

**MINUTES**  
**WAYCROSS CITY COMMISSION MEETING**  
**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2017**  
**5:00 PM**

The City Commission of the City of Waycross held their Regular Session on Tuesday, February 7, 2017 in the Commission Chambers of City Hall. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. Members in attendance were: Mayor John Knox, Mayor Pro Tem Jon Tindall, Commissioners Marian Solomon-Gaines, Diane Hopkins, Larry Ethridge, and Norman Davis.

Commissioner Norman Davis introduced Reverend Larry O'Hara, Pastor, Manor Chapel Missionary Baptist Church who offered the opening invocation. The Invocation was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Knox.

Under Executive Duties, City Attorney Rick Currie scheduled a public hearing to Close an Alleyway at Block 141 at Brunel and Haines for Tuesday, March 7, 2-17, 4:30 pm.

Mayor John Knox presented the State of the City Address to the Commission and public.

City Manager Raphel Maddox encouraged the public to support the Ware County Gators who are hosting the Region Basketball Tournament.

Captain Tommy Cox reminded the Commission about Senior Safety Day.

There were no public remarks on official action.

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

Approval of Minutes: Approval of the Waycross City Commission Planning & Information Session, Executive Session, Waycross City Commission Meeting, Tuesday, January 17, 2017 and Special Called Meeting January 25, 2017.

Ordinance Second Reading:

**ORDINANCE NO. O17-03**

**AN ORDINANCE TO ABANDON AND CLOSE AN UNOPENED ALLEY IN A PORTION OF BLOCKS 11 & 12 OF WALTERS SUBDIVISION; TO AUTHORIZE A QUIT CLAIM DEED; TO ESTABLISH AN EFFECTIVE DATE; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

No Consent Resolutions or privilege licenses renewals were presented.

The Consent Calendar was approved by motion from Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines; seconded by Commissioner Norman Davis; all voted in favor and the motion carried.

A Resolution to Approve FY2015 Homeland Security Grant Program Agreement for the Waycross Police Department was presented.

**RESOLUTION NO. R17-05**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA,  
TO APPROVE FY 2015 HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM  
AGREEMENT FOR THE WAYCROSS POLICE DEPARTMENT;  
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (hereinafter referred to as “DHS”) approved the application and awarded grant funding from the FY 2015 Homeland Security Grant Program to the Georgia Emergency Management Agency / Homeland Security (hereinafter referred to as “GEMA / HS”) on behalf of the State of Georgia; and

**WHEREAS**, GEMA / HS will maintain overall responsibility and accountability to the federal government for the duration of the grant program; and

**WHEREAS**, GEMA / HS, as Recipient, has awarded a grant amount of \$74,600.00 to the Waycross Police Department, as Subrecipient, in accordance with the FY 2015 Homeland Security Grant Program / State Homeland Security Grant Program; and

**WHEREAS**, the Subrecipient agrees to use allocated funds to build and enhance capabilities to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from terrorist attacks, major disasters and other emergencies in accordance with goals and objectives of the State Strategic Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor, being the Subrecipient’s authorized representative, is requested to sign the Agreement on behalf of the interests of the Subrecipient; and

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

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Commission of the City of Waycross that the City of Waycross hereby approves the FY 2015 Homeland Security Grant Program Recipient- Subrecipient Agreement in the form attached, and incorporated herein as if fully set forth, for the purposes stated therein.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Mayor and City Clerk be, and the same are, hereby authorized, directed and empowered to execute the Agreement in the name of the City of Waycross on behalf of the Waycross Police Department, hereby ratifying and confirming the execution of said Agreement by the Mayor and City Clerk, and approving the act and things done as necessary to give effect to said Agreement.

**SO RESOLVED**, this 7<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2017, *nunc pro tunc* to December 20, 2016.

**CITY OF WAYCROSS**

**JOHN KNOX, Mayor**

**ATTEST: JULIE DINKINS, City Clerk**

Commissioner Diane Hopkins made the motion to approve the Resolution to Approve FY2015 Homeland Security Grant Program Agreement for the Waycross Police Department as presented. Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines seconded the motion; all voted yes and the motion was approved with a 5-0 vote.

A Resolution of the City of Waycross to Authorize an Agreement with the Waycross Judicial Circuit District Attorney and the Ware County Solicitor General to Provide Secure Access to the Incident and Accident Reporting system of the Waycross Police Department was presented.

**RESOLUTION NO. R17-06**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA,  
TO AUTHORIZE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE WAYCROSS JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY AND THE WARE COUNTY SOLICITOR GENERAL TO  
PROVIDE SECURE ACCESS TO THE INCIDENT AND ACCIDENT REPORTING  
SYSTEM OF THE WAYCROSS POLICE DEPARTMENT; AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES.**

**WHEREAS**, the Waycross Police Department utilizes a Management Data System (hereinafter referred to as "MDS") to generate and maintain police incident and accident reports; and

**WHEREAS**, the Waycross Judicial Circuit District Attorney and the Ware County Solicitor General have used the system but via a fiber optic line that has been disrupted or taken off-line due to construction that has occurred at the Ware County Courthouse; and

**WHEREAS**, both the District Attorney and Solicitor General must have access and obtain police incident and accident reports in order to prosecute criminal cases made by the Waycross Police Department but presently that is done by the Waycross Police Department copying the incident reports and having them physically delivered to the District Attorney and Solicitor General or by e-mail; and

**WHEREAS**, the Waycross Police Department has the ability to provide a Microsoft Remote Desktop Connection License to each office which would allow remote computers at the offices of the District Attorney and Solicitor General to access the Waycross Police Department MDS Software via a Web portal using Microsoft Remote Desktop Services technology; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 2.1 of the Charter of the City of Waycross gives the City of Waycross the power and authority to “enter into contracts and agreements with other governmental entities and with private persons, firms and corporations”; and

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

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Commission of the City of Waycross that the City Commission approves the Agreements with the Waycross Judicial Circuit District Attorney and the Ware County Solicitor General in the form attached hereto as Exhibits and incorporated herein as if fully set forth.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Waycross Chief of Police be, and is hereby authorized, empowered and directed to execute said Agreements with the Waycross Judicial Circuit District Attorney and the Ware County Solicitor General and to ratify and confirm the execution of said Agreement, and to do all the acts and things necessary in order to ratify, confirm and carry out the purposes and intent of this Resolution.

**SO RESOLVED**, this 7th day of February, 2017.

**CITY OF WAYCROSS**

**JOHN KNOX, Mayor**

**ATTEST: JULIE DINKINS, City Clerk**

The Resolution of the City of Waycross to Authorize an Agreement with the Waycross Judicial Circuit District Attorney and the Ware County Solicitor General to Provide Secure Access to the Incident and Accident Reporting system of the Waycross Police Department was adopted by motion from Commissioner Norman Davis. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jon Tindall; all voted in favor and the motion carried.

A Resolution to Identify and Declare the Boundaries of Redevelopment Area within the City of Waycross and to Cause a Redevelopment Plan to be prepared for said area was presented.

**RESOLUTION NO. R17-07**

**A RESOLUTION TO IDENTIFY AND DECLARE THE BOUNDARIES OF  
REDEVELOPMENT AREA WITHIN THE CITY OF WAYCROSS;  
TO CAUSE A REDEVELOPMENT PLAN TO BE PREPARED  
FOR SAID AREA; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**WHEREAS**, the City Commission of the City of Waycross, Georgia, finds that there exists within the corporate limits of the City of Waycross one or more urbanized or developed areas in which the structures, buildings, and improvements, by reasons of dilapidation, deterioration, age,

or obsolescence, inadequate provision for ventilation, light, air, sanitation, or open spaces, and the existence of conditions which endanger life and property by fire and other causes, is conducive to ill health, transmission of disease, infant mortality, high unemployment, juvenile delinquency, and crime; and is detrimental to the public health, safety, morals, and welfare; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Commission of the City of Waycross, Georgia, finds that there exists within the corporate limits of said City one or more urbanized or developed areas which by reason of the presence of a predominant number of substandard, slum, deteriorated, or deteriorating structures, inadequate parking, faulty lot layout in relation to size, adequacy, accessibility, and usefulness, unsanitary and unsafe conditions, deterioration of site and other improvements, tax delinquency exceeding the fair value of the land, diversity of ownership on defective or unusual conditions of title which prevent or encumber the free alienability of land, and the existence of conditions which endanger life and property by fire and other causes, substantially impair and arrest the sound growth of the community, retard the provision of housing accommodations and employment opportunities, and constitute an economic and social liability, and is a menace to the public health, safety, morals, and welfare in their present condition and use; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Commission of the City of Waycross, Georgia, finds that there exists within the corporate limits of said City one or more open areas located within urbanized or developed areas which, because of the presence of factors enumerated in the first two paragraphs hereof, substantially impair and arrest the sound growth of the community; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Commission of the City of Waycross, Georgia, finds that there exists within the corporate limits of said City one or more urbanized or developed areas which are substantially underutilized by containing open lots and parcels of land or by containing a substantial number of buildings or structures which are 40 years old or older, or by containing structures or buildings of relatively low value as compared to the value of structures or buildings in the vicinity of the area, or in which there is a shortage of housing that is affordable for persons of low and moderate income which the Commission designate as appropriate for community development; and

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

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the City Commission of the City of Waycross, Georgia, in a meeting duly assembled, pursuant to the authority granted by Official Code of Georgia Annotated Section 36-61-5 et seq., that the following described area is hereby found and declared to be an Urban Redevelopment Area as defined by Official Code of Georgia Annotated Section 36-61-5:

That certain area lying within the corporate limits of the City of Waycross and being enclosed by the boundary identified in the City of Waycross Urban Redevelopment Area Boundary Map, attached hereto as an Exhibit and incorporated herein as if fully set forth, and generally referred to as the "Northside Urban Redevelopment Area".

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the City Commission of the City of Waycross, Georgia, that the designation of the above description as an Urban Redevelopment Area allows the Commission to request, and this City Commission does request, the preparation of a workable Urban Redevelopment Plan in accordance with Official Code of Georgia Annotated Section 36-61-6 to address the presence of factors within the area and enumerated in the first four paragraphs hereof.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Mayor, City Clerk, City Manager, and Community Improvement Manager be and are hereby authorized, directed, and empowered to execute the documents needed and necessary to submit the application set forth herein.

**SO RESOLVED** this 7th day of February, 2017.

**CITY OF WAYCROSS**

**JOHN KNOX, Mayor**

**ATTEST: JULIE DINKINS, City Clerk**

Commissioner Norman Davis made the motion to approve the Resolution to Identify and Declare the Boundaries of Redevelopment Area within the City of Waycross and to Cause a Redevelopment Plan to be prepared for said area as presented. Commissioner Larry Ethridge seconded the motion; all voted yes and the motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

A Resolution of the City of Waycross to Accept and Approve Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority Loan for Water Meter Replacement Project, to Approve Loan Agreement and Terms and to Accept and Approve Scope of Services Letter from Carter and Sloope, Inc. was presented.

**RESOLUTION NO. R17-08**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WAYCROSS TO ACCEPT AND APPROVE GEORGIA ENVIRONMENTAL FACILITIES AUTHORITY LOAN FOR WATER METER REPLACEMENT PROJECT; TO APPROVE LOAN AGREEMENT AND TERMS; TO ACCEPT AND APPROVE SCOPE OF SERVICES LETTER FROM CARTER & SLOOPE, INC.; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to regulations of the Georgia Environment Protection Division, the City of Waycross must make certain improvements to its water system by replacing all water meters at approximately 7500 locations within the city limits; and

**WHEREAS**, by Resolution Number 15-48, the City of Waycross approved the submission of an application to the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (hereinafter referred to as "GEFA") for the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund program for the aforementioned project; and

**WHEREAS**, by Resolution Number 15-48, the City of Waycross also authorized Carter & Sloope, Inc., to take all necessary actions to advocate for and move the application through the appropriate regulatory and funding channels; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Waycross has been approved for a \$3.5 million loan, with \$500,000.00 principal forgiveness if all loan funds are drawn, from the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund administered by GEFA and pursuant to the terms of a Loan Agreement, the form of which is attached and has been presented at this meeting; and

**WHEREAS**, this loan is financed for 15 years at an interest rate of 0.65% and the City's obligation to repay the loan made pursuant to said Loan Agreement will be evidenced by a Promissory Note, the form of which is also attached and has been presented at this meeting; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 2.1 of the Charter of the City of Waycross gives the City of Waycross the power and authority to "enter into contracts and agreements with other governmental entities and with private persons, firms and corporations"; and

**WHEREAS**, said matter being considered.

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED** that the City Commission does hereby find that the terms of the attached Loan Agreement and the Promissory Note are in the best interests of the City of Waycross and, as such, the City Commission does approve the acceptance of the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan in the amount of \$3,500,000.00 to be administered by the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA).

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City Commission of the City of Waycross does hereby approve and authorize the forms, terms and conditions, and the execution, delivery and performance of the Loan Agreement and the Promissory Note, in the form attached hereto as an Exhibit and incorporated herein as if fully set forth.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City Commission of the City of Waycross does hereby accept, approve and authorize the execution, delivery and performance of the Proposal / Scope of Services letter from and with Carter & Sloope, Inc., in the form attached hereto as an Exhibit and incorporated herein as if fully set forth.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Mayor, City Clerk, Finance Director, City Manager and City Attorney be empowered, authorized and directed to execute the aforementioned Loan Agreement, Promissory Note and Proposal / Scope of Services, and to do all the acts and things necessary in order to carry out the purposes of this Resolution, hereby ratifying and confirming all actions taken and to be taken.

**SO RESOLVED**, this 7th day of February, 2017.

**CITY OF WAYCROSS**

**JOHN KNOX, Mayor**

**ATTEST: JULIE DINKINS, City Clerk**

Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines made the motion to approve a Resolution of the City of Waycross to Accept and Approve Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority Loan for Water Meter Replacement Project, to Approve Loan Agreement and Terms, and to Accept and Approve Scope of Services Letter from Carter and Sloope, Inc. as presented. Commissioner Jon Tindall seconded the motion; all voted in favor and the motion carried.

A Resolution of the City Commission of the City of Waycross, Georgia, to the Georgia General Assembly to Pass a Local Act Dedicating and Naming a Highway Crossing in Memory of Chief W Lynn Taylor was presented.

**RESOLUTION NO. R17-10**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA, TO REQUEST THE LOCAL LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION TO THE GEORGIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO PASS A LOCAL ACT DEDICATING AND NAMING A HIGHWAY CROSSING IN MEMORY OF CHIEF W. LYNN TAYLOR; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**WHEREAS**, W. Lynn Taylor was a native son who returned home to Waycross and served his community his entire life; and

**WHEREAS**, W. Lynn Taylor was a dedicated community servant, having first dedicated his professional life to serve as Director of Public Safety and Chief of Police from 1978 until 2001; and

**WHEREAS**, after retirement, he returned to public service when he was elected as a City Commissioner serving District 5 from 2004 until 2007; and

**WHEREAS**, health issues prevented him from seeking a second term and forced him into retirement; and

**WHEREAS**, although Chief Taylor left this world too early, having passed away peacefully in 2011, his legacy lives on in the Public Service arenas, not only in Waycross but throughout the State of Georgia; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the desire of the City Commission to name the crossing of U.S. Highway # 1 South (Memorial Drive) at South Point Mall and Waycross Market Place Plaza entrances, said crossing being south of the Hatcher Point Road intersection, in his honor; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the City's understanding that this crossing has not been officially named and is unofficially called and referred to by the Georgia Department of Transportation as the "Lowe's Entrance"; and

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

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Commission of the City of Waycross, Georgia, that the City of Waycross honors W. Lynn Taylor for his dedicated service to this community by respectfully calling upon the Georgia State Legislative Delegation representing the City of Waycross, including Representative Jason Shaw, Representative Jason Spencer, Representative John Corbett and Senator Tyler Harper to forthwith, by Local Act, dedicating and naming the crossing at U.S. Highway # 1 (also known as Memorial Drive) and South Point Mall and Waycross Market Place Plaza entrances, in the city limits of Waycross, Georgia so that it may be known as "**LYNN TAYLOR CROSSING**".

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that copies of this Resolution be forwarded to said Georgia State Legislative Delegation representing the City of Waycross, media outlets and other appropriate persons or entities; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City Manager and Mayor of the City of Waycross are hereby authorized, directed and empowered to execute any additional documents needed or appropriate, and to take any action necessary to implement this Resolution in the most effective manner possible.

**SO RESOLVED AND ADOPTED** at a meeting of the City Commission of the City of Waycross, this 7th day of February, 2017.

**CITY OF WAYCROSS**

**JOHN KNOX, Mayor**

**ATTEST: JULIE DINKINS, City Clerk**

**CITY OF WAYCROSS**

**MARIAN C. SOLOMON-GAINES**  
**CITY COMMISSIONER**

**DIANE L. HOPKINS**  
**CITY COMMISSIONER**

**LARRY ETHRIDGE**  
**CITY COMMISSIONER**

**JONATHAN M. TINDALL**  
**CITY COMMISSIONER**

The Resolution of the City Commission of the City of Waycross, Georgia, to the Georgia General Assembly to Pass a Local Act Dedicating and Naming a Highway Crossing in Memory of Chief W Lynn Taylor was approved by motion from Diane Hopkins; seconded by Commissioner Jon Tindall. Commissioners Hopkins, Tindall, Ethridge and Solomon-Gaines voted yes; Commissioner Davis voted no.

A Resolution of the City of Waycross to Request the Local legislative Delegation to the Georgia General Assembly to Create by Local Act a Waycross Visitors Authority was presented.

**RESOLUTION NO. R17--09**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF WAYCROSS,  
GEORGIA, TO REQUEST THE LOCAL LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION TO THE  
GEORGIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO CREATE BY LOCAL ACT A WAYCROSS  
VISITORS AUTHORITY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Waycross is building a stronger and better community in Waycross by working with businesses, merchants and industry to advance the civic, economic, industrial, professional, and cultural life of the City of Waycross; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Waycross is home to excellent housing, schools, health care, and shopping; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Waycross has a need to promote, attract, stimulate and develop tourism, and perhaps, conventions and trade shows, and to encourage visitors to come to our great city; and

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

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Commission of the City of Waycross that we hereby call upon the Georgia State Legislative Delegation representing the City of Waycross, including Representative Jason Shaw, Representative Jason Spencer, Representative John Corbett and Senator Tyler Harper to forthwith, by Local Act, create a Waycross Visitors Bureau Authority.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that copies of this Resolution be forwarded to said Georgia State Legislative Delegation representing the City of Waycross, media outlets and other appropriate persons or entities; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City Manager and Mayor of the City of Waycross are hereby authorized, directed and empowered to execute any additional documents needed or appropriate, and to take any action necessary to implement this Resolution in the most effective manner possible.

**SO RESOLVED AND ADOPTED** at a meeting of the City Commission of the City of Waycross, this 7th day of February, 2017.

**CITY OF WAYCROSS**

**JOHN KNOX, Mayor**

**ATTEST: JULIE DINKINS, City Clerk**

**CITY OF WAYCROSS**

**MARIAN C. SOLOMON-GAINES  
CITY COMMISSIONER**

**LARRY ETHRIDGE  
CITY COMMISSIONER**

**JONATHAN M. TINDALL  
CITY COMMISSIONER**

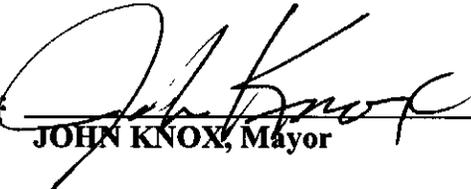
**DIANE L. HOPKINS  
CITY COMMISSIONER**

**NORMAN E. DAVIS, SR.  
CITY COMMISSIONER**

Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines made the motion to approve the Resolution of the City of Waycross to Request the Local legislative Delegation to the Georgia General Assembly to Create by Local Act a Waycross Visitors Authority as presented. Commissioner Diane Hopkins seconded the motion; all voted positively and the motion carried.

Following last call, Commissioner Norman Davis made the motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Commissioner Jon Tindall; a unanimous vote; and Mayor Knox adjourned the meeting.

**CITY OF WAYCROSS**

BY:   
JOHN KNOX, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

  
JULIE C. DINKINS, City Clerk