

**MINUTES**  
**WAYCROSS CITY COMMISSION MEETING**  
**TUESDAY, AUGUST 16, 2016**  
**7:00 PM**

The Regular Session of the Commission of the City of Waycross was held on Tuesday, August 16, 2016 in the Commission Chambers of City Hall. Mayor John Knox called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Those in attendance were: Mayor John Knox, Mayor Pro Tem Marian Solomon-Gaines, Commissioners Diane Hopkins, Norman Davis, Larry T. Ethridge, and Jon Tindall.

Mayor Pro Tem Marian Solomon-Gaines introduced Mr. Scott Cooper, Waycross Journal Herald, who offered the opening invocation. The Invocation was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Knox.

Mayor John Knox presented a Proclamation to Barbara Miller of the Colonial Dames for their work at Lott Cemetery.

**CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA**

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**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**



**PROCLAMATION**

*Whereas*, The National Society of the Colonial Dames of America (NSCDA) was founded in 1891 by a group of Philadelphia women whose ancestors made a distinguished contribution to the colonies between the founding of Jamestown (May 13, 1607) and the firing of the first shots at the Battle of Lexington (April 19, 1775); and

*Whereas*, The Waycross Town Committee of the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Georgia was founded in Waycross by eight distinguished ladies in 1919; and

*Whereas*, Lott Cemetery, the oldest public city cemetery in Waycross, is located on Butler Street at Tebeau and is a treasure trove of Waycross history. The family names and dates inscribed on its memorials reveal a story of our community's heritage. It is the resting place of three of the four founders of our city; and

*Whereas*, from 1999 to 2009, the Waycross Town Committee of the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Georgia completed a project of indexing all of the

information on the gravestones in Lott Cemetery. Their extensive research was published, *Historic Lott Cemetery*, and led to the recognition and listing of Lott Cemetery on the National Register of Historic Places in 2008.

*Whereas*, in 2016, the Waycross Town Committee of the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Georgia was awarded a grant to further enhance Lott Cemetery by designing and building a brick sign and map of the cemetery for visitors and families visiting the cemetery for the purpose of locating grave sites.

*Now, therefore*, in honor and in appreciation of the worthy project completed in Lott Cemetery by the Colonial Dames, I, John Knox, Mayor of Waycross, publically and ceremoniously acknowledge these devoted ladies in making improvements in the historic Lott Cemetery located in Waycross.

*John Knox*, Mayor

Two Public Hearings were scheduled for September 6, 2016. The first is to amend the Zoning Map from RS – Residential to R-90 Residential at 909 Richmond Avenue at 6:30 p.m. and a special exception request for 909 Richmond Avenue at 6:45 pm

City Manager Raphel Maddox announced that the September 5 Work Session had been rescheduled for Tuesday, September 6, 2016 at 4:00 p.m.

Mr. Maddox stated that as the City Manager, one of his tasks was to work to improve community policing. Chief Tony Tanner declared that 4 of 6 Fire Department Chaplains are in training in Forest Park, Georgia working toward the title of Certified Georgia Law Enforcement Chaplain. Chief Tanner stated that over 8,000 bottles of water have been handed out this summer as part of Project Hydrate. The next Blood Drive will be August 26 in the Police Department Courtroom. Kid's Fun Day will be September 10 and Kid's Camp will be held during Fall Break in October.

Another task of the City Manager is to improve infrastructure and our City Engineer Jessica Deal updated the Commission on the status of several ongoing paving projects. Alice Street will soon be undergoing infrastructure updates in preparation for paving. Ms. Deal asked that citizens please bear with the construction and take precautions when driving in this area. Milling is complete on Baltimore Street and paving should begin tomorrow and completed by the end of this week.

City Manager Maddox announced that the first home football game will be next Friday, Go Ware County Gators.

Mayor John Knox commended Ms. Martha Hall and her committee for the publication *Promoting Police and Community* prepared for National Night Out. He also noted that he, Commissioner Ethridge and Davis attended training at Jekyll Island, Georgia.

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 and Executive Session, Tuesday, August 2, 2016 and City Commission Meeting, Tuesday, August 2, 2016.

Two Ordinance Second Readings were presented:

**ORDINANCE NO. 16-18**

**AN ORDINANCE TO ABANDON AND CLOSE AN UNOPENED ALLEY IN BLOCK 55 OF GILCHRIST PARK SUBDIVISION; TO AUTHORIZE A QUIT CLAIM DEED; TO ESTABLISH AN EFFECTIVE DATE; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

**ORDINANCE NO. 16-19**

**AN ORDINANCE TO ABANDON AND CLOSE A PORTION OF COURT STREET RIGHT-OF-WAY BETWEEN HILL STREET AND COLLEGE STREET; AND TO ABANDON AND CLOSE A PORTION OF SCRUGGS STREET RIGHT OF WAY BETWEEN COURT STREET AND KNIGHT AVENUE; TO AUTHORIZE QUIT CLAIM DEEDS; TO ESTABLISH AN EFFECTIVE DATE; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

No Consent Resolutions or Privilege License Renewals.

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

Finance Director Dana Chancey presented WAYX 17-01 Surplus Property list to the Commissioners. Ms. Chancey requested that these items be declared surplus so that the items may be sold on GovDeals.com and/or donated to local non-profits or sold. The surplus list was approved for the items to be sold on GovDeals.com and the bicycles donated to local non-profits or sold by motion from Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines; seconded by Commissioner Larry Ethridge; the vote was 5-0 and the motion carried.

An Ordinance to Amend the Code to Amend Chapter 111 – Signs, Article II – Outdoor Advertising Signs, Sections 111-19 – 111-22 was presented for the first reading.

**ORDINANCE NO. 16-20**

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA; TO AMEND CHAPTER 111 – SIGNS, ARTICLE II – OUTDOOR ADVERTISING SIGNS, SECTIONS 111-19 – 111-22; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO PROVIDE FOR SEVERABILITY; TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

Mayor Pro Tem Marian Solomon-Gaines made the motion to Amend the Code to Amend Chapter 111 – Signs, Article II – Outdoor Advertising Signs, Sections 111-19 – 111-22 as presented for the first reading. Commissioner Larry Ethridge seconded the motion; all voted in favor and the ordinance was approved.

A Resolution of the City of Waycross to Authorize the Acceptance of an Engagement Letter from and with Patrick O’Conner to Provide Court-Ordered Mediation Services in the Lawsuit against Pierce County was presented.

**RESOLUTION NO. 16-56**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA, TO AUTHORIZE THE ACCEPTANCE OF AN ENGAGEMENT LETTER FROM AND WITH PATRICK O’CONNER TO PROVIDE COURT-ORDERED MEDIATION SERVICES IN THE LAWSUIT AGAINST PIERCE COUNTY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**WHEREAS**, Judge Kelly Brooks, the presiding judge in the petition for declaratory and injunction relief brought by the City of Waycross against Pierce County Board of Commissioners,

being Pierce County Civil Action number 15-131-CA, has ordered that the parties submit to mediation; and

**WHEREAS**, Patrick O’Conner is an attorney in Savannah, Georgia, who has been selected by the parties to conduct the mediation on Friday, September 2, 2016; and

**WHEREAS**, Patrick O’Conner will provide an engagement letter to the City of Waycross and Pierce County to handle this mediation; 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 acceptance of an engagement letter from and with Patrick O’Conner to handle the mediation in Pierce County case number 15-131-CA.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Mayor and City Clerk be, and are hereby authorized, empowered and directed to execute any documents associated with said engagement letter on behalf of the City of Waycross, and to ratify and confirm the execution of said engagement letter, 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 16th day of August, 2016.

**CITY OF WAYCROSS**

**JOHN KNOX, Mayor**

**ATTEST: JULIE DINKINS, City Clerk**

Commissioner Diane Hopkins made the motion to authorize the Acceptance of an Engagement Letter from and with Patrick O’Conner to Provide Court-Ordered Mediation Services in the Lawsuit against Pierce County was presented. Commissioner Jon Tindall seconded the motion; all voted yes and the motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

Mayor Pro Tem Marian Solomon-Gaines made the motion to approve a Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia to Authorize the City Attorney to File an Answer to the Lawsuit Brought by First Southern Bank against the City of Waycross, et al, as presented. Commissioner Larry Ethridge seconded the motion; all voted in favor and the motion carried.

Following last call, Mayor John Knox commended the participants in the Dancing with the Southern Stars fundraiser for Magnolia House. Over \$121,000 was raised for this worthy cause. An added bonus is the spirit of co-operation shown by participants from Ware County, Waycross, Pierce County, Blackshear and other communities.

Commissioner Norman Davis made the motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Commissioner Larry Ethridge; unanimous vote; and Mayor Knox adjourned the meeting.

**CITY OF WAYCROSS**

BY:   
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JOHN KNOX, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

  
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JULIE C. DINKINS, City Clerk