

MINUTES
WAYCROSS CITY COMMISSION MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2019
5:00 PM

The Honorable John Knox, Mayor of the City of Waycross called the Regular City Commission Meeting to order on Tuesday, May 7, 2019 at the Commission Chambers of City Hall. Members in attendance with Mayor John Knox were: Mayor Pro tem Diane Hopkins, Commissioners Marian Solomon-Gaines, Jon Tindall, John Threat and Norman Davis. City Manager Tonya Miller and City Attorney Rick Currie were also in attendance.

Mayor Pro Tem Diane Hopkins introduced Dr. Johnnie Swinson of Faith Temple Ministries, Inc. who offered the opening invocation. The Invocation was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor John Knox.

Ms. Christy Houck, Human Resources, introduced Jason Moye, Waycross Fire Department, who was named the employee of the month for May, 2019.

Ms. Houck, also introduced the Class of 2019 High School Graduates of City of Waycross Employees as named below.

1. Cameron Aldridge – Southside Christian School – Sandra Aldridge
2. Holly Boyett – Ware County High School – Lisa Williams
3. Nicholas Hall – Ware County High School – Matt Hall
4. Jessica Perritt – Ware County High School – Daryl Perritt
5. Evan Toombs – Ware County High School – Kelly Taylor
6. Johanna A. Threat – Evans High School – Commissioner John Threat
7. Joel Carson Tindall – Faith Academy – Commissioner Jon Tindall

Mayor John Knox presented a Proclamation to Police Chief Tony Tanner in honor of National Police Week and Police Memorial Day.

CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Proclamation

Declaring National Police Week and Police Memorial Day

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 12 through May 18, 2019, 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 7th day of May, 2019.

John Knox Mayor

Mayor John Knox appointed City Clerk Julie Dinkins as Pension Committee Secretary in the interim until a Human Resource Director can be hired.

Waycross Convention and Visitors Bureau Authority is replacing the Tourism Department and board. Several appointments are required to be made.

One Director must be the City Manager. Ms. Tonya Miller was appointed to the Board by position.

An Executor Director must be appointed. Commissioner Norman Davis made the motion to appointment Elizabeth Velez-Hill as the Executive Director. Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines seconded the appointment. The motion was approved by a 4 – 1 vote, with Commissioner Solomon-Gaines voting No.

Commission Marian Solomon-Gaines made the motion to appoint Dr. William Clark to a four year term to expire April 30, 2023. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Diane Hopkins and approved with a 5-0 vote.

Commissioner Norman Davis made the motion to appoint Dr. Martha Hall for the 3 year term. The motion died for lack of a second.

Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines made the motion to appoint Tracy Saussy to the three year term to expire April 30, 2022. Mayor Pro Tem Diane Hopkins seconded the motion and the motion was approved with a unanimous vote.

Commissioner Norman Davis made the motion to appoint Mr. Clarence Billups for the two year term to expire April 30, 2021. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jon Tindall and approved with a unanimous vote.

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 & Information Session and Executive Session, Monday, April 15 2019; and Waycross City Commission Meeting and Executive Session Tuesday, April 16 , 2019.

Consent resolutions were submitted as follows:

- a. Renee Bonnette Reconveying Block 43, Lot 39, Spaces 1 & 2, in N.E. Oakland Cemetery to Miles-Odum Funeral Home.
- b. Renee Bonnette Reconveying Block 43, Lot 39, Spaces 3 & 4, in N.E. Oakland Cemetery to Charles & Adela Davis.

No Privilege License Renewals, and no ordinance second readings were presented.

Commissioner Jon Tindall made the motion to approve the Consent Calendar; seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Diane Hopkins; and approved with a 5-0 vote.

Ms. Linda Jones, Purchasing Director presented Bid #19-16 for Mosquito Control Chemical. Purchasing issued bids for mosquito control spray and received 5 responses. After staff review, the recommendation is to award the bid to AllPro Vector of Northville, MI. as being the lowest and best bid meeting all specifications. Bid is for Evoluer 4-4 ULV at \$16.23 per gallon or \$4,463.25 per 275 gallon tote. Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines made the motion to approve Bid #19-16. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Norman Davis and approved with a unanimous vote.

Ms. Linda Jones, Purchasing Director presented Bid # FY19-17 for Environmental Monitoring Services at the closed Blackwell/Common Street Landfill. The City of Waycross Public Works Department has need of a licensed engineering firm to monitor, test and report on groundwater and methane at our wells at the closed Blackwell/Common Street Landfill as mandated by EPD. Purchasing received 4 statement of qualifications and fee proposals from licensed engineering firms. After staff review, staff recommends awarding this annual bid contract to TTL of Valdosta, GA as being the lowest and best price submitted. \$12,830.00 years 1 – 3 and \$13,150.75 years 4 – 5 for a total 5 year cost of \$64,791.50. Commissioner Norman Davis made the motion to approve awarding the bid to TTL of Valdosta, Ga. for Environmental Services. Commissioner Jon Tindall seconded the motion and all voted yes and the motion carried.

Purchasing Director, Linda Jones, presented Bid # FY19-15 for a 60” Cut Mower for Public Works. The Public Works Department has an approved FY19 budgeted line item to purchase a new 60” rear discharge mower to be used in the Street Department. Purchasing received 5 bids from 4 vendors. After staff review it is their recommendation that the award be made to Vidalia Small Engine Repair as being a best value purchase for the City for a Hustler X-One for \$7,200.00. Commissioner Norman Davis made the motion to approve the purchase of the Mower for the Public Works Department. Mayor Pro Tem Diane Hopkins seconded the motion. All voted yes and the purchase was approved.

Ms. Linda Jones, Purchasing Director, presented Surplus Property WAYX 19-07 including a list of items no longer needed in any city department and requesting that these items be declared surplus so that they may be sold on GovDeals.com. Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines made the motion to approve the proposed list as surplus. Mayor Pro Tem Hopkins seconded the motion. All voted positively to sell surplus on GovDeals.com.

An Ordinance to Amend the Code re: Excise Tax on rooms, was presented for the first emergency reading.

ORDINANCE NO. 019-07

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA; TO AMEND CHAPTER 34 – TAXATION, LICENSES AND BUSINESS REGULATIONS, ARTICLE III. – EXCISE TAX ON ROOMS, LODGING OR ACCOMODATIONS, SECTION 34-59. – EXPENDITURES OF TAX REVENUES; TO REFLECT CHANGING APPLICABLE STATE LAW; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO PROVIDE FOR SEVERABILITY; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; TO PROVIDE FOR RENUMBERING OR RELETTERING; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mayor Pro Tem Diane Hopkins made the motion to approve the Ordinance for the first reading. Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines seconded the motion and all approved.

An Ordinance to Amend the Code Re: Excise Tax on Rooms was presented for the second emergency reading.

ORDINANCE NO. 019-07

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA; TO AMEND CHAPTER 34 – TAXATION, LICENSES AND BUSINESS REGULATIONS, ARTICLE III. – EXCISE TAX ON ROOMS, LODGING OR ACCOMODATIONS, SECTION 34-59. – EXPENDITURES OF TAX REVENUES; TO REFLECT CHANGING APPLICABLE STATE LAW; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO PROVIDE FOR SEVERABILITY; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; TO PROVIDE FOR RENUMBERING OR RELETTERING; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines made the motion to approve the Ordinance for the second and final reading. Mayor Pro Tem Diane Hopkins seconded the motion. All voted positively and the Ordinance was approved.

Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia to award a bid contract to TTL of Valdosta, GA. For Environmental Monitoring Services was presented

RESOLUTION NO. R19-21

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA, TO AWARD BID CONTRACT TO TTL OF VALDOSTA, GEORGIA, FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING SERVICES AT THE BLACKWELL STREET LANDFILL; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the City of Waycross has the need for a licensed engineering firm to monitor, test and report on the City's wells at the closed Blackwell Street at Common Street landfill; 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 Purchasing Department received four (4) statements of qualifications and fee proposals from licensed engineering firms for this project; and

WHEREAS, TTL of Valdosta, Georgia, submitted the lowest and best price for the project with a cost not to exceed \$12,830.00 in years 1, 2 and 3 and a cost not to exceed \$13,150.75 in years 4 and 5, and meeting all specifications and requirements; and

WHEREAS, said matter having been considered.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Commission of the City of Waycross that the Bid Contract for the Environmental Monitoring Services project at the Blackwell Street landfill be awarded to TTL of Valdosta, Georgia, for an initial period of one year with the contract being automatically renewed each year thereafter unless terminated by either party as provided in the contract for a total of five (5) years, and then with an option to renew the contract for an additional 5 years, and in an amount not to exceed \$12,830.00 in years 1, 2 and 3 and an amount not to exceed \$13,150.75 in years 4 and 5.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor, City Clerk and City Attorney be and are authorized and directed to execute the Bid 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 AND ADOPTED, this 7th day of May, 2019.

CITY OF WAYCROSS

BY: JOHN KNOX, Mayor

ATTEST:

JULIE DINKINS, City Clerk

Mayor Pro Tem Diane Hopkins made the motion to award a bid contract to TTL of Valdosta, GA. For Environmental Monitoring Services as presented. Commissioner Jon Tindall seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 5-0 vote.

A Resolution to Approve an Amendment to the 2018 Waycross Employee Handbook was presented for approval.

RESOLUTION NO. R19-22

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA,
TO APPROVE AN AMENDMENT TO 2018 WAYCROSS EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK;
AMENDING SECTION 7.00.06 – LEVELS OF CORRECTIVE DISCIPLINE AND
SECTION 7.00.08 – APPEAL PROCESS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

WHEREAS, the City Manager is requesting approval of an amendment to the City of Waycross Employee Handbook (Personnel Policies & Procedures; Drug & Alcohol Policy) which was originally adopted by the City Commission on May 7, 2013, and last revised on July 2, 2018; and

WHEREAS, said amendment to the 2018 Employee Handbook, in the form attached hereto as Exhibit A, being 2 pages, and incorporated herein as if fully set forth, will better provide for corrective discipline and will be in compliance with the mandates of the City Charter; and

WHEREAS, the Commission of the City of Waycross has determined that the implementation of this amendment to the Employee Handbook is in the best interest of the City of Waycross and its employees; and

WHEREAS, said matter having been considered.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Commission of the City of Waycross that the City Commission hereby approves the amendment to the 2018 Employee Handbook in the form attached hereto as Exhibit A, and being 2 pages, and incorporated herein as if fully set forth, as the same is in the best interest of the City of Waycross and its employees and, upon its adoption, will supersede Section 7.00.06 – Levels of Corrective Discipline and Section 7.00.08 – Appeal Process in all other Personnel Policies and Procedures, Drug & Alcohol Policy, and any other Employee Handbook, however titled.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the staff of the Department of Human Resources are authorized and directed to take the necessary action to forthwith implement this amendment to the 2018 Employee Handbook, hereby ratifying and confirming all the acts and things done by said City Officials, in order to give immediate effect to the purposes and intent of this Resolution.

SO RESOLVED, this _7th day of May, 2018.

CITY OF WAYCROSS

BY: JOHN KNOX, Mayor

ATTEST:

JULIE DINKINS, City Clerk

Commission Jon Tindall made the motion to approve the amendment to the Handbook.

Commissioner Norman Davis seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a 4-1 vote, with Commission Marian Solomon-Gaines voting No.

A Resolution of the city of Waycross to Approve the Signing of a Settlement Agreement and General Release in the civil lawsuit brought by Peggy Grady against the City of Waycross was presented.

RESOLUTION NO. R19-23

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA,
TO APPROVE THE SIGNING OF A SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND GENERAL
RELEASE IN THE CIVIL LAWSUIT BROUGHT BY PEGGY GRADY AGAINST THE
CITY OF WAYCROSS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

WHEREAS, Peggy Grady filed a lawsuit in U.S. District Court, Southern District of Georgia, against the City of Waycross, et al.; and

WHEREAS, the parties now desire to resolve their disputes regarding the issues alleged in the lawsuit; 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 Settlement Agreement and General Release between the City of Waycross, et al and Peggy Grady be approved.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor, City Manager, City Clerk and Trinija Martin (the former City Human Resources Director) be authorized, directed and empowered to sign said Settlement Agreement and General Release, and to do all the acts and things necessary in order to carry out the purposes and intent of this Resolution.

SO RESOLVED, this 7th day of May, 2019.

**CITY OF WAYCROSS
BY: JOHN KNOX, Mayor**

**ATTEST:
JULIE DINKINS, City Clerk**

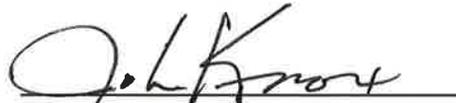
Mayor Pro Tem Diane Hopkins made the motion to approve the Resolution of the city of Waycross to Approve the Signing of a Settlement Agreement and General Release in the civil lawsuit brought by Peggy Grady against the City of Waycross as presented. Commissioner Jon Tindall seconded the motion. All voted unanimously to approve.

Following last call, Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines made the motion to go into Executive Session to discuss litigation and personnel; seconded by Jon Tindall, with all voting yes. Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines made the motion to return to open meeting; seconded by Commissioner Norman Davis; all voted positively and Mayor Knox adjourned the meeting.

CITY OF WAYCROSS

ATTEST:

BY:


JOHN KNOX, Mayor


JULIE C. DINKINS, City Clerk