

**MINUTES
WAYCROSS CITY COMMISSION MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2020
5:00 PM**

The Commission of the City of Waycross held the Regular City Commission Meeting on Tuesday, October 20, 2020 in the Commission Chambers of City Hall. The meeting was called to order by Mayor James at 5:00 p.m. Members in attendance were: Mayor Michael-Angelo James, Mayor Pro Tem John Threat, Commissioners Marian Solomon-Gaines, Henry Strickland, and Norman Davis.

Commissioner Henry Strickland introduced Mayor Michael-Angelo James, who offered the opening invocation. The Invocation was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chief Cox Waycross Police Department announced Employee of the Month Enum Hyers.

During Executive Duties, Mayor James presented a Proclamation to Retired Educators:

Proclamation

Whereas, the Governor of the State of Georgia has proclaimed the day of Tuesday, November 3, 2020, as Retired Educators Day in Georgia; and

Whereas, there are more than 113,000 retired educators in Georgia, and over 25,000 of whom are members of the Georgia Retired Educators Association; and

Whereas, the retired educators of Georgia donate thousands of hours of volunteer service and make invaluable contributions to the welfare of their respective communities across the state; and

Whereas, it is appropriate that a day be designated for citizens to express their appreciation for the contributions that retired educators have made and continue to make for the betterment of human lives and for society; and

Whereas, local churches will recognize those lasting contributions made by retired educators in this community.

Now, therefore, I, Dr. Michael-Angelo James, Mayor of the City of Waycross, do hereby proclaim the day of November 1, 2020, as "Retired Educators Day" in Waycross and I call upon the citizens of our community to observe that day in an appropriate manner honoring retired educators.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto signed my name and have caused the Seal of the

City of Waycross to be affixed this 20th day of October, 2020.

Mayor Micheal-Angelo James

During Official Report, City Manager Tonya Miller discussed Breast Cancer Awareness and DOT working on along Plant Ave/Memorial Drive. DOT will try not to do detours, and it will last two to three weeks. Ms. Miller explained why everyone wore pink in response to October being Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Mayor James gave a reminder about October being the Month of Bully Awareness. He shared meeting with DOT discussing regional infrastructure.

No public remarks on official action.

Mayor 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 and Information Session Executive Session, Monday, October 5, 2020, 5:00 p.m.; Waycross City Commission Meeting, Tuesday, October 6, 2020, 5:00 p.m.; and Waycross City Commission Special Called Meeting, Thursday, October 8, 2020, 3:30 p.m.

Two Ordinances were presented for second reading:

ORDINANCE NO. O20-15

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE TEXT OF THE WAYCROSS ZONING ORDINANCE; TO AMEND ARTICLE VII – REQUIREMENTS BY DISTRICT, SECTION 708 – C-4 CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT; SUBSECTION 708.6 – CONDITIONAL USES; TO ALLOW FOR MICROBLADING WITH CONDITIONS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

ORDINANCE NO. O20-16

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA; TO AMEND CHAPTER 2 – ADMINISTRATION, ARTICLE II. – CITY COMMISSION, DIVISION 1. – MEETINGS, SECTION 2-65 – ORDER OF BUSINESS AND AGENDA, AND SECTION 2-67 – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN MEETINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO PROVIDE FOR SEVERABILITY; TO PROVIDE FOR AN

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

No Privilege License Renewals were presented for approval.

The Consent Calendar was approved by motion from Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines; seconded by Commissioner Henry Strickland, and approved with all votes.

No Privilege License was presented for approval.

The following bids were presented for approval:

1. Surplus Property WAYX 21-04. This is to declare Surplus Real Property at the corner of Ethel Street and Alpha Street. An adjoining property owner contacted having interest to purchase property. If declared surplus real property, Purchasing can issue bid packages to all adjoining neighbors to sell to the highest bidder. Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines motion to declare surplus real property. Commissioner Henry Strickland second the motion. The motion carried with all votes.
2. Bid #21-09 Playground Equipment – Bid is for playground equipment for E.E. Moore Park, Monroe Park, Gilchrist Park, and a park yet to be determine. Purchasing Department received 7 bids on 6 different vendors on playground equipment. After staff review, it is the recommendation to award the bid to Bliss Products of Lithia Springs, Georgia for a total of 83,308.00. It is the lowest and best bid meeting all specifications. It includes equipment, install, border, and engineered wood ground cover. Commissioner Norman Davis motioned to receive the bid. Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines seconded the motion. Discussion was made about the bid. The motion carried with all votes.

An Ordinance to Ratify the Closure and Abandonment of a Portion of Samuel Street from Hicks Street to Memorial Drive to Authorize a Quitclaim Deed to the Adjoining Property Owner was presented for the first emergency reading:

ORDINANCE NO. O20-20
AN ORDINANCE TO RATIFY THE CLOSURE AND ABANDONMENT OF A PORTION OF SAMUEL STREET FROM HICKS STREET TO MEMORIAL DRIVE; TO AUTHORIZE A QUITCLAIM DEED TO THE ADJOINING PROPERTY OWNER; TO ESTABLISH AN EFFECTIVE DATE; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines made the motion to approve an Ordinance to Ratify the Closure and Abandonment of a Portion of Samuel Street from Hicks Street to Memorial Drive to Authorize a Quitclaim Deed to the Adjoining Property Owner as presented for the for the first reading. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Norman Davis. Discussion was made pertaining to the ordinance. The motion was approved.

An Ordinance to Amend the Code of Ordinances of the City of Waycross, Georgia to Provide for a Service Agreement and Maximum Term of Office for the Municipal Court Judge was presented for first reading.

ORDINANCE NO. O20-21

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA, TO PROVIDE FOR A SERVICE AGREEMENT AND MAXIMUM TERM OF OFFICE FOR THE MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE; TO PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE DATE; TO REPEAL ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Commissioner Norman Davis made the motion to approve an Ordinance to Amend the Code of Ordinances of the City of Waycross, Georgia to Provide for a Service Agreement and Maximum Term of Office for the Municipal Court Judge as presented for the first reading. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines; and approved with a 4-0 vote.

An Ordinance by The City Commission of the City of Waycross, Georgia Relating to the Municipal Court to Proclaim the existence and Establishment of the Office of Prosecuting Attorney of the Municipal Court to Outline the Duties as Expressly allowed by the Constitution and Laws of the State of Georgia was presented for first reading.

ORDINANCE NO. O20-22

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA, TO PROVIDE FOR A SERVICE AGREEMENT AND MAXIMUM TERM OF OFFICE FOR THE MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE; TO PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE DATE; TO REPEAL ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines made the motion to approve an Ordinance by The City Commission of the City of Waycross, Georgia Relating to the Municipal Court to Proclaim the existence and Establishment of the Office of Prosecuting Attorney of the Municipal Court to Outline the Duties as Expressly allowed by the Constitution and Laws of the State of

Georgia presented for the first reading. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Henry Strickland; and the motion carried with all votes.

A Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia to approve Continued Use of American Data Group, Inc. Governmental Software Package for Fund Management, Utility Billing, Permits, Business Licenses, Account Payable, and Code Enforcement was presented for approval.

RESOLUTION NO. R20-97

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA,
TO APPROVE CONTINUED USE OF AMERICAN DATA GROUP, INC.
GOVERNMENTAL SOFTWARE PACKAGE FOR FUND MANAGEMENT, UTILITY
BILLING, PERMITS, BUSINESS LICENSES, ACCOUNT PAYABLE AND CODE
ENFORCEMENT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

WHEREAS, American Data Group, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as “ADG”) provides the City of Waycross’ governmental software package for Fund Management, Utility Billing, Permits, Business Licenses, Accounts Payable and Code Enforcement; and

WHEREAS, the City of Waycross desires to continue to utilize the governmental accounting software package maintained and supported by ADG for the above-referenced services; and

WHEREAS, annual maintenance and support for patching, fixes and upgrades is needed; and

WHEREAS, said matter having been considered.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Commission of the City of Waycross that the invoice, being invoice number 11767, received from American Data Group, Inc., in the amount of \$10,178.00 for annual maintenance and support be paid by the City of Waycross.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor, City Clerk, City Manager and City Finance Director be, and are hereby authorized, directed and empowered to pay said invoice #

11767 to American Data Group, Inc., 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 20th day of October, 2020.

CITY OF WAYCROSS

BY: MICHAEL-ANGELO JAMES, Mayor

ATTEST:

MICHELLE LOVE, City Clerk

A Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia to approve Continued Use of American Data Group, Inc. Governmental Software Package for Fund Management, Utility Billing, Permits, Business Licenses, Account Payable, and Code Enforcement was approved by motion from Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines. Commissioner Henry Strickland seconded the motion and was approved with a 4-0 vote.

A Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia to Award Bid Contract to Bliss Products of Lithia Springs, Georgia, for City Parks Playground Equipment Project was presented for approval.

RESOLUTION NO. R20-98

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA, TO AWARD BID CONTRACT TO BLISS PRODUCTS OF LITHIA SPRINGS, GEORGIA, FOR CITY PARKS PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT PROJECT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, several City Parks are in need of new playground equipment (that will include border and engineered wood fiber ground cover); and

WHEREAS, the City of Waycross Purchasing Department offered the project through competitive bidding, and received and opened seven (7) bids from six (6) vendors for this project; and

WHEREAS, Bliss Products of Lithia Springs, Georgia, submitted the lowest and best bid for the project at \$20,827.00 and which includes equipment, installation, border and engineered wood fiber ground cover per each City Park; 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 Parks Playground Equipment project is awarded to Bliss Products of Lithia Springs, Georgia, in an amount not to exceed a total amount of \$83,308.00 and to be paid from SPLOST funds for the following four (4) City Parks: E.E. Moore Park (District 1 – Commissioner Norman Davis), for Monroe Park and Gilchrist Park (District 4 – Commissioner Diane Hopkins) and a yet to be determined City Park (District 5 – Commissioner Henry Strickland who will decide on the exact park location).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor, City Manager and City Clerk be, and are, authorized and directed to execute any 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 20th day of October, 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 Award Bid Contract to Bliss Products of Lithia Springs, Georgia, for City Parks Playground Equipment Project was presented for approval. Commissioners Henry Strickland seconded the motion and all voted in approval.

A Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia, to Declare Certain Real Property Located at the Corner of Ethel Street and Alpha Street as Surplus Property to Authorize Sale to Highest Responsible Bidder was presented for approval.

RESOLUTION NO. R20-99

RESOLUTION NO. A RESOLUIJION OF THE CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA, TO DECLARE CERTRAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT THE CORNER OF ETHEL STREET AND A.LPHA STREET AS SURPLUS PROPERTY; TO AUTHORIZE SALE TO HIGHEST RESPONSIBLE BIDDER; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the City of Waycross is the owner of certain real property located at the corner of Ethel Street and Alpha Street, being approximately 0.204 acres; and

WHEREAS, an adjoining property owner has expressed an interest in purchasing said real property; and

WHEREAS, the City of Waycross has no useable purpose for said real property, more particularly described as being shown on a plat of survey made by Charles H. Tomberlin & Associates, Registered Land Surveyor, on October 6, 2020, attached hereto as Exhibit A and incorporated herein as if fully set forth and desires to declare said properly surplus property; and

WHEREAS, O.C.G.A. § 36-30-2 provides that the city commission has the discretion in the disposition of its properly, where exercised in good faith; and

WHEREAS, the City of Waycross desires to dispose of said real property as allowed by O.C.G.A. § 36-37-6; and

WHEREAS, said matter having been considered.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Commission of the City of Waycross that the Commission hereby consents to and authorizes that the above-described real property located at the corner of Ethel Street and Alpha Street be declared as surplus property.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Waycross shall make such sale of said real property to the highest responsible bidder, either by sealed bids or by auction after due notice has been given as provided and required by O.C.G.A. § 36-37-6 (a); and further that the City of Waycross shall have the right to reject any and all bids or to cancel any proposed sale.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor, City Manager, City Clerk and City Purchasing Director are authorized, empowered and directed to make such sale to the highest responsible bidder, of said above-described real property as allowed by Georgia law, ratifying and confirming all the acts and things done by said city officials, and to be done, in order to give effect to the purposes and intent of this Resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this matter shall be brought back to the City Commission to approve the sale and transfer said real property to the highest responsible bidder.

SO RESOLVED, this 20th day of October, 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 Declare Certain Real Property Located at the Corner of Ethel Street and Alpha Street as Surplus Property to Authorize Sale to Highest Responsible Bidder. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Norman Davis and approved by a 4-0 vote.

Reverend Ferrell Malone addressed the Commission concerning community issues. He expressed in early August, the lives of the Goodman children are changed forever. He requested for the officer involved in the incident certification be revoked. Reverend Malone presented a signed petition by the community and requested an apology to the family. City Attorney explained once the officer resigned he is no longer under the City of Waycross Police jurisdiction. Attorney Currie expressed when speaking with the post certification specialist she assured him Waycross no longer has jurisdiction.

Gerald Jriggs, Attorney for Georgia NAACP, Atlanta Georgia was allowed to speak as a guest. Commissioner Norman Davis motion that rules be tabled to allow Gerald Jriggs to speak. Mayor Pro Tem John Threat second the motion. Two Commissioners voted in favor. Two Commissioner opposed. Mayor Michael-Angelo James voted in favor. The motion passed with a 3-2 vote. Discussion was made about allowing Gerald Jriggs to speak.

Gerald Jriggs addressed the Commission about the incident which occurred in the Goodman family. He also requested the Commission to make a request to post to suspend the officer's certification.

During Last Call, Commissioner Norman Davis inquired about streets and properties. Commissioner Henry Strickland thanked everyone for wearing the Breast Cancer Awareness shirts. Mayor Pro Tem John Threat announced the cleanup of Oak Street headed by Dr. Rivers.

Mayor Michael-Angelo James shared Waycross was one of the hot spots concerning COVID-19. Testing is done at the local clinic.

After last call, Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Henry Strickland seconded the motion; all voted in favor and the meeting adjourned.

CITY OF WAYCROSS

ATTEST:


MICHELLE LOVE, City Clerk

BY: 
MICHAEL-ANGELO JAMES, Mayor