

MINUTES
WAYCROSS CITY COMMISSION MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 3, 2018
5:00 PM

The Commission of the City of Waycross held their Regular City Commission Meeting on Tuesday, April 3, 2018 in the Commission Chambers of City Hall. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by the Honorable Mayor John Knox. Members in attendance were: Mayor John Knox, Mayor Pro Tem Jon Tindall, Commissioners Norman Davis, John Threat and Marian Solomon-Gaines. Commissioner Diane Hopkins was absent.

City Attorney Rick Currie introduced Elder Stanley Evans, Pastor, Greater New Miracle First Born Church of the Living God who offered the opening invocation. The Invocation was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor John Knox.

Mayor John Knox invited City Attorney Rick Currie to the front to administer the oath of office to Mr. Huey Spearman, Assistant City Attorney for the City of Waycross. Mr. Spearman will be working with our Community Improvement Department in Code and the Land Bank.

Human Resource Director, Trinija Martin, introduced Lieutenant Chad Zauner of the Waycross Police Department as the Employee of the Month for April, 2018.

Chief Tony Tanner, Waycross Police Department, presented Captain Danny Hampton with his pin in recognition of graduating from the FBI Academy. Chief Tanner acknowledged that this is a great accomplishment, there being only three other serving officers who have accomplished this status.

Mayor John Knox introduced former Mayor, Clarence Billups, along with former Commissioners, Danny Yarbrough, William Simmons, Leonard Burse, and Alvin Nelson and thanked each for attending the meeting to help launch Georgia City Week scheduled for April 22 through April 28, 2018.

City Manager Raphel Maddox thanked each former Mayor and Commissioner for attending the meeting and commented that he served with many of them and greatly enjoyed the experience. Mr. Maddox congratulated Captain Danny Hampton and Lieutenant Chad Zauner. He also welcomed Mr. Spearman back to the City and commented that he looks forward to working with him again.

There were no public remarks on office action.

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

Approval of Minutes: Planning and Information Session, Monday, April 19, 2018, Waycross City Commission Meeting, Tuesday, April 20, 2018 and Special Called Meeting, Monday, March 26, 2018.

There were no Ordinances, Consent Resolutions or Privilege License renewals.

The Consent Calendar was approved by motion from Commissioner Norman Davis, second by Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines; and approved with a 4-0 vote.

A Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia to Authorize the Adoption of the Ware County Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation Plan was presented for approval.

RESOLUTION NO. R18-29

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WAYCROSS CITY, GEORGIA, PURSUANT TO THE DISASTER MITIGATION ACT OF 2000, TO AUTHORIZE ADOPTION OF THE WARE COUNTY PRE-DISASTER HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, Ware County, Georgia, and its municipal governments, namely the City of Waycross, Georgia, are required to complete a Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation Plan by the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000; and

WHEREAS, under the provisions of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, local governments that complete Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation Plans will remain eligible for Federal mitigation funding; and

WHEREAS, Ware County and the City of Waycross have completed a Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation Plan that fulfills the Federal requirements of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, in the form attached hereto as an Exhibit and incorporated herein as if fully set forth.

WHEREAS, said matter having been considered.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the City Commission of the City of Waycross, Georgia, formally adopts the Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation Plan, in the form attached hereto as an Exhibit and incorporated herein as if fully set forth

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized and directed to execute the Contract on behalf of the City of Waycross, and to do all the acts and things necessary in order to carry out the purposes and intent of this Resolution.

SO RESOLVED, this 3rd day of April, 2018.

CITY OF WAYCROSS

BY: JOHN KNOX, Mayor

ATTEST:

JULIE DINKINS, City Clerk

A Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia to Authorize the Adoption of the Ware County Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation Plan as presented was approved by motion from Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Norman Davis. All voted yes and the motion was approved.

A Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia to Authorize a Deed of Conveyance for Transfer of Land from the City of Waycross, Georgia to the Waycross and Ware County Development Authority was presented for approval:

RESOLUTION NO. R18-30

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA, TO
AUTHORIZE A DEED OF CONVEYANCE FOR TRANSFER OF LAND FROM THE
CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA TO THE WAYCROSS AND WARE COUNTY
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

WHEREAS, the City of Waycross, Georgia, and Ware County, Georgia, jointly own certain property located in the industrial park; and

WHEREAS, this 5.81 acres of land was inadvertently not conveyed when other lands of the City of Waycross and Ware County were deeded to the Waycross and Ware County Development Authority; and

WHEREAS, the City of Waycross desires to execute a Deed of Conveyance to the Waycross and Ware County Development Authority to transfer title of said land, being approximately 5.81 acres, more or less, and more particularly described by that certain plat of survey prepared by E. Kirby Holton, Georgia Registered Land Surveyor, dated October 9, 2017, and said plat being incorporated herein as if fully set forth; and

WHEREAS, said matter has been considered.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Commission of the City of Waycross that the City of Waycross transfers its interest and ownership in the above-described real property at the industrial park, being approximately 5.81 acres, more or less, and more particularly described by that certain plat of survey prepared by E. Kirby Holton, Georgia Registered Land Surveyor, dated October 9, 2017, and said plat being incorporated herein as if fully set forth.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and City Clerk be, and are hereby authorized, directed and empowered to execute the Deed of Conveyance, attached hereto as an exhibit and incorporated herein as if fully set forth.

SO RESOLVED, this 3rd day of April, 2018.

CITY OF WAYCROSS

BY: JOHN KNOX, Mayor

ATTEST:

JULIE DINKINS, City Clerk

Commissioner Norman Davis made the motion to approve A Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia to Authorize a Deed of Conveyance for Transfer of Land from the City of Waycross, Georgia to the Waycross and Ware County Development Authority as presented. Mayor Pro Tem Jon Tindall seconded the motion; all voted in approval and the motion passed.

Ms. Selena McNear, 1202 Pittman Street shared the following with the Commissioners and public:

No "Fort Bailey," Please
EDITOR, JOURNAL HERALD:

Workforce housing for Colley Street – which will probably end in Section 8 housing, and ultimately a rebirthing of "Fort Bailey" – is not a good idea.

This may sound like a good idea for those who don't live in the area and are only looking at one side of the coin. Such people are not considering the welfare of the people of District 1 and the community-at-large. This is definitely not a good idea for the people of District 1.

Yes, \$800,000 is a nice savings on clearing the blighted area and other area enhancements. But looking at the bigger picture, are you really saving? And what are you saving and who are you saving?

If the development plan is detrimental to the community and its environment – and I feel it is – your savings is zero and no one really benefits. If bringing apartments into the middle of this neighborhood would not be saving it nor helping it. Instead, it would only expose the existing homeowners to possible unsafe and vulnerable living considerations.

Since we have already experienced Bailey Heights and Garlington Heights, and are still seeing how this type of housing can give rise to crime and drugs, why bring these same type apartments back into the middle of a thriving neighborhood? Yes, more affordable housing may be needed in our area but ownership of that housing would be a better dynamic and more feasible for the welfare of the individuals as well as the community.

It was my understanding that the removing of Bailey Heights was to help reduce the crime rate and drug problem in the area and create a safer and more productive environment for all.

Furthermore, I thought the focus was to encourage the construction of single-family homes for purchase by working families at an affordable price and interest rate.

What happen to this plan? We as citizens are already paying a Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) and have been for some years. There should already be funds set aside for the clearing of this blighted area in the Bailey – Colley Street area. This can be cleared without have to bargain with a developer.

Why not negotiate a plan or grant for developing home for working families to purchase at affordable prices? Such a plan would create a win-win for all, a better community, improved environment, more revenue for the city and happy families.

Why not take a look at the old Grove Street Recreation Center for development of workforce housing? This sounds like a good area to me. Why not look off Corridor Z? The citizens of District 1 do not want the rebirthing of Bailey Heights apartments.

Community Improvement Director Sloan Fountain reminded the public that Swamp Fest is this week, April 6 and 7, 2019.

Fire Chief David Eddins reminded the public about Centenarian Day, Wednesday, April 25, 2018 at the City Auditorium. Several residents over 100 years of age will be recognized and all residents over 75 are invited to be specials guests.

Upcoming event also include:

1. City Commission Meeting, Tuesday, April 17, 2018, City Auditorium
2. Georgia Cities Week, April 22-28 (*Sunday – Saturday*)
3. City Commission Clean Up Day, Saturday, April 21
4. Swamp Fest April 6 and 7, 2018
5. WPD Kid's Camp April 1 – 4, 2018
6. Rise and Shine – April 10, 2018 – City Auditorium – Finance Department

After last call, Mayor John Knox addressed the Commission concerning an article placed in the Waycross Journal Herald. Commissioner Norman Davis made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines seconded the motion. All voted in favor and Mayor Knox adjourned the meeting.

CITY OF WAYCROSS

BY: 
JOHN KNOX, Mayor

ATTEST:


JULIE C. DINKINS, City Clerk