

MINUTES
WAYCROSS CITY COMMISSION MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2019
5:00 PM

The Honorable John Knox, Mayor of the City of Waycross called the Regular City Commission Meeting to order on Tuesday, October 22, 2019 at the Commission Chambers of City Hall. Commissioners in attendance with Mayor John Knox were: Mayor Pro Tem Diane Hopkins, Commissioners Marian Solomon-Gaines, Norman Davis, John Threat, and Jon Tindall. City Manager Tonya Miller and City Attorney Rick Currie were also in attendance.

Mayor John Knox introduced Commissioner Norman Davis who introduced Reverend Stacy Taylor of New You Ministries of Life, who offered the opening invocation. The Invocation was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor John Knox.

City Attorney Rick Currie requested that Resolution R19-64 be read and approved to ratify the actions of the Mayor on the third Tuesday in October, 2019, thereby recessing and continuing the schedule meeting until October 22, 2019, so that a quorum could be obtained. Mayor Pro Tem Diane Hopkins made the motion to approve the Resolution to Hold the Third Tuesday Meeting in the Month of October 20219, on October 22, 2019, as presented.

RESOLUTION
NO. R19-64

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA, TO HOLD THE
THIRD TUESDAY MEETING IN THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2019, ON
OCTOBER 22, 2019; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 21 of the Waycross City Charter, "on the first Tuesday in January in each year next following the regular municipal election at which the commissioners are elected, the commission shall meet at the usual place for holding meetings of the legislative body of the city ... and [t]hereafter the commission shall meet at such time as may be prescribed by ordinance or resolution; provided, that it shall hold at least two regular meetings each month"; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 2-60 of the Waycross Code of Ordinances, the "city commission shall meet in regular session twice a month on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 5:00p.m."; and

WHEREAS, on the third Tuesday in the month of October 2019, being October 15, 2019, there was no quorum for a meeting (as defined by Georgia law) at which official business could be conducted and, therefore, pursuant to Robert's Rules of Order (see City

Code of Ordinances, Section 2-63), the meeting was then continued and recessed to October 22, 2019, in an effort to obtain a quorum; and

WHEREAS, said matter having been considered.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Commission of the City of Waycross that the City Commission meeting, scheduled by Ordinance to be held on October 15, 2019, is recessed and continued and shall henceforth be held on October 22, 2019.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and City Clerk 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 22nd day of October, 2019, *nunc pro tunc* to October 15, 2019.

CITY OF WAYCROSS
BY: JOHN KNOX, Mayor

ATTEST:
JULIE DINKINS, City Clerk

The Resolution to Hold the Third Tuesday Meeting in the Month of October 2019, on October 22, 2019, 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.

Mr. Clint Bowman and Carla King, Okefenokee Heritage Center, appeared before the Commission to answer any questions the Commissioners may have regarding the Amendment to the lease between Okefenokee Regional Educational Service Agency (RESA) and the City of Waycross which will extend the lease term to fifty (50) years.

Under Executive Duties, Mayor John Knox appointed City Clerk, Julie Dinkins to serve as Deputy Marshall for Tax Collection Purposes. City Attorney Rick Currie explained that this is necessary to be able to collect taxes not in Ware County, but in Pierce County, Georgia. Commissioner Norman Davis made the motion to approve the appointment of City Clerk, Julie Dinkins as Deputy Marshall for Tax Collection Purposes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jon Tindall and passed with a 5-0 vote.

Human Resources Director Ed Lastinger announced that Ms. Robin Brookins, Executive Assistant to the City Manager, is the Employee of the Month for October 2019.

City Manager Tonya Miller informed the Commission and public that there will be a Town Hall Meeting tonight, October 22, 2019 at the C C McCray City Auditorium at 6:30 p.m. on the SPLOST referendum.

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 & Information Session, Monday, September 30, 2019 and October 14, 2019; Executive Session September 30, 2019 and Waycross City Commission Meeting, Tuesday, October 1, 2019 and October 15, 2019.

No Consent Resolutions, Ordinance Second Readings or Privilege License Renewals.

Mayor Pro Tem Diane Hopkins made the motion to approve and Consent Calendar as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines and approved with a 5-0 vote.

A Resolution to Approve Execution of Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Recipient-Subrecipient Agreement was presented for approval:

RESOLUTION NO. R19-61

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF
WAYCROSS, GEORGIA,
TO APPROVE EXECUTION OF HAZARD MITIGATION
GRANT PROGRAM RECIPIENT-SUBRECIPIENT
AGREEMENT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

WHEREAS, on October 8, 2016, President Barack Obama declared that a major disaster existed in the State of Georgia based on the disastrous event resulting from Hurricane Matthew beginning on October 4, 2016, to October 15, 2016, being Presidential Disaster Declaration DR-4284; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. R17-16, the City Commission approved the submission of a Project Application Grant Report and Project Worksheets in the name of the City of Waycross; and

WHEREAS, a Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (hereinafter "HMGP") award has been approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, designated HMGP 4284-0058, will be used to purchase and acquire four (4) fixed generators to ensure continuity of critical services to the City; and

WHEREAS, the total approved cost is \$353,702.00 with a federal share of \$265,277.00, a state share of \$35,370.00 and a City of Waycross share of \$53,055.00; and

WHEREAS, the funds are subject to the execution of the attached Recipient-Subrecipient Agreement in the form attached to this Resolution and incorporated herein as if fully set forth; 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 signing and execution of the Recipient-Subrecipient Agreement, in the form attached to this Resolution and incorporated herein as if fully set forth, for the purposes stated therein and the City Commission also authorizes the payment of its local share in an amount not to exceed \$53,055.00.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and City Clerk be, and the same are, hereby authorized, directed and empowered to execute the Recipient-Subrecipient Agreement in the name and on behalf of the City of Waycross, hereby ratifying and confirming the execution of said Agreement by the Mayor and City Clerk, and approving the act and things done as necessary to give effect to said Agreement.

SO RESOLVED, this 22nd day of October, 2019.

**CITY OF WAYCROSS
BY: JOHN KNOX, Mayor**

**ATTEST:
JULIE DINKINS, City Clerk**

The Resolution to Approve Execution of Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Recipient-Subrecipient Agreement was approved by motion from Commissioner Norman Davis; seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Diane Hopkins; and approved with a unanimous vote.

A Resolution of the Waycross City Commission to Approve Rehabilitation Assistance as Part of CHIP Grant Number 2017-112 as presented:

RESOLUTION NO. R19-059

**A RESOLUTION OF THE WAYCROSS CITY COMMISSION
TO APPROVE REHABILITATION ASSISTANCE AS PART OF C.H.I.P.
GRANT NUMBER 2017-112; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

WHEREAS, the City of Waycross received Georgia Department of Community Affairs Community HOME Improvement (hereinafter "CHIP") funds for the year 2019, being grant number 2017-112, and is currently administering said grant; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for rehabilitation assistance for residents within the city limits from the grant in order to complete the grant process; and

WHEREAS, a citizen, Nettie Williams, has completed the process and has been approved for rehabilitation assistance; and

WHEREAS, the City should request a draw on the C.H.I.P. grant from the Department of Community Improvement in the amount of \$39,778.00 for improvements to the property located at 908 Quarterman Street; and

WHEREAS, said funds are available and the matter has been duly considered; NOW,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Commission of the City of Waycross that the City of Waycross approves Nettie Williams' request for rehabilitation assistance, being loan number CH17XWAYC-03, in compliance with the program policies adopted by the City of Waycross in the amount of \$39,778.00 to be paid from C.H.I.P. grant number 2017-112.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor, City Clerk, City Manager, Finance Director, and Community Improvement Director be and are hereby authorized, directed, and empowered to execute the documents needed and necessary to submit the application set forth herein.

SO RESOLVED this 22nd day of October, 2019.

CITY OF WAYCROSS
BY: JOHN KNOX, Mayor

ATTEST:
JULIE DINKINS, City Clerk

The Resolution of the Waycross City Commission to Approve Rehabilitation Assistance as Part of CHIP Grant Number 2017-112 as presented was approved by motion from Marian Solomon-Gaines; seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Diane Hopkins and a unanimous vote of 5-0.

A Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia to Approve Amended Agreement for Operations, Maintenance and Management Services between the City of Waycross, Georgia and ESG Operations, Inc. was presented for approval:

RESOLUTION NO. R19-60

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA,
TO APPROVE AMENDED AGREEMENT FOR OPERATIONS, MAINTENANCE AND
MANAGEMENT SERVICES BETWEEN THE CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA AND
ESG OPERATIONS, INC.; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

WHEREAS, the City of Waycross, Georgia, initially entered into an agreement with ESG Operations, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as “ESG”) in March 2004, as amended from time to time, for operations, maintenance and management services at the City’s wastewater treatment plant; and

WHEREAS, ESG has performed under the terms of this Agreement, and all amendments thereto, and City has performed under the terms of the Agreement, and all amendments thereto; and

WHEREAS, the initial term was for 10 years commencing on April 1, 2004, and with subsequent Amendment 2 in March 2006 and Amendment 10 in March 2013, the current expiration date is April 30, 2021; and

WHEREAS, this Amended Agreement, in the form attached hereto and incorporated herein as if fully set forth, is intended to restate and ratify the initial agreement and all amendments thereto; and

WHEREAS, in Section 4, it addresses the matter of compensation and in Section 2.9.6.1, it addresses the City's immediate need for testing and monitoring required under the watershed protection plan recently adopted by the City; and

WHEREAS, said matter having been considered.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Commission of the City of Waycross, Georgia, that the Amended Agreement between ESG Operations, Inc., and the City of Waycross, Georgia, in the form attached hereto and incorporated herein as if fully set forth, be and is hereby approved.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Commission of the City of Waycross, Georgia, that the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized, directed and empowered to execute said Amended 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 22nd day of October, 2019.

CITY OF WAYCROSS
BY: JOHN KNOX, Mayor

ATTEST:
JULIE DINKINS, City Clerk

The Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia to Approve Amended Agreement for Operations, Maintenance and Management Services between the City of Waycross, Georgia and ESG Operations, Inc. was presented for approval. The motion was approved by motion from Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Diane Hopkins. The Resolution was approved with a 5-0 vote.

A Resolution Declaring a Moratorium on any Applications for Permit to Erect, Enlarge, Convert or Replace any off-Premises sign in the City was presented for approval:

RESOLUTION NO. R19-62

**A RESOLUTION OF THE WAYCROSS CITY COMMISSION
DECLARING A MORATORIUM ON ANY APPLICATIONS FOR
PERMIT TO ERECT, ENLARGE, CONVERT OR REPLACE ANY OFF- PREMISES
SIGN IN THE CITY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

WHEREAS, the City of Waycross has a Zoning Ordinance, adopted on April 19, 1984, as amended thereafter; and

WHEREAS, said Waycross Zoning Ordinance regulates the location, size, placement and certain features of off-premises signs in the City of Waycross in Article VIII, Section 801, et seq.; and

WHEREAS, it is the intention of the City of Waycross to restrict off-premises signs and lights which increase visual clutter, or increase the probability of traffic accidents by obstructing vision or creating undue visual distraction; and

WHEREAS, there is concern that the safety of our citizens and motorists may be compromised or stressed if too many off-premises electronic signs are allowed at traffic intersections or on the streets; and

WHEREAS, city officials need time to review the above-referenced Zoning Ordinance to determine if any changes need to be made as to off-premises signs; and

WHEREAS, the matter having been duly considered;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Commission of the City of Waycross that the City of Waycross imposes a moratorium on accepting, receiving and considering any petitions or applications to erect, enlarge, move, convert, or replace any off-premise sign in the City of Waycross pursuant to Article VIII, Section 801 et seq. of the Waycross Zoning Ordinance for a period of six (6) months from the date this Resolution.

SO RESOLVED, this 22nd day of October, 2019.

**CITY OF WAYCROSS
BY: JOHN KNOX, Mayor**

**ATTEST:
JULIE DINKINS, City Clerk**

The Resolution Declaring a Moratorium on any Applications for Permit to Erect, Enlarge, Convert or Replace any off-Premises sign in the City as presented was approved by motion from Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines; seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Diane Hopkins and carried with a 5-0 vote.

A Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia to Approve Amendment to Agreement and Lease between Okefenokee Regional Educational Service Agency and the City of Waycross, Georgia was presented for approval:

RESOLUTION NO. R19-63

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA,
TO APPROVE AMENDMENT TO AGREEMENT AND LEASE BETWEEN
OKEFENOKEE REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICE AGENCY AND THE CITY
OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

WHEREAS, the City of Waycross, Georgia, initially entered into an Agreement and Lease (hereinafter “Agreement”) with Okefenokee Regional Educational Service Agency (hereinafter referred to as “RESA”) on November 7, 2017, for leasing certain land owned by the City of Waycross in Winona Park and being outside the City limits; and

WHEREAS, the initial term was for 20 years commencing on November 7, 2017; and

WHEREAS, the City has been informed that the Heritage Center (which exists under the umbrella of RESA) were not awarded a grant last year because the 20 year lease did not suggest any “longevity at that location”; and

WHEREAS, in the new Section 2, it establishes a term of fifty (50) years from November 7, 2019, unless terminated by the City of Waycross or the Okefenokee Regional Educational Service Agency in accordance with the Section 15 of said Agreement and Lease; and

WHEREAS, said matter having been considered.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Commission of the City of Waycross, Georgia, that the Amendment to the Agreement and Lease between Okefenokee Regional Educational Service Agency and the City of Waycross, Georgia, in the form attached hereto and incorporated herein as if fully set forth, be and is hereby approved.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Commission of the City of Waycross, Georgia, that the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized, directed and empowered to execute said Amendment to the Agreement and Lease 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 22nd day of October, 2019.

**CITY OF WAYCROSS
BY: JOHN KNOX, Mayor**

**ATTEST:
JULIE DINKINS, City Clerk**

Commissioner Norman Davis made the motion to approve the Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia to Approve Amendment to Agreement and Lease between Okefenokee Regional Educational Service Agency and the City of Waycross, Georgia as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jon Tindall. Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines amended the motion by adding contingent upon receiving verification in writing of 50 year lease to Okefenokee Heritage Center. This amendment was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Diane Hopkins. This amended motion was approved with a 5-0 vote. The original motion was approved with a 5-0 vote.

Ms. Shawn Taylor, Southern Georgia Regional Commission, Area Agency on Aging, Regional Co-Coordinator, addressed the meeting concerning a viable plan to address senior adult hunger and transportation. SCRCD will be holding a Health Fair and a Food Drive to begin a plan of action to resolve this problem.

Dr. Earl Martin addressed the Commission concerning an industrial prospect, Georgia Tech is proposing a hemp production plant in Ware County, Georgia.

Commissioner Jon Tindall made the motion for the meeting to adjourn into Executive Session; seconded by Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines, and approved with a 5-0 vote. After Executive Session; Commissioner Norman Davis made the motion for the meeting to return to open session; seconded by Commissioner Jon Tindall; and approved with a 5-0 vote.

Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines made the motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Diane Hopkins and the meeting was adjourned by Mayor John Knox.

CITY OF WAYCROSS

BY: 

JOHN KNOX, Mayor

ATTEST:



JULIE C. DINKINS, City Clerk