

**MINUTES  
WAYCROSS CITY COMMISSION MEETING  
TUESDAY, MAY 3, 2016  
7:00 PM**

The Regular Session of the Commission of the City of Waycross was held on Tuesday, May 3, 2016 in the Commission Chambers of City Hall. Mayor John R. Knox called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Those in attendance were: Mayor John R. Knox, Mayor Pro Tem Marian Solomon-Gaines, Commissioners Diane Hopkins, Larry T. Ethridge, and Jon Tindall. Commissioner Norman Davis was absent due to illness.

Mayor John Knox introduced Reverend Richard Johnson who offered the opening invocation. The Invocation was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance which was led by Mayor Knox.

Human Resources Director Trinija Molina-Martin presented Lt. Larry Pierce, of the Waycross Fire Department who was honored as the May Employee of the Month for the City of Waycross.

Chief David Eddins presented Clay Thomas with a plaque to thank him for helping with the Centenarian Day event at the City Auditorium during Georgia Cities Week.

Mayor John Knox presented a Proclamation to Police Chief Tony Tanner in observance of Peace Officers' Memorial Day on May 15, 2016.

**CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA**

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**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**

**PROCLAMATION**

*Whereas*, the Congress and President of the United States of America have designated May 15 as Peace Officers' Memorial Day, and the week in which May 15 falls as National Police week; and

*Whereas*, the members of the City of Waycross law enforcement agency play an essential role in safeguarding the rights and freedoms of Waycross; and

*Whereas*, it is important that all citizens know and understand the duties, responsibilities, hazards, and sacrifices of their law enforcement agency, and that members of our law enforcement agency recognize their duty to serve the people by safeguarding life and property, by protecting them against violence and disorder, and by protecting the innocent against deception and the weak against oppression; and

*Whereas*, the men and women of the law enforcement agency of the City of Waycross unceasingly provide a vital public service.

*Now, therefore*, in honor and in recognition of the outstanding contributions law enforcement officers of this nation, state and, indeed, our city have made in the line of duty, I, John Knox, Mayor of the City of Waycross, do hereby proclaim May 15 through May 21, 2016, as Police Week and May 15 as National Peace Officers' Memorial Day as we commemorate law officers past and present who, by their faithful and loyal devotion to their responsibilities, have rendered for themselves an enviable and enduring reputation for preserving the rights and security of all citizens.

I further call upon all citizens of Waycross to observe May 15 as Peace Officers' Memorial Day in honor of those law enforcement officers who, through their courageous deeds, have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their community or have become disabled in the performance of duty, and let us recognize and pay respect to the survivors of our fallen heroes.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Waycross to be affixed this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of May, 2016.

*John Knox, Mayor*

In the absence of Alvin Nelson, Human Resources Director Trinija Molina-Martin presented a brief update on the Letter Carriers' Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive and introduced Natalia White, founder of Natalia Project, who is working diligently to help feed the hungry children in Waycross and Ware County, Georgia. Ms. White addressed the Commission to explain her program. Mayor John Knox read the Proclamation and presented it to Miss Natalia White and the Natalia Project.

CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

***PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING MAY 14, 2016, AS USPS "LETTER CARRIERS' STAMP OUT HUNGER FOOD DRIVE DAY"***

**WHEREAS**, every year on the second Saturday in May, United States Postal Service letter carriers across this great country collect non-perishable food as part of the nation's largest one-day food drive, distributing the donations to local food banks; and

**WHEREAS**, the "Letter Carriers' Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive" is just example of how letter carriers work to make a difference in the lives of those they serve; and

**WHEREAS**, since the pilot drive was first held in 1991, over 1.4 billion pounds of food have been collected; and

**WHEREAS**, since all of the food collected in our community stays in our community and the City of Waycross supports letter carriers' efforts to help those in need in our community; and

**WHEREAS**, we would like to recognize all USPS letter carriers for their hard work and their commitment to their communities; and

**WHEREAS**, said matter being considered.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED** by the Commission of the City of Waycross that we do hereby recognize and proclaim Saturday, May 14, 2016, as "LETTER CARRIERS' STAMP OUT HUNGER FOOD DRIVE DAY" in the City of Waycross, Ware County, Georgia, and encourage each and every citizen of our community to support the food drive by placing non-perishable food items in or near your mailbox on May 14, 2016, where your letter carrier will pick up said items while delivering the mail, and together, we can all help to feed the hungry.

**SO RESOLVED**, this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of May, 2016.

*John Knox, Mayor*

Due to the absence of City Manager Raphael Maddox, Community Improvement Director Sloan Fountain was serving as Acting City Manager and presented the City Manager's Report. The dedication of a portion of US Highway #84, aka Georgia Highway #38 aka Victory Drive as Dr. Robert T. Bussey Parkway will be held on May 16, 2016. The time will be announced at a later date. Ms. Fountain announced that a dedication will be held on May 18, 2016 for Pernell Roberts Memorial Park fka Folks Park and Mary Street Park. Plans are continuing for the Okefenokee Classic, Valdosta State University v Kentucky State University for October 1, 2016 at Memorial Stadium. Lastly, there will be a Movie in the Park on Friday at dusk, please make plans to bring your lawn chairs or blankets and enjoy the movie.

Mayor John Knox commended the employees for Georgia Cities Week. He stated that all of the events were outstanding. Mayor Knox commented that there was a great turn-out for Rebuilding Together. Eleven houses were rehabilitated and over 300 volunteers showed up to work. Finally, he urged the Commissioners and citizens to read the article in Tuesday's Waycross Journal Herald about the City's water system and ESG.

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: Waycross City Commission Planning and Information Session, Monday, April 18, 2016 and City Commission Meeting, Tuesday, April 19, 2016.

There were no Ordinance Second Readings, Consent Resolutions or Privilege License Renewals.

The Consent Calendar was approved by motion from Commissioner Diane Hopkins; seconded by Commissioner Jon Tindall; all voted in favor and the motion carried.

A Privilege License for Himanshu G. Patel, d/b/a Andy's Express, 1240 Albany Avenue, Retail Beer and Wine. Commissioner Diane Hopkins made the motion to approve; seconded by Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines; all voted yes and the motion was approved.

An Ordinance to Regulate the Parking of Boats and Similar Watercraft was presented for a first reading.

**ORDINANCE 16-07**

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA; TO AMEND CHAPTER 38 – TRAFFIC AND VEHICLES, ARTICLE III – STOPPING, STANDING AND PARKING, SECTION 38-68, SUBSECTIONS A-D, PERTAINING TO PARKING OF TRUCKS, TRACTOR TRAILERS, AND SIMILAR VEHICLES IN RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS; TO LIKEWISE REGULATE THE PARKING OF BOATS AND SIMILAR WATERCRAFT; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO PROVIDE FOR SEVERABILITY; TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines made the motion to approve the Ordinance to Regulate the Parking of Boats and Similar Watercraft as presented for the first reading. Commissioner Diane Hopkins seconded the motion; all voted yes and the motion was approved.

A Resolution of the City of Waycross to Adopt the 2016 Joint Ware County and City of Waycross Comprehensive Plan was presented.

**RESOLUTION NO. 16-331**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WAYCROSS TO ADOPT 2016 JOINT WARE COUNTY AND CITY OF WAYCROSS COMPREHENSIVE PLAN; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Waycross, on September 1, 2015, resolved to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with Ware County Board of Commissioners to engage Southern Georgia Regional Commission to prepare a Joint Comprehensive Plan for the City of Waycross and Ware County; and

**WHEREAS**, a public hearing to review and transmit the joint Ware County and City of Waycross Comprehensive Plan Update to the Southern Georgia Regional Commission and the Georgia Department of Community Affairs was held on Tuesday, March 15, 2016; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Waycross has completed the 2016 Joint Ware County and City of Waycross Comprehensive Plan;

**WHEREAS**, this document was prepared according to the Standards and Procedures for Local Comprehensive Planning established by the Georgia Planning Act of 1989;

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

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED** that the City Commission of the City of Waycross does hereby adopt the 2016 Joint Ware County and City of Waycross Comprehensive Plan, in the form attached hereto and incorporated herein as if fully set forth.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Mayor and City Clerk be empowered, authorized and directed to execute the 2016 Joint Ware County and City of Waycross Comprehensive Plan on behalf of the City of Waycross, 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 3<sup>rd</sup> day of May, 2016.

**CITY OF WAYCROSS**

**JOHN KNOX, Mayor**

**ATTEST:**

**JULIE DINKINS, City Clerk**

The Resolution of the City of Waycross Adopting the 2016 Joint Ware County and City of Waycross Comprehensive Plan was approved by motion from Commissioner Diane Hopkins; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Jon Tindall; all voted yes and the Comprehensive Plan was adopted.

A Resolution of the City of Waycross Authorizing an Agreement for the City of Waycross to Host a Football Game between Valdosta State University and Kentucky State University at Memorial Stadium was presented.

**RESOLUTION NO. 16-34**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA,  
TO AUTHORIZE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE  
UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF GEORGIA, BY AND ON BEHALF OF VALDOSTA STATE  
UNIVERSITY, FOR THE CITY OF WAYCROSS TO HOST A FOOTBALL GAME  
BETWEEN VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY AND KENTUCKY STATE  
UNIVERSITY AT MEMORIAL STADIUM; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**WHEREAS**, there have been negotiations between the City of Waycross and Valdosta State University for the City of Waycross to host at Memorial Stadium in Waycross, Ware County, Georgia, a National Collegiate Athletic Association Division II football game between Valdosta State University (hereinafter referred to as "VSU") and Kentucky State University on Saturday, October 1, 2016; and

**WHEREAS**, VSU is of the opinion that the City of Waycross has the necessary qualifications, experience, abilities and capacity to provide certain services to VSU for hosting said above-described football game; 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**, the City of Waycross and VSU have negotiated certain specific details, rights, obligations, duties and responsibilities pertaining to the above-described football game as set forth in the Agreement, a copy of which is attached hereto and incorporated herein as if fully set forth; 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 Agreement, in the form attached and incorporated herein as if fully set forth,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Mayor, City Manager and City Clerk be, and are hereby authorized, empowered and directed to execute said Agreement on behalf of the City of Waycross, 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 3<sup>rd</sup>

day of May, 2016.

**CITY OF WAYCROSS**

**JOHN KNOX, Mayor**

**ATTEST:**

**JULIE DINKINS, City Clerk**

Commissioner Diane Hopkins made the motion to approve the Resolution of the City of Waycross Authorizing an Agreement for the City of Waycross to Host a Football Game between Valdosta State University and Kentucky State University at Memorial Stadium as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jon Tindall; all voted yes and the motion was approved with a 4-0 vote.

A Resolution of the Waycross City Commission Approving a Contract Between the City of Waycross, Roger Collins as Tax Commissioner for Ware County, Georgia, and Ware County, Georgia, for the Billing and Collection of Municipal Taxes for the City of Waycross as presented.

**RESOLUTION NO. 16-35**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA,  
TO APPROVE CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY OF WAYCROSS, ROGER  
COLLINS, AS TAX COMMISSIONER FOR WARE COUNTY, GEORGIA, AND WARE  
COUNTY, GEORGIA, FOR THE BILLING AND COLLECTION OF MUNICIPAL  
TAXES FOR THE CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**WHEREAS**, Roger Collins is the duly elected Tax Commissioner for Ware County, Georgia, and is empowered by the Constitution and Laws of the State of Georgia to collect State, County and municipal ad valorem property taxes; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Official Code of Georgia Annotated, Section 48-5-359.1, a county may contract with a municipality, subject to approval by the Tax Commissioner of the County, for the Tax Commissioner to prepare the tax digest for such municipality, and to assess and collect municipal taxes in the same manner as county taxes; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Waycross desires to enter into a Contract with Ware County, Georgia, and Roger Collins, Tax Commissioner for Ware County, for the Tax Commissioner to bill and collect City of Waycross municipal ad valorem property taxes; and

**WHEREAS**, the term of the Contract shall be for a period of two (2) years, with compensation fixed for the Tax Commissioner at \$10,200.00 for each Fiscal Year commencing July 1, 2016, and July 1, 2017, in the form of the proposed Contract attached hereto; 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 enter into a Contract with Ware County, Georgia, and Roger Collins, the Ware County, Georgia, Tax Commissioner, for the Tax Commissioner to prepare the tax digest for such municipality, and to assess and collect municipal taxes in the same manner as county

taxes, for a term of two (2) years, commencing July 1, 2016, and ending at midnight on June 30, 2018, in the form of the Contract attached hereto, and incorporated herein by reference.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized and directed to execute the said Contract on behalf of the City of Waycross, 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 3rd day of May, 2016.

**CITY OF WAYCROSS**

**JOHN KNOX, Mayor**

**ATTEST:**

**JULIE DINKINS, City Clerk**

A Resolution of the Waycross City Commission Approving a Contract Between the City of Waycross, Roger Collins as Tax Commissioner for Ware County, Georgia, and Ware County, Georgia, for the Billing and Collection of Municipal Taxes for the City of Waycross was approved by motion from Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Larry Ethridge.

Commissioner Jon Tindall commented that it may not be appropriate for the City to adopt the agreement between the City of Waycross, Roger Collins as Tax Commissioner for Ware County, Georgia, and Ware County, Georgia, for the Billing and Collection of Municipal Taxes for the City of Waycross as presented. The City of Waycross does not want to appear to take sides. Would it be a conflict of interest with the election?

Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines stated that the City needs to approve this Contract before the election since the contract expires on June 30, 2016.

Commissioners Hopkins, Solomon-Gaines and Larry Ethridge voted yes; Commissioner Jon Tindall voted no. Resolution was approved with a 3 – 1 vote.

A Resolution of the City of Waycross to Appoint Members to the Waycross and Ware County Development Authority was presented for approval.

**RESOLUTION NO. 16-36**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA,**

**TO APPOINT MEMBERS TO THE WAYCROSS AND WARE COUNTY  
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**WHEREAS**, the 2016 Georgia Legislature passed local legislation, being House Bill 1108, giving the City of Waycross the authority to immediately appoint three (3) members to the Waycross and Ware County Development Authority; and

**WHEREAS**, House Bill was signed by Governor Nathan Deal on April 11, 2016; and

**WHEREAS**, O.C.G.A. § 1-3-4 (b) provides that “local legislation ... become effective immediately upon approval by the Governor”; and

**WHEREAS**, House Bill 1108 provides that the “members shall be selected in the following manner: Immediately after the approval of this Act, the Commissioners of Ware County and the Commission of the City of Waycross shall each appoint three members of the authority. For the first appointments, the county and the city shall each appoint one person for one year, one for two years, and one for three years”; 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 appoints the following persons to the Waycross and Ware County Development Authority and for the terms as follows:

<b>Dr. William S. Clark-</b>	<b>1 year – beginning 5/3/2016 and ending 5/2/2017</b>
<b>Dr. Yolanda Rivers -</b>	<b>2 years – beginning 5/3/2016 and ending 5/2/2018</b>
<b>Pam Hart -</b>	<b>3 years – beginning 5/3/2016 and ending 5/2/2019</b>

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Mayor and City Clerk be and are hereby authorized to execute this Resolution for the purposes stated herein and to give effect to the same for all purposes.

**SO RESOLVED**, this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of April, 2016.

**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 Appoint Members to the Waycross and Ware County Development Authority as presented for approval. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jon Tindall and approved by unanimous vote.

Mayor John Knox announced that he would be serving as the Mayor's appointee on the Waycross and Ware County Development Authority.

Mr. John Summerlin addressed the Commission requesting the City enforce the Codes less strictly. He stated that there are recommended standards which can be interpreted looser than the City chooses to enforce them. Mayor Knox asked Mr. Summerlin to make a list of the Codes which he felt could be enforced differently and meet with him to discuss them. Mr. Summerlin also asked that the fountain by Jones Co be cleaned up and suggested replacing sidewalks at Doughboy Park with pavers.

During last call, Commissioner Jon Tindall thanked the City Manager for Georgia Cities Week. He stated that in particular he appreciated the "honoring" of the City employees. Commissioner Diane Hopkins congratulated Kathy Durrence for her Retirement from the Police Department. Commissioner Solomon-Gaines asked Police Chief Tony Tanner to explain the situation with the CSX trains blocking the tracks. Chief Tanner stated that the Federal government now regulate train traffic and all trains are dispatched out of Jacksonville, Florida, controlled by the Federal Railroad Administration. She also reminded the public that early voting has begun. Commissioner Larry Ethridge noted that there will be a hearing date for Code projects on May 18, 2016.

Following last call, Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines made the motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Commissioner Jon Tindall; unanimous vote; and Mayor Knox adjourned the meeting.

**CITY OF WAYCROSS**

BY:   
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**JOHN R. KNOX, Mayor**

**ATTEST:**

  
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**JULIE C. DINKINS, City Clerk**