

MINUTES
WAYCROSS CITY COMMISSION MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2020
5:00 PM

The Commission of the City of Waycross held the Regular City Commission Meeting on Tuesday, September 15, 2020 in the 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, and Henry Strickland. Mayor Pro Tem John Threat and Commissioner Diane Hopkins were absent.

Mayor James announced Chief Eddins, who offered the opening invocation. The Invocation was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Michael-Angelo James.

Mayor Michael-Angelo James request for the Attorney Rick Currie to give background on the decorum during Official Reports.

Guest, Marvin Broadwaters, Sr., Department of Human Services, 3004 Slippery Rock Court, Columbus, Georgia presented to the Commission the Virtual Fatherhood Event. The virtual event is held on September 13, 2020 from 6:00 pm to 7:30 p.m. Fathers will engage in conversation with experts on services offered to noncustodial parents. Topics to discuss are driver's license reinstatement, child support services, GED enrollment, job training, and support order. The program has helped many cities. Mr. Broadwaters thanked the Commission.

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: Waycross City Commission Planning & Information Session and Executive Session, Monday, August 31, 2020, 5:00 p.m.; Public Hearing, Tuesday, September 1, 2020, 4:30 p.m.; and Waycross City Commission Meeting, Tuesday, September 1, 2020, 5:00 p.m.

No Ordinance was presented for second reading:

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 Licenses were presented for approval:

1. Shree Raj 610 Inc., Raj Bipinbhai Patel, 610 Memorial Drive, Waycross, GA 31501, Package Sales Beer and Wine.
2. Khodiyar 1942 Inc., Samir Patel, 507 S City Blvd., Waycross, GA 31501, Package Sales Beer and Wine.

Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines motion for the Privilege Licenses be approved as read, and Commissioner Henry Strickland seconded the motion. Discussion was made about the reading of Privilege Licenses. The Privilege Licenses passed with a 3-0 vote.

Purchasing Director Linda Jones presented Bid# WAYX 21-02 Surplus Property. Purchasing has three more vehicles to declare surplus property to be traded to Enterprise. Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines moved for the approval. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Henry Strickland. The motion was approved by all present.

Purchasing Director Linda Jones presented Bid# FY21-05 Generator for WWTP. Months ago, FEMA and GEMA grants were awarded to purchase new generators. Purchasing received four bids from electrical contractors. It is the recommendation of Purchasing to award bid to Smith Electric, Waycross, Georgia. It was the lowest and best bid meeting all specifications in the amount of \$725,000.00. Commissioner Norman Davis moved for the approval. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Henry Strickland. The motion was approved by all present.

Patrick Simmons, Waycross Convention & Visitors Bureau, presented Mass Media Outdoor Advertising for approval. It would be for a 13 month period of advertising in the amount of \$56,118.00. Commissioner Norman Davis moved for approval. The motion was seconded by Marian Solomon-Gaines. Discussion was made. Convention Visitors Bureau Authority has also approved the advertising according to City Manager Tonya Miller. After discussion, the motion was approved with a 3-0 vote.

The following Ordinance was presented for first reading to the Commission.

ORDINANCE NO. O20-14

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA; TO RE-ZONE THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED HEREIN LOCATED ON DOROTHY STREET NEAR McDONALD STREET FROM C-1 NEIGHBORHOOD COMMERCIAL TO M – MEDICAL DISTRICT; TO SET AN EFFECTIVE DATE; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines made the motion to approve the Ordinance presented for the first reading. Commissioner Henry Strickland seconded the motion. Discussion was made by the Commission. All Commissioners voted yes, and the motion carried.

A Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia, To Adopt Groundwater Monitoring & Statistical Analysis Report at the Closed Blackwell Street Landfill, Second Event of 2020, Completed by TTL of Valdosta, Georgia was presented.

RESOLUTION NO. R20-88

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA, TO ADOPT
GROUNDWATER MONITORING & STATISTICAL ANALYSIS REPORT AT THE
CLOSED BLACKWELL STREET LANDFILL, SECOND EVENT OF 2020,
COMPLETED BY TTL OF VALDOSTA, GEORGIA; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

WHEREAS, the City of Waycross engaged the services of TTL of Valdosta, Georgia, 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, TTL has completed the second semi-annual groundwater monitoring event of 2020 and all wells were sampled for laboratory analysis at the closed Blackwell Street at Commons Street landfill; and

WHEREAS, the report, dated August 7, 2020, a copy of which is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference as if fully set out, has been completed and submitted to the City of Waycross for approval and submission to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division; and

WHEREAS, said matter having been considered.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Commission of the City of Waycross that the Groundwater Monitoring & Statistical Analysis Report, Detection Monitoring Second Event of 2020, Sample Date: July 7, 2020, by TTL, Inc. of Valdosta, Georgia, a copy of which is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference as if fully set out, be accepted and adopted by the City of Waycross.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor, City Manager and City Clerk be and are authorized and directed to execute the Certification Statement on behalf of the City of Waycross, to then submit to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division, 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 15th day of September, 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 Adopt Groundwater Monitoring & Statistical Analysis Report at the Closed Blackwell Street Landfill, Second Event of 2020, Completed by TTL of Valdosta, Georgia as presented for approval. Commissioner Henry Strickland seconded the motion; the motion was approved with 3-0 vote.

A Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia, Recognizing Georgia Cities Week, October 4, 2020, through October 10, 2020, and Encouraging all Citizens and Residents to Support the Celebration and Corresponding Activities.

RESOLUTION NO. R20-89

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA, RECOGNIZING
GEORGIA CITIES WEEK, OCTOBER 4, 2020, THROUGH OCTOBER 10, 2020, AND
ENCOURAGING ALL CITIZENS AND RESIDENTS TO SUPPORT THE
CELEBRATION AND CORRESPONDING ACTIVITIES; AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES.**

WHEREAS, city government and municipalities are the closest public entity to most citizens, and the one with the most direct daily impact upon its residents; and

WHEREAS, city government is administered for and by its citizens, and is dependent upon public commitment to and understanding of its many responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, city government officials and employees share the responsibility to pass along their understanding of public services and their benefits; and

WHEREAS, Georgia Cities Week is a very important time to recognize the important role played by city government in our lives; and

WHEREAS, this week offers an important opportunity to spread the word to all the citizens of Georgia that they can shape and influence this branch of government which is closest to the people; and

WHEREAS, the Georgia Municipal Association and its member cities have joined together to teach students and other citizens about municipal government through a variety of different projects and information; and

WHEREAS, Georgia Cities Week offers an important opportunity to convey to all the citizens of Georgia that they can shape and influence government through their civic involvement; and

WHEREAS, said matter having been properly considered.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Commission of the City of Waycross declares October 4, 2020, through October 20, 2020, as Georgia Cities Week.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Commission urges and encourages all citizens, government officials and employees of the City of Waycross to do everything possible to ensure that the week of October 4 – 10, 2020, is recognized and celebrated accordingly.

SO RESOLVED, this 15th day of September, 2020.

CITY OF WAYCROSS

BY: MICHAEL-ANGELO JAMES, Mayor

ATTEST:
MICHELLE LOVE, City Clerk

A Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia, Recognizing Georgia Cities Week, October 4, 2020, through October 10, 2020, and Encouraging all Citizens and Residents to Support the Celebration and Corresponding Activities as presented was approved by motion from Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Henry Strickland. After discussion, all voted yes; the motion was approved.

A Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia, to Authorize a Contract with M. Myers and Associates for Community and Public Relations Services was present for approval.

RESOLUTION NO. R20-91

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA, TO AUTHORIZE A CONTRACT WITH M. MYERS AND ASSOCIATES FOR COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC RELATIONS SERVICES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, Mike Myers, doing business as M. Myers and Associates, is a public relations / communications / public affairs consultant; and

WHEREAS, the City presently has an interest and need for a consultant to render assistance in this critical area of public and community communication; and

WHEREAS, M. Myers and Associates can render the following services: social media management, media relations, public / community relations, media productions, community engagement and training; 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 Contract for Services with M. Myers and Associates, in the form attached hereto as an Exhibit 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 Contract with Mike Myers d/b/a M. Myers and Associates; and to ratify and confirm the execution of said Contract, 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 15th day of September, 2020.

CITY OF WAYCROSS
BY: MICHAEL-ANGELO JAMES, Mayor

ATTEST:
MICHELLE LOVE, City Clerk

Commissioner Norman Davis made the motion to approve a Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia, to Authorize a Contract with M. Myers and Associates for Community and Public Relations Services as presented to the Commission for approval. Discussion was made. Commissioner Henry Strickland seconded the motion; the motion was approved with 3-0 vote.

A Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia, to Approve Purchase of New Generator for Waste Water Treatment Plant was presented to the Commission for approval.

RESOLUTION NO. R20-90

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA, TO APPROVE
PURCHASE OF NEW GENERATOR FOR WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT;
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

WHEREAS, on information and belief, the City of Waycross was awarded a grant to acquire a generator to ensure continuity of critical services at the Waste Water Treatment Plant; and

WHEREAS, the total approved FEMA/GEMA grant was \$141,000.00; and

WHEREAS, ESG Engineering issued requests for bids for a new generator and the Purchasing Department received bids from four (4) electrical contractors; and

WHEREAS, Smith Electric of Waycross, Georgia, submitted the lowest and best bid for the a new generator for the Waste Water Treatment Plant in the amount of \$725,000.00, and meeting all specifications and requirements; and

WHEREAS, said matter having been read and considered.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Commission of the City of Waycross that the City of Waycross hereby approves the purchase of a new generator for the

Waste Water Treatment Plant from Smith Electric of Waycross, Georgia, in an amount not to exceed seven hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars (\$725,000.00), to be paid from available FEMA and GEMA grant funds and available city funds.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor, City Manager and City Clerk be authorized and directed to execute any agreement or notice of award document 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 15th day of September, 2020.

CITY OF WAYCROSS
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 Purchase of New Generator for Waste Water Treatment Plant as presented to the Commission for approval. Commissioner Norman Davis seconded the motion. The motion carried with all present votes.

A Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia, To Approve Plans for Downtown Waycross Development Caboose Deck Area Upgrade Project, Old Christmas Decorations Project was presented for approval.

RESOLUTION NO. R20-87

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA,
TO APPROVE PLANS FOR DOWNTOWN WAYCROSS DEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY CABOOSE DECK AREA UPGRADE PROJECT, OLD POST OFFICE
CONSTRUCTION PROJECT AND DOWNTOWN CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS
PROJECT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

WHEREAS, the Downtown Waycross Development Authority, hereinafter “DWDA”, has dedicated 2014 S.P.L.O.S.T. funds, kept and maintained by the City of Waycross, for City Projects and for the designated purpose of “construction and infrastructure for economic development” pursuant to the Referendum ratified by the voters in November 2013; and

WHEREAS, DWDA had a maximum of \$250,000.00 designated by the referendum but only \$225,000.00 in S.P.L.O.S.T. taxes was actually collected, with \$122,563.00 having already been expended by DWDA; and

WHEREAS, DWDA has requested use of said designated S.P.L.O.S.T. funds for a Rail Depot Caboose Deck Area Upgrade Project (this is a revised upgrade from plans authorized by City Commission by Resolution No. R20-39, incorporated herein by reference as if fully set out, dated April 21, 2020) at a cost not to exceed **\$18,631.20**; for stabilizing and necessary construction (not being ordinary maintenance) at the old Post Office Building owned by DWDA at a cost not to exceed **\$26,917.39** and for the Downtown Christmas Decorations Project, as infrastructure for economic development, at a cost not to exceed **\$60,000.00**; and

WHEREAS, said matter having been considered.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Commission of the City of Waycross that the City Project of a Downtown Waycross Development Authority Rail Depot Caboose Deck Area Upgrade Project with said additional work to be completed by TYCO Construction and Industrial Services of Blackshear, Georgia, and upon completion and inspection as required by Resolution No. R20-39, incorporated herein by reference as if fully set forth, TYCO Construction and Industrial Services shall submit an invoice to DWDA or the City Manager for payment of a sum not to exceed **\$13,956.00**; and the City Finance Director is thereby authorized and directed to pay said invoice, and to be paid from 2014 S.P.L.O.S.T. funds designated for City Projects by Downtown Waycross Development Authority.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager and the Finance Director are hereby authorized and directed to, upon invoice from DWDA, for the City Project of a Downtown Waycross Development Authority Rail Depot Caboose Deck Area Upgrade Project for paint, labor and outdoor deck furniture and trash receptacles, to pay a sum to DWDA not to exceed **\$4,675.20**, to be paid from 2014 S.P.L.O.S.T. funds designated for City Projects by Downtown Waycross Development Authority.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager and the Finance Director are hereby authorized and directed to, upon invoice from DWDA, for the Old Post Office Construction Project, to pay a sum to DWDA not to exceed **\$25,817.39** for stabilizing and necessary construction, roofing, plumbing and electrical work already completed on said Project, to be paid from 2014 S.P.L.O.S.T. funds designated for City Projects by Downtown Waycross Development Authority.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager and the Finance Director are hereby authorized and directed to, upon invoice from DWDA, and as part of the Old Post Office Construction Project, to pay a sum to DWDA not to exceed **\$1,100.00** for an additional and essential secondary pump for the basement, to be paid from 2014 S.P.L.O.S.T. funds designated for City Projects by Downtown Waycross Development Authority.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager and the Finance Director are hereby authorized and directed to, upon invoice from DWDA, for the Downtown Christmas Decorations Project, to pay a sum to DWDA not to exceed **\$60,000.00** for infrastructure for downtown, to be paid from 2014 S.P.L.O.S.T. funds designated for City Projects by Downtown Waycross Development Authority.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor, City Clerk, City Finance Director and City Manager be authorized and directed 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 15th day of September, 2020.

CITY OF WAYCROSS

BY: MICHAEL-ANGELO JAMES, Mayor

ATTEST:

MICHELLE LOVE, City Clerk

A Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia, To Approve Plans for Downtown Waycross Development Caboose Deck Area Upgrade Project, Old Christmas Decorations Project was motioned for approval by Commissioner Norman Davis. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines. The motion was approved.

Mr. Larry Lockey, President NAACP Waycross Branch, 818 Sargeant Street, Waycross, Georgia, addressed the Confederate Monument located in the Phoenix Park to the Commission. He was against the monuments being in the park.

Richard Rose, NAACP was listed as a guest speaker. Mr. Rose could not speak, because he was not a citizen of Waycross. Commissioner Norman Davis motioned for approval for Mr. Rose to speak. The approval did not receive a second motion. Discussion was made by the Commission. The motion was not approved.

During last call, Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines requested for City Manager Tonya Hall to explain the Hotel Motel Tax, and how the money is used for advertising. Ms. Miller explain how and what the money was used. The money is used towards advertising because a percentage is used for promoting tourism.

After last call, Commissioner Norman Davis made the motion for the meeting to adjourn. Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Mayor Michael-Angelo James adjourned the meeting.

CITY OF WAYCROSS

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

ATTEST:

Michelle Love
MICHELLE LOVE, City Clerk