the motion carried.

A Resolution to Approve a Memorandum of Understanding with the Georgia Department of Community Affairs Regarding the Georgia Classic Main Street Program was submitted for approval.

**RESOLUTION NO. 15- 05**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA  
TO APPROVE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE GEORGIA  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS REGARDING THE GEORGIA CLASSIC MAIN  
STREET PROGRAM; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**WHEREAS**, the Commission of the City of Waycross has been presented with a Memorandum of Understanding from the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (“DCA”) regarding the Georgia Classic Main Street Program; and

**WHEREAS**, said Memorandum of Understanding outlines the necessary requirements set forth by DCA for the Community’s participation in the Georgia Classic Main Street Program for 2015, including constituting a Board of Directors, setting boundaries for the target area, employing a downtown manager, providing for Main Street Program solvency and providing monthly reports to DCA; and

**WHEREAS**, said matter having been considered.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Commission of the City of Waycross that the Commission hereby approves the Memorandum of Understanding with the Georgia Department of Community Affairs in the form of the document attached hereto.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Mayor and City Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute the Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of the City of Waycross, hereby ratifying and confirming all the acts and things done by said City Officials, in order to give effect to the purposes and intent of this Resolution.

**SO RESOLVED**, this 20<sup>h</sup> day of January, 2015.

**CITY OF WAYCROSS GEORGIA  
CLARENCE E. BILLUPS, Mayor**

**ATTEST:  
JULIE DINKINS, City Clerk**

Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines made the motion to approve the Resolution to Approve a Memorandum of Understanding with the Georgia Department of Community Affairs Regarding the Georgia Classic Main Street Program as submitted. Commissioner Diane Hopkins seconded the motion; all voted in favor and the motion carried.

A Resolution to Establish Qualification Fees for City of Waycross Elections for 2015 was presented.

**RESOLUTION No. 15- 06**

**A RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH QUALIFICATION  
FEES FOR CITY OF WAYCROSS ELECTIONS FOR 2015**

**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 2015 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 2015 shall be three percent (3%) of the annual compensation of the prospective office and is hereby set at \$180.00.

**SO RESOLVED**, this the 20<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2015.

**CITY OF WAYCROSS  
CLARENCE E. BILLUPS, Mayor**

**ATTEST:  
JULIE DINKINS, City Clerk**

A Resolution to Establish Qualification Fees for City of Waycross Elections for 2015 was approved by motion from Commissioner Norman Davis. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Diane Hopkins. All voted in favor and the motion was approved.

After last call, Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Diane Hopkins seconded the motion. All voted in favor and Mayor Billups adjourned the meeting.

**CITY OF WAYCROSS**

BY:   
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**ALVIN NELSON**  
**MAYOR PRO TEM**

ATTEST:   
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**JULIE C. DINKINS, City Clerk**