

**MINUTES  
WAYCROSS CITY COMMISSION MEETING  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2020  
5:00 PM**

The Commission of the City of Waycross held their Regular City Commission Meeting on Tuesday, August 18, 2020 in the Commission Chambers at City Hall. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Mayor Michael-Angelo James. Members in attendance were: Mayor Michael-Angelo James, Commissioners Marian Solomon-Gaines, Norman Davis, Diane Hopkins, and Henry Strickland. Mayor Pro Tem John Threat was absent.

Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines introduced Attorney Huey Spearman, City of Waycross Assistant Attorney, who offered the opening invocation. The Invocation was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Michael-Angelo James.

Human Resources Director, Ed Lastinger, announced August 2020 Employee of the Month, Daniel Dileo.

During Executive Duties, Mr. Rick Currie, City Attorney scheduled Public Hearings for Text Amendment Request Microblading.

During Official Reports, Mayor Michael-Angelo James discussed the COVID-19 confirmed case numbers reported.

There were no public remarks on Official Action.

Mayor Michael-Angelo James presented the Consent Calendar as read by City Clerk Michelle Love for consideration of official action as follows:

Approval of Minutes: Planning and Information Session and Executive Session, Monday, August 3, 2020, 5:00 p.m.; Public Hearing, Tuesday, August 4, 2020, 4:30 p.m.; and Waycross City Commission Meeting, Tuesday, August 4, 2020, 5:00 p.m.

One Ordinance was presented for second reading:

**ORDINANCE NO. O20-12**

**AN ORDINANCE TO ABANDON AND CLOSE AN UNOPENED ALLEY IN  
BLOCK 64 OF SOUTH DEENWOOD SUBDIVISION; TO AUTHORIZE  
QUITCLAIM DEEDS; TO ESTABLISH AN EFFECTIVE DATE; TO REPEAL  
CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

There were no 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 by all present.

The following Privilege License was presented for approval:

1. Sai Ram Equity, Inc. DBA 1<sup>st</sup> Stop Foods, Rajeshbhal Patel, 709 N. Nicholls Street, Waycross, Georgia, Package Sales Beer and Wine.

Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines motion for the Privilege License be approved as read, and Commissioner Diane Hopkins seconded the motion. The Privilege License passed with a 4-0 vote.

Purchasing Director Linda Jones presented the following bids to the Commission for approval:

1. Bid FY21-07 Citywide Striping Improvements for 55,415 linear feet of roadway. Purchasing received 3 bids. After staff review, staff recommends awarding the bid to Peek Pavement Marking for \$85,339.90. This is the lowest and best bid submitted meeting all specifications. Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines moved for the approval. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Diane Hopkins. The motion was approved by all present.
2. Bid #21-06 Elevator Modernization was recommended that complete repair, upgrade, and modernization take place. City of Waycross Purchasing Department offered Phase 2 of project through formal request for competitive bidding. Purchasing received and open four proposals. After staff review it is the recommendation to award Georgia Elevator of Cochran, GA the bid in the amount of \$52,400.00. It's the best and lowest bid meeting all specifications. The company is also offering 3 year warranty and 3 year free maintenance. After the warranty is up, the cost will be one hundred dollars a month. Commissioner Norman Davis moved for the approval. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Diane Hopkins. The motion was approved by all present.
3. Bid # 21-04 Insurance Broker for property, casualty, and worker's compensation. City of Waycross offered project through formal bids. 6 Responses were received and opened. Out of the top 3, McNeal Sports & Wilson, 2000 Plant Avenue, Waycross, Georgia, submitted the best proposal to meet all insurance needs and best pricing for property, casualty and worker's compensation. Commissioner Diane Hopkins moved for the approval. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Henry Strickland. The motion was approved by all present.

An Ordinance of the City of Waycross, Georgia, Requiring the Use of Mask or Face Coverings in Public during the Covid-19 Outbreak was presented for an emergency reading.

**ORDINANCE NO. O20-13**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA, REQUIRING THE USE OF MASKS OR FACE COVERINGS IN PUBLIC DURING COVID-19 OUTBREAK; TO DEECLARE AN EMERGENCY FOR SECOND READING; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

A Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia, to Approve the Signing of a Settlement Agreement in the Civil Lawsuit Brought by Raphel Maddox Against the City of Waycross was presented to the Commission for approval.

**RESOLUTION NO. R20-81**

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

**WHEREAS**, Raphel Maddox, former City Manager of the City of Waycross, filed a lawsuit in Superior Court of Ware County, Georgia, against the City of Waycross to recover 106.84 hours of forfeited sick leave which had been applied to his retirement benefit; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Waycross and Plaintiff now desire to resolve their disputes regarding all of 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 between Raphel Maddox, as the former City Manager, and the City of Waycross be approved for cash-out payment of sick leave earned for 106.84 hours, and in return

Raphel Maddox will voluntarily release and forever discharge the City of Waycross for said matters related to the above-mentioned lawsuit.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Mayor, City Manager, City Clerk and City Attorney be authorized, directed and empowered to sign said settlement agreement, and to do all the acts and things necessary in order to carry out the purposes and intent of this Resolution.

**SO RESOLVED**, this 18<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2020.

**CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA**  
**BY: MICHAEL-ANGELO JAMES, Mayor**

**ATTEST:**  
**MICHELLE LOVE, City Clerk**

Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines made the motion to approve A Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia, to Approve the Signing of a Settlement Agreement in the Civil Lawsuit Brought by Raphel Maddox Against the City of Waycross as presented to the Commission for approval. Commissioner Henry Strickland seconded the motion; the motion was approved with all present votes.

A Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia, to Award Bid Contract to Peek Pavement Marking of Columbus, Georgia, for Citywide Striping Improvements was presented to the Commission.

**RESOLUTION NO. R20-82**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA,  
TO AWARD BID CONTRACT TO PEEK PAVEMENT MARKING OF COLUMBUS,  
GEORGIA, FOR CITYWIDE STRIPING IMPROVEMENTS;  
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Waycross has a need for striping improvements on approximately 55,415 linear feet of roadway in the City; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Waycross Purchasing Department offered the project through competitive bidding, and received and opened three (3) bids tendered for the Citywide Striping Improvements project; and

**WHEREAS**, Peek Pavement Marking of Columbus, Georgia, submitted the lowest and best bid for the City, at a cost of \$85,339.90 for said project; 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 Citywide Striping Improvements project be awarded to Peek Pavement Marking of Columbus, Georgia, in an amount not to exceed \$85,339.90.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Mayor, City Manager, City Clerk and City Attorney be 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**, this 18<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2020.

**CITY OF WAYCROSS**  
**BY: MICHAEL-ANGELO JAMES, Mayor**

**ATTEST:**  
**MICHELLE LOVE, City Clerk**

A Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia, to Award Bid Contract to Peek Pavement Marking of Columbus, Georgia, for Citywide Striping Improvements as presented was approved by motion from Commissioner Norman Davis. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Diane Hopkins. All voted yes and the motion was approved.

A Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia, to Award Bid Contract to GA Elevator of Cochran, Georgia, for City Hall Elevator Modernization and Repair Project.

**RESOLUTION NO. R20-83**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA, TO AWARD BID CONTRACT TO GA ELEVATOR OF COCHRAN, GEORGIA, FOR CITY HALL ELEVATOR MODERNIZATION AND REPAIR PROJECT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**WHEREAS**, earlier this year, the elevator at City Hall was out of order for approximately 3 weeks due to issues with the motor or power unit; and

**WHEREAS**, it was recommended that complete repair, upgrade and modernization take place in two (2) phases to get the elevator operational in a timely manner; and

**WHEREAS**, Phase 1 consisted of replacing the power unit and a contract was awarded on an emergency basis on February 18, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, Phase 2 consisted of modernization, upgrade and repair of said elevator; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Waycross Purchasing Department offered Phase 2 of the project through a formal request for competitive bidding, and received and opened four (4) proposals tendered for the City Hall Modernization and Repair Project

**WHEREAS**, GA Elevator of Cochran, Georgia, submitted the lowest and best bid for the project in the amount of \$52,400.00, and which includes a 3 year warranty and 3 year free maintenance; 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 City Hall Elevator Modernization and Repair Project, in an amount not to exceed \$52,400.00, is awarded to GA Elevator of Cochran, Georgia, to be paid from SPLOST funds.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Mayor, City Manager, City Clerk and City Attorney be, and are, authorized and directed to execute any required Bid Contracts 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 18<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2020.

**CITY OF WAYCROSS**  
**BY: MICHAEL-ANGELO JAMES, Mayor**

**ATTEST:**  
**MICHELLE LOVE, City Clerk**

Commissioner Diane Hopkins made the motion to approve a Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia, to Award Bid Contract to GA Elevator of Cochran, Georgia, for City Hall Elevator Modernization and Repair Project as presented to the Commission for approval. Commissioner Norman Davis seconded the motion; the motion was approved with all present votes.

A Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia, to Award Bid Contract to McNeal, Sports & Wilson for the City's Insurance Broker Services was presented for approval before the Commission.

**RESOLUTION NO. R20-84**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA,  
TO AWARD CONTRACT TO McNEAL, SPORTS & WILSON FOR THE CITY'S  
INSURANCE BROKER SERVICES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Waycross recognizes the continued need for insurance broker services to cover the City's insurance needs for property, casualty and workers' compensation excess coverage; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Waycross offered the project through request for formal bids and received and opened bids tendered; and

**WHEREAS**, McNeal, Sports & Wilson, located at 2000 Plant Avenue, Waycross, Georgia, submitted the best proposal to meet all of the City's insurance needs and the best pricing for property, casualty and workers' compensation excess coverage; and

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

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Commission of the City of Waycross that the contract for Insurance Broker Services for property, casualty and workers' compensation

excess coverage for the year **beginning October 1, 2020, through September 30, 2021**, be awarded to McNeal, Sports & Wilson, with four (4) additional one year extensions to be awarded as long as it remains in the City's best interests to remain with McNeal, Sports & Wilson.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the contract with J. Smith Lanier & Company for insurance broker services will not be renewed and will terminate on September 30, 2020.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Mayor, City Manager, City Clerk and City Attorney be authorized and directed to execute any Contract or Agreement 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 18<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2020.

**CITY OF WAYCROSS**  
**BY: MICHAEL-ANGELO JAMES, Mayor**

**ATTEST:**  
**MICHELLE LOVE, City Clerk**

Commissioner Diane Hopkins made the motion to approve a Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia, to Award Bid Contract to McNeal, Sports & Wilson for the City's Insurance Broker Services as presented to the Commission for approval. Commissioner Norman Davis seconded the motion; the motion was approved with all present votes.

A Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia, Requiring the Use of Mask or Face Coverings in Property Owned by the City During the Covid-19 Outbreak; Access to City Hall Remains Strictly Limited.

**RESOLUTION NO. R20-85**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA, REQUIRING THE USE OF MASKS OR FACE COVERINGS IN PROPERTY OWNED BY THE CITY DURING THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK; ACCESS TO CITY HALL REMAINS STRICTLY LIMITED; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**WHEREAS**, the novel coronavirus, an infectious virus known to cause the respiratory disease "COVID-19" can spread from person to person, and can result in no symptoms, minor symptoms, or serious illness causing permanent organ damage and death; and



**WHEREAS**, individuals age 65 or over or living with certain medical conditions identified by the CDC (members of Vulnerable Populations) and members of other populations identified by the CDC (“Other Populations at Risk”) are at risk of severe and lasting harm to health or death from COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 also has been reported to cause severe and permanent damage to some children; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 14, 2020, Governor Brian Kemp declared a Public Health State of Emergency in Georgia, and renewed this declaration multiple times to present date; and

**WHEREAS**, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) has noted that COVID-19 spreads very easily and sustainably when an infected person (who may have no symptoms at all, or minor symptoms) talks, sneezes, or coughs in close proximity with others (within six feet); and

**WHEREAS**, the Governor’s Executive Orders require Vulnerable Populations to continue to shelter in place, with exceptions that include participating in essential services and working; and

**WHEREAS**, many City employees and many members of the public who visit City Hall and other City buildings may be members of Vulnerable Populations; and

**WHEREAS**, some City employees and many members of the public who visit City Hall and other City properties are members of the following “Other Populations at Risk” identified by the CDC: pregnant women, individuals experiencing homelessness, people with disabilities, and racial and ethnic minorities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and City Commission desire to protect individuals in said Vulnerable Populations and Other Populations at Risk, in a reasonable manner and as recommended by the CDC and by the Georgia Department of Public Health, while such individuals are working in, conducting business in, or visiting City Hall and other City buildings;

**WHEREAS**, the CDC, Dr. Kathleen Toomey (Georgia's Commissioner of Public Health), and Governor Kemp recommend that individuals wear face coverings over the nose and mouth to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 when they are in public places where they cannot practice social distancing (i.e., stay at least six feet away from other individuals who do not share the same household); and

**WHEREAS**, the CDC states that wearing a face covering over the nose and mouth is a recommended precaution designed to prevent symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals who have contracted COVID-19 from spreading it to other individuals; and

**WHEREAS**, to be an effective precaution, it is necessary to require all City employees and members of the public to wear a face covering over the nose and mouth while in public areas in City buildings and while meeting in City buildings; and

**WHEREAS** Dr. Toomey and Governor Kemp have modeled the behavior of wearing face coverings as examples for Georgians to follow; and

**WHEREAS**, having City Hall and other City offices open and accessible to the public as necessary to conduct in-person business that cannot be conducted by other means is important for the economic vitality of the City; and

**WHEREAS**, certain activities, such as discussing and reviewing construction and other permits, benefit from or require face-to-face interactions between City employees and other individuals; and

**WHEREAS**, if a City employee is exposed to the novel coronavirus, by an individual visiting a City building or otherwise, in accordance with CDC guidance such employee will need to quarantine at home for at least 14 days; and

**WHEREAS**, if a City employee is diagnosed with COVID-19 or develops COVID-19 symptoms, such employee will be required to isolate at home in accordance with CDC guidance; and

**WHEREAS**, O.C.G.A. § 36-35-3 allows city governments to establish rules for use of and access to its own property for which no provision has been made by general law and which are not inconsistent with the Constitution or any charter provision applicable thereto; and

**WHEREAS**, the City is authorized to establish policies for how the public can access City buildings during the Public Health State of Emergency and thereafter, including closing City buildings, or opening City buildings to the public but placing restrictions on public access; and

**WHEREAS**, the City has made and continues to make efforts to reduce the need for members of the public to physically visit City Hall and other City buildings to interact with City employees, pay bills, and conduct other business with the City; and

**WHEREAS**, the City intends to assist its employees and the public with mitigating the spread of COVID-19 in City buildings by providing hand sanitizer, designating an entrance door and an exit door, disinfecting common surfaces regularly, prohibiting handshaking, and encouraging social distancing of non-cohabitating persons, as well as other mitigating measures; and

**WHEREAS**, despite these precautions, the City recognizes that it is not always possible to ensure social distancing within the City buildings; and

**WHEREAS**, the following actions are necessary and appropriate to balance the public's interest in having access to City buildings for the conduct of business and other purposes with the compelling public interest of providing for the health, safety and welfare of the City's employees and individuals who visit City Hall and other City buildings and preventing an outbreak of COVID-19 in the City and the surrounding community; and

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

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that City Hall, located at 417 Pendleton Street ("City Hall"), is not closed but access has been, and shall remain to be, strictly limited and doors

locked. The City Manager shall take all steps to encourage the public and all citizens to pay bills online or by check or money order by U.S. Mail or by dropping their payments in the drop box on the south side of City Hall (as you stand before City Hall, the drop box will be in the parking area on the left side of City Hall). The City Manager shall also take all steps to ensure, and communicate to the public, that the public and citizens can apply for city licenses or permits online or otherwise by calling City Hall to make an appointment to meet with City staff. Any citizen or person entering City Hall for said appointment will be required to and shall wear a mask or a cloth face covering over the nose and mouth when inside City Hall or entry will be denied and the appointment will be cancelled.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that City employees shall wear a mask or a cloth face covering over the nose and mouth while inside City Hall wherever it is not feasible to maintain appropriate social distancing from another person.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that C.C. McCray City Auditorium is and remains closed to the public.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that all City parks are open to the public as long as there are no gatherings as defined by the Governor’s Executive Orders and social distancing between persons not in the same household is observed.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that all public meetings of the City Commission held at City Hall are and will be open to the public.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this Resolution shall be effective immediately and shall remain in effect until revised or repealed by further action of the Commission of the City of Waycross, Georgia.

**SO RESOLVED**, this 18<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2020.

**CITY OF WAYCROSS**  
**BY: MICHAEL-ANGELO JAMES, Mayor**

**ATTEST:**  
**MICHELLE LOVE, City Clerk**

Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines made the motion to approve Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia, Requiring the Use of Mask or Face Coverings in Property Owned by the City During the Covid-19 Outbreak; Access to City Hall Remains Strictly Limited. as presented to the Commission for approval. Commissioner Diane Hopkins seconded the motion; the motion was approved with all present votes.

Larry Lockey NAACP President, 818 Sargeant Street, Waycross, Georgia, requested for the Commission to remove the confederate monument from the public park. He also asked to remove names of confederate soldiers from streets.

Carlos Nelson, Ware County Elections Supervisor gave a report on the election and voting.

Evans Primas, 811 Winona Avenue, Waycross, Georgia, presented his business plan for a laundry mat. Evans was directed to see the Finance Director China Williams.

After last call, Commissioner Norman Davis made the motion for the meeting to adjourn. Commissioner Diane Hopkins seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and Mayor James adjourned the meeting.

**CITY OF WAYCROSS**

BY: Michael Angelo James  
**MICHAEL-ANGELO JAMES, Mayor**

**ATTEST:**  
Michelle Love  
**MICHELLE LOVE, City Clerk**