

MINUTES
WAYCROSS CITY COMMISSION MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2019
5:00 PM

The Honorable John Knox, Mayor of the City of Waycross called the Regular City Commission Meeting to order on Tuesday, September 3, 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, John Threat, Norman Davis, and Jon Tindall. City Manager Tonya Miller and City Attorney Rick Currie were also in attendance.

Mayor John Knox introduced Fire Chief David Eddins, who offered the opening invocation. The Invocation was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor John Knox.

Under Executive Duties, City Manager Tonya Miller presented a Declaration of Emergency for Mayor Knox's signature in the event there is storm damage.

BY THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF WAYCROSS

WHEREAS: The National Hurricane Center forecasts that Hurricane Dorian will travel dangerously close to the southeastern region of the State of Georgia; and

WHEREAS: The National Hurricane Center forecasts, through its cone model, that Hurricane Dorian Threatens and will likely produce excessive rainfall and damaging winds, potentially causing extensive flooding, fallen trees, and the closure of numerous roads in Ware County; and

WHEREAS: Roads and streets may be rendered impassable in the City of Waycross, isolating residences from access to essential public services, and the need to provide shelter for evacuees from coastal counties and those residing in low lying areas; and

WHEREAS: The assistance of the State of Georgia is necessary to protect the public health, preserve the safety of the public, keep property damage to a minimum and restore the social and economic welfare of the City of Waycross due to the lack of its own resources and manpower; and

WHEREAS: In light of these circumstances and with the authority vested in the Mayor of the City of Waycross, Georgia, with the concurrence of the chairman of the county commission, and pursuant to Code of Ordinances Section 14-20, to issue and enforce all reasonable orders, rules, laws and regulations deemed necessary to protect public health, safety and welfare, and bring the emergency situation under control within the acknowledged limitations of the powers of the Mayor.

**NOW THEREFORE, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME AS
MAYOR OF THE CITY OF WAYCROSS, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:**

That a State of Emergency exists in Waycross, Ware County, Georgia.

IT IS FURTHER REQUESTED that all resources of the state of Georgia be made available to assist in response and recovery activities in the City of Waycross, and the Ware County Emergency Management Agency activate the Ware county Emergency Operations Plan.

This Executive Order shall be valid for a period of four (4) days, beginning on September 3, 2019 and ending at 11:59 p.m. on September 7, 2019.

This 3rd day of September, 2019

JOHN KNOX, MAYOR

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: Approval of Minutes: 1.) Waycross City Commission Planning & Information Session, Waycross City Commission Meeting, Special Called Meeting and Executive Session,.

There were no ordinance second readings, no Privilege License Renewals, or consent resolutions presented.

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

Purchasing Director, Linda Jones, presented Bid FY20-07 Interest Rates on Financing Equipment. In June 2019 the City Commission approved the bid purchase of a 2019 Vacon Truck from Adams Equipment for \$295,790.00. This equipment has been delivered and the finance department has requested that we receive bids on interest rates to finance this purchase. Staff recommends financing the equipment with Sun Trust Bank with an interest rate of 2.13%. Mayor Pro Tem Diane Hopkins made the motion to approve the award of interest rates to Sun Trust Bank with an interest rate of 2.13% as presented. Commissioner Marian Solomon Gaines seconded the motion. The bid was approved with a 5-0 vote.

Ms. Linda Jones, Purchasing Director, presented Surplus Property WAYX 20-03 Surplus Property requesting that the listed items be declared surplus property and sold on GovDeals.com. Commissioner Jon Tindall made the motion to approve the sale of surplus property; seconded by Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines; and approved with a unanimous vote.

Purchasing Director, Linda Jones, presented Street Repair and Resurfacing – Haines and Screven Avenue. Haines Avenue was included in the City's Transportation TSPLOST Program

for street resurfacing using local TSPLOST funds approved by the voters of Waycross and Ware County. City staff worked with the consulting engineering firm to prepare drawings and bid documents. Bids were received from four contractors with Allen Owens Construction and Paving of Blackshear, Georgia submitting the lowest and best bid of \$384,901.00. Staff requests that the City Commission consider awarding the project to Allen Owens Construction and Paving of Blackshear, Georgia for \$384,901.00. The bid was approved by motion from Commissioner Jon Tindall; seconded by Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines, and approved with a positive vote of 5-0.

The Ordinance of the City of Waycross, Georgia to amend the Code with regard to Blighted Real property and its remediation was presented for the first reading:

ORDINANCE NO. 019-18

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA; TO AMEND CHAPTER 26 – NUISANCES, BY ADDING A NEW ARTICLE V. – BLIGHTED REAL PROPERTY AND ITS REMEDIATION, AND BY ADDING NEW SECTIONS 26-100 THROUGH 26-106, PERTAINING TO PROVIDING FOR A LEVY OF INCREASE ON AD VALOREM TAXES FOR BLIGHTED REAL PROPERTY; TO PROVIDE FOR IDENTIFICATION OF BLIGHTED REAL PROPERTY; TO PROVIDE FOR ITS REMEDIATION; TO PROVIDE FOR A DECREASE ON AD VALOREM TAXES ON PROPERTY; TO PROVIDE PROCEDURES; TO PROVIDE FOR ENFORCEMENT; TO PROVIDE FOR VIOLATIONS; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO PROVIDE FOR SEVERABILITY; TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; TO PROVIDE FOR RENUMBERING OR RELETTERING; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Ordinance of the City of Waycross, Georgia to amend the Code with regard to Blighted Real Property and its remediation was approved for the first reading by Commissioner Norman Davis; seconded by Commissioner Jon Tindall; and approved with a 5—0 vote.

The Ordinance to Amend the Code of the City of Waycross by amending the title of Section 25 Blight was presented for the first reading:

ORDINANCE NO. 019-19

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA; TO AMEND CHAPTER 26 – NUISANCES, ARTICLE III. – ACCUMULATION OF REFUSE ON PROPERTY, BY AMENDING THE TITLE OF SECTION 26. – 55. – BLIGHT; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO

PROVIDE FOR SEVERABILITY; TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; TO PROVIDE FOR RENUMBERING OR RELETTERING; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Ordinance to Amend the Code of the City of Waycross by amending the title of Section 25 Blight was approved for the first reading by motion from Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jon Tindall; and approved with a 5-0 vote.

A Resolution to Approve a Letter to Georgia Department of Transportation that City has no Objection to Closure of Colquitt Street was presented:

**RESOLUTION NO. R19-53
A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA,
TO APPROVE LETTER TO GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
THAT CITY HAS NO OBJECTION TO CLOSURE OF COLQUITT STREET;
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

WHEREAS, Terry Luke, owner and developer of property located northeast of the intersection of State Road 520 (Corridor Z) and Colquitt Street has requested that the portion of Colquitt Street located between State Road 520 and Mary Street be abandoned and closed; and

WHEREAS, the City of Waycross has previously closed a portion of Colquitt Street from Mary Street to Carswell Avenue in Ordinance Number O99-19; and

WHEREAS, Colquitt Street from State Road 532 (Corridor Z) to Carswell Avenue has never been opened, and the City has no intention of opening Colquitt Street from State Road 520 to Mary Street; and

WHEREAS, and however, in order to close this unopened portion of Colquitt Street, a public hearing must be held; and

WHEREAS, presuming for the purposes of this Resolution that there will be no public outcry for abandoning and closing this portion of Colquitt Street; 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 authorizes the execution and signing of a letter expressing that the City has no objection to this requested closure of Colquitt Street from State Road 520 (Corridor Z) to Mary Street.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and City Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to create and execute a letter on behalf of the City of Waycross, hereby ratifying and

confirming all the acts and things done by said the City Commission, in order to give effect to the purposes and intent of this Resolution.

SO RESOLVED, this 3RD day of September, 2019.

CITY OF WAYCROSS

BY: JOHN KNOX, Mayor

ATTEST:

JULIE DINKINS, City Clerk

The Resolution to Approve a Letter to Georgia Department of Transportation that City has no Objection to Closure of Colquitt Street was approved by motion from Mayor Pro Tem Diane Hopkins; seconded by Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines; and approved with a 5-0 vote.

A Resolution to Award the Bid Contract to Allen Owens Construction and Paving, Inc. of Blackshear, Georgia for Haines Avenue Paving Project was presented for approval:

RESOLUTION NO. R19-55

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA, TO AWARD BID CONTRACT TO ALLEN OWENS CONSTRUCTION AND PAVING, INC. OF BLACKSHEAR, GEORGIA, FOR HAINES AVENUE PAVING PROJECT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, Haines Avenue was included in the City’s Local Transportation Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (hereinafter “T-SPLOST”) program for street resurfacing using T-SPLOST funds and was approved by the voters of the City of Waycross and Ware County; and

WHEREAS, City Staff worked with the consulting engineering firm to identify scope of work and prepare plan drawings and bid documents; and

WHEREAS, the City of Waycross Purchasing Department offered the project through competitive bidding, and received and opened four (4) bids tendered from contractors; and

WHEREAS, Allen Owens Construction and Paving, Inc. of Blackshear, Georgia, submitted the lowest and best bid for the project of \$384,901.00, and meeting all specifications and requirements; and

WHEREAS, said matter having been considered.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Waycross City Commission that the Bid Contract for the above-described Haines Avenue paving project be awarded to Allen Owens Construction and Paving, Inc. of Blackshear, Georgia, in an amount not to exceed \$384,901.00, and to be paid from Local T-SPLOST funds.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor, 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 AND ADOPTED, this 3rd day of September, 2019.

CITY OF WAYCROSS
BY: JOHN KNOX, Mayor

ATTEST:
JULIE DINKINS, City Clerk

The Resolution to Award the Bid Contract to Allen Owens Construction and Paving, Inc. of Blackshear, Georgia for Haines Avenue Paving Project as presented was approved by motion from Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines; seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Diane Hopkins and approved with a 5-0 vote.

A Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia, To Approve Financing of Newly Purchased Vehicle with Suntrust Bank was presented:

RESOLUTION NO. 19-54

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA,
TO APPROVE FINANCING OF NEWLY PURCHASED VEHICLE WITH SUNTRUST
BANK; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

WHEREAS, the City Commission recently approved the purchase of a 2019 VaCon Vacuum/Jetter truck from Adams Equipment for \$295,790.00; and

WHEREAS, the Finance Department has requested that the Purchasing Department obtain quotes on interest rates for a loan to finance said newly purchased vehicle; and

WHEREAS, the City of Waycross Purchasing Department offered the project through competitive bidding, and received and opened four (4) bids tendered for the project; and

WHEREAS, SunTrust Bank submitted the lowest and best interest rate of 2.13% on a five (5) year on a 60 month loan; and

WHEREAS, said matter having been considered.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Commission of the City of Waycross, Georgia, that a loan to finance the newly purchased 2019 VaCon Vacuum/Jetter truck will be with SunTrust Bank for a term of five (5) years with the interest rate fixed at 2.13%.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor, City Clerk and City Attorney be authorized and directed to execute the promissory note 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 September, 2019.

CITY OF WAYCROSS

BY: JOHN KNOX, Mayor

ATTEST:

JULIE DINKINS, City Clerk

The Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia, To Approve Financing of Newly Purchased Vehicle with Suntrust Bank as presented was approved by motion from Mayor Pro Tem Diane Hopkins; seconded by Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines; and approved with a 5-0 vote.

Following last call, Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines made the motion to go into Executive Session to discuss Personnel. Mayor Pro Tem Diane Hopkins seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned into Executive Session.

Commissioner Norman Davis made the motion to return to open meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Jon Tindall, and the meeting resumed.

The meeting was adjourned by Mayor John Knox.

CITY OF WAYCROSS

ATTEST:

BY:


JOHN KNOX, Mayor


JULIE C. DINKINS, City Clerk