

City Council Meeting
10 N. Public Square
March 2, 2023
6:00 P.M. – Work Session
7:00 P.M. – Council Meeting

WORK SESSION

Mayor Matthew Santini opened Work Session at 6:04 P.M. Council Members discussed each item from the agenda with corresponding Staff Members.

Council Member Hodge made a motion to go into a Closed Session for the purposes of Personnel. Council Member Stepp seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Vote: 5-0

Mayor Santini closed Work Session at 6:50 P.M.

OPENING MEETING

Mayor Santini called the Council Meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Invocation by Council Member Cooley.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Council Member Stepp.

The City Council met in Regular Session with Matthew Santini, Mayor presiding, and the following present: Kari Hodge, Council Member Ward One; Jayce Stepp, Council Member Ward Two; Cary Roth, Council Member Ward Three; Calvin Cooley, Council Member Ward Four; Gary Fox, Council Member Ward Five; Dan Porta, City Manager; Julia Drake, City Clerk; and Keith Lovell, Assistant City Attorney.

· Absent: Taff Wren, Council Member Ward Six

REGULAR AGENDA

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

1. February 16, 2023, Council Meeting Minutes

Council Member Fox made a motion to approve the February 16, 2023, Meeting Minutes. Council Member Hodge seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Vote: 5-0

APPOINTMENTS

2. Cartersville Building Authority Appointment

Dan Porta, City Manager, stated Tamara Brock had submitted her resignation from the

Cartersville Building Authority, and as in past appointments, the City Manager has been appointed to this Board. Therefore, it was recommended that the City Council appoint Dan Porta for this Board with a term expiration date of 5/15/2024.

Council Member Fox made a motion to approve the Cartersville Building Authority Appointment. Council Member Roth seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Vote: 5-0

FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES

3. Noise Ordinances

Keith Lovell, Assistant City Attorney, stated the current Noise Ordinance is being amended to add restrictions to engine, muffler and/or exhaust system noise and was being recommended for approval.

This is a first reading and will be voted on at the March 16, 2023, City Council Meeting.

Mayor Santini made the comment that the first reading of ordinances for Urban Camping and Panhandling will be removed from the agenda.

4. Signs and Outdoor Advertising Ordinance Update

Freddy Morgan, Assistant City Manager, stated an ordinance revision updating the definition of a pole banner with language that allows the City of Cartersville and the DDA to place banners that were approved under the Pole Banner Policy.

This is a first reading and will be voted on at the March 16, 2023, City Council Meeting.

CONTRACTS/AGREEMENTS

5. Service Agreement with Georgia Interpreting Services Network

Mr. Morgan stated the Municipal Court needs access to court certified sign language interpreters. A subpoenaed witness in an upcoming trial is deaf and we will need to utilize the interpreter during the proceedings. Georgia Interpreting Services Network (GISN) provides the required interpreter services, and we are asking for Council approval to enter into this agreement.

Council Member Hodge made a motion to approve the Service Agreement with Georgia Interpreting Services Network. Council Member Fox seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Vote: 5-0

BID AWARD/PURCHASES

6. Fourth Quarter 2022 Motorola Radio Invoice

Mr. Morgan stated Bartow County has submitted the fourth quarter 2022 invoice for the

Motorola radio system that is used by our Police, Fire, FiberCom, Gas, Electric, Public Works and Recreation Departments. This is a budgeted item and approval was recommended to pay this invoice in the amount of \$36,435.75.

Council Member Cooley made a motion to approve the Fourth Quarter 2022 Motorola Radio Invoice. Council Member Fox seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Vote: 5-0

7. New World 2023 Software Maintenance Cost

Mr. Morgan stated Bartow County has submitted the calendar year 2023 software maintenance cost invoice for the New World (Tyler Technologies) system that is used by our Fire and Police Departments. This is a budgeted item and approval was recommended to pay this invoice in the amount of \$43,003.10.

Council Member Roth made a motion to approve the New World 2023 Software Maintenance Cost. Council Member Fox seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Vote: 5-0

Council Member Hodge made a motion to add two (2) items to the agenda. Council Member Roth seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Vote: 5-0

8. GPON Fiber Optic Platform

Steven Grier, FiberCom Director, requested approval to pay \$101,145.82 for a new fiber optic delivery system from DZS. This is the system that FiberCom uses to deliver internet services to customers and some city/county locations. This is to replace the aging service delivery system. This is not a budgeted item and will be paid for with funds from the 2020 SPLOST.

Council Member Fox made a motion to approve the GPON Fiber Optic Platform. Council Member Cooley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Vote: 5-0

9. Fiber Pathway Installation

Mr. Grier this item is for the construction and installation of another fiber pathway to be built to 100 Busch Dr. in order to install services to Werner Enterprises. The total amount is \$29,987.48 from NCI. This is not a budgeted item but will be funded with the 2020 SPLOST and was recommended for approval.

Council Member Fox made a motion to approve the Fiber Pathway Installation. Council Member Roth seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Vote: 5-0

10. Meters for 175 E. Main Apartments

Derek Hampton, Electric Department Director, stated the Electric Department is requesting authorization to purchase the necessary (224) Sensus 12S meters from Equipment Controls Company, Inc. to serve power to the 175 E. Main Apartments project. The cost is \$41,074.88.

This is a budgeted expense.

Council Member Fox made a motion to approve Meters for 175 E. Main Apartments. Council Member Roth seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Vote: 5-0

11. Replacement Vehicle

Frank McCann, Fire Chief, stated On December 19, 2022, one of our patrol vehicles (Unit #4271 - 2018 Dodge Charger) answered a call at the Savoy Museum. While the patrol officer's vehicle was passing over the steel bollards, the security officer at the museum raised the patrol vehicle off the ground doing extensive damage to the vehicle, which was subsequently totaled.

On December 28, 2022, a 2022 Ford Explorer (\$36,800.00) was purchased from Brannen Motor Company to replace the above noted vehicle. I am requesting approval to pay for the replacement vehicle with insurance funds from the totaled vehicle (\$23,180.00) and federal asset forfeiture funds (\$13,620.00). This is not a budgeted item.

Council Member Hodge made a motion to approve the Replacement Vehicle. Council Member Roth seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Vote: 5-0

12. D & C Material Restock

Sidney Forsyth, Water Department Director, stated quotes were requested for various restock items needed for maintenance and repair of water lines and meter settings. The following quotes were received:

| | |
|------------------------------|------------|
| Consolidated Pipe and Supply | \$8,571.80 |
| Core & Main | \$8,961.75 |
| Fortiline Waterworks | \$9,915.54 |

It was recommended to approve the low bid from Consolidate Pipe and Supply of \$8,571.80. This is a budgeted expense to be paid from account #505.3320.52.2380.

Council Member Roth made a motion to approve the D&C Material Restock. Council Member Cooley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Vote: 5-0

13. Water Meter Invoice

Mr. Forsyth stated in June 2022 the water meter inventory was incredibly low and supply chain interruptions caused lengthy delays in meter deliveries. We requested any meters available from numerous suppliers to maintain sufficient stock. We received one pallet of 100 Neptune meters in September 2022 from Delta Municipal Supply. Although these were not AMI compatible meters, it was necessary that we use them as stock for meter installations.

Soon afterward, AMI meters were more easily obtained and the remaining order for non-AMI meters was cancelled. We received an invoice for the 100 Neptune meters from Delta Municipal Supply for \$7,750.00. I recommend your approval to pay this invoice from account

#505.3320.52.2390. This is a budgeted expense.

Council Member Roth made a motion to approve the Water Meter Invoice. Council Member Fox seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Vote: 5-0

CONTRACTS/AGREEMENTS

14. Brown Farm Road Sewer Lift Station Transfer

Mr. Forsyth stated due to the rate of industrial, commercial, and residential development requesting access to sewer service around this lift station, there needs to be a significant upgrade to the pumps and wet-well.

Since all of this proposed development would be served by Bartow County water and sewer, it became apparent that the best course of action would be to transfer ownership of the lift station to the County. The County has subsequently agreed to this transfer.

In addition to the lift station, force main, and associated easements, we will be transferring sewer service for 165 connected customers to the County. These County water customers will now also become County sewer customers.

Approval was recommended for this transfer and request the Mayor and City Clerk sign all required sale, deed, and easement documents.

Council Member Fox made a motion to approve the Brown Farm Road Sewer Life Station Transfer. Council Member Roth seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Vote: 5-0

RESOLUTIONS

15. SAFER Resolution

Hagen Champion, Deputy Fire Chief, stated approval was recommended of a resolution that will support an authorization to seek a grant from FEMA. This grant is called SAFER (Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response). If approved, this grant will provide 12 firefighters' salaries and fringe benefits for 36 months which will staff the new Station #5 on Carter Grove Blvd. The grant will not cover overtime, equipment, and training. The total of the grant will be \$3,138,252.50 with zero match.

Council Member Hodge made a motion to approve the SAFER Resolution. Council Member Roth seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Vote: 5-0

RESOLUTION 07-23

RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CARTERSVILLE APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING AN APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDING SUBMITTED TO THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY TO RECEIVE GRANT FUNDING FROM THE FISCAL YEAR 2022 STAFFING FOR ADEQUATE FIRE AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE (SAFER) GRANT PROGRAM AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE CARTERSVILLE CITY COUNCIL HELD ON MARCH 2, 2023.

WHEREAS, the City of Cartersville agrees to submit an application to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS)/Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Fiscal Year 2022 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant Program; and,

WHEREAS, the purpose of said grant shall be to hire 12 (twelve) new firefighters to help the City if Cartersville meet industry minimum standards and attain 24-hour staffing to provide adequate fire protection from fire and fire-related hazards, and to fulfill the mission of the fire department and allow firefighters to respond to calls for service; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Cartersville deems the Project to be in the best interests of the citizens of Cartersville and promotes the public's general health, safety, and welfare to apply for said grant funding in the amount of \$3,138,252.50 which will be used to fund salary and benefits for 12 (twelve) new firefighters for the 36-month period of performance; and,

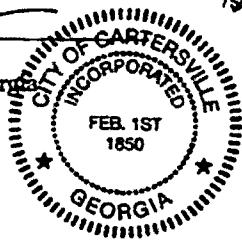
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor of Cartersville acting in his official capacity and on behalf of the Cartersville City Council is hereby authorized to file an application with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to receive said Fiscal Year 2022 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant Program funds in order to hire 12 (twelve) new firefighters. If awarded grant funding, the City of Cartersville is prepared to meet all financial obligations that are associated with this grant, including providing necessary equipment, training, and personnel costs for the life span of this grant as specified within this resolution; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and City Clerk of Cartersville are hereby authorized to execute any and all documents as may be required to accompany said application and to provide the Federal Emergency Management Agency any and all Support Documentation which is considered to be part of said application process.

BE IT AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED AND ADOPTED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CARTERSVILLE, this 2nd day of March, 2023.

ATTEST:

Julia Drake
s/ Julia Drake, City Clerk
City of Cartersville, Georgia



Matthew J. Santini
Matthew J. Santini, Mayor
City of Cartersville, Georgia

ADDED ITEMS

16. Smith Douglas Homes Deed of Dedication

Keith Lovell, Assistant City Attorney, stated that this Deed of Dedication was needed for an easement at Jackson Farms and recommended approval.

Council Member Fox made a motion to approve the Deed of Dedication. Council Member Roth seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Vote: 5-0

17. Public Works Interim Director

Mr. Porta stated that Tommy Sanders, Public Works Director, has resigned effective March 10, 2023. Continuing, he requested approval from the Mayor and Council to accept Mr. Sanders resignation and appoint Wade Wilson as the Interim Public Works Director, effective March 11, 2023.

Council Member Fox made a motion to accept the resignation of Tommy Sanders and appoint Wade Wilson as Interim Director. Council Member Stepp seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Vote: 5-0

OTHER

Mayor Santini asked if there was any other business to come before Council.


Suzanne Benoit, 215 W. Cherokee Ave., came forward to state that the city was requiring new Smart Meters and expressed her concern with the invasion of privacy due to radiation and provided a handout (Exhibit A) with research.


Janice Wright, 217 W. Cherokee Ave., came forward to express her concern about the environmental factors to our health and the health risks that these new Smart Meters will pose for her and her family’s health. She requested that the City of Cartersville provide an ‘opt-out’ option for these meters.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business to discuss, Council Member Stepp made a motion to adjourn.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:23 P.M.

/s/ 
Matthew J. Santini
Mayor

ATTEST: 
/s/ Julia Drake
Julia Drake
City Clerk

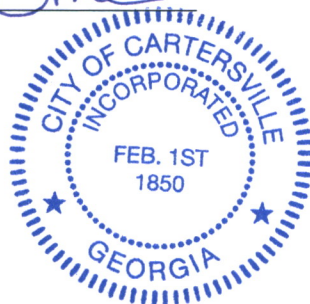


EXHIBIT 'A'



Institute for Health and the Environment



WHO Collaborating Center
in Environmental Health

2 August 2016

Edward S. Finley, Jr., Chair
North Carolina Utilities Commission
4325 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-4300

Subject: Docket Number E-7 Sub 1115 - Smart Meter Opt-Out Fees

Dear Chairman Finley

We, the undersigned, are a group of scientists and health professionals who together have coauthored many peer-reviewed studies on the health effects of radiofrequency radiation (RFR). We are aware that the North Carolina Utilities Commission (NCUC) is considering a proposed smart meter opt-out fee from Duke Energy, which was submitted on July 29, 2016. Smart meters, along with other wireless devices, have created significant public health problems caused by the RFR they produce, and awareness and reported problems continue to grow. With Duke Energy being America's largest utility provider and, consequently, having the largest potential smart meter implementation reach, it is imperative that the NCUC be fully aware of the harm that RFR can cause and allow utility customers to opt out of smart meter installation with no penalty.

The majority of the scientific literature related to RFR stems from cell phone studies. There is strong evidence that people who use a cell phone held directly to their ear for more than ten years are at significantly increased risk of developing gliomas of the brain and acoustic neuromas of the auditory nerve. There is also evidence that the risk of developing these cancers is greater in younger than older people. The May 2016 report from the US National Toxicology Program showing that rats exposed to cell phone radiation for nine hours per day over their life-span develop gliomas of the brain and Schwannoma of the heart (the same kind of cancer as acoustic neuroma) adds proof to the conclusions from the human health studies that radiofrequency radiation increases risk of cancer.

Smart meters and cell phones occupy similar frequency bands of the electromagnetic spectrum, meaning that cell phone research can apply to smart meter RFR. Smart meter RFR consists of frequent, very intense but very brief pulses throughout the day. Because smart meter exposure over a 24 hour period can be very prolonged (pulses can average 9,600 times a day), and because there is building evidence that the sharp, high intensity pulses are particularly harmful, the cell phone study findings are applicable when discussing adverse health impacts from smart meters.

While the strongest evidence for hazards coming from RFR is for cancer, there is a growing body of evidence that some people develop a condition called electrohypersensitivity (EHS). These individuals respond to being in the presence of RFR with a variety of symptoms, including headache, fatigue, memory loss, ringing in the ears, "brain fog" and burning, tingling and itchy skin. Some reports indicate that up to three percent of the population may develop these symptoms, and that exposure to smart meters is a trigger for development of EHS.

In short:

- Smart meters operate with much more frequent pulses than do cell phones, increasing the potential for adverse health impacts.
- Smart meter pulses can average 9,600 times a day, and up to 190,000 signals a day. Cell phones only pulse when they are on.
- Cell phone RFR is concentrated, affecting the head or the area where the phone stored, whereas smart meter RFR affects the entire body

- An individual can choose whether or not to use a cell phone and for what period of time. When smart meters are placed on a home the occupants have no option but to be continuously exposed to RFR.

We are aware that the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) drafted an August 2015 report, "Health Impacts of Advanced Metering Systems (Smart Meters)," and we strongly disagree with the DHHS's Executive Summary conclusion that "There is insufficient evidence to link RF exposures to adverse health outcomes." The research findings by independent scientists point to a clearer relationship between RFR and health effects than industry-funded studies.

We read with great concern Laura Combs' and Andrew McAfee's May 5, 2016, review of public records related to the August 24, 2015, DHHS smart meter health impact report. As researchers highly involved in educating others about the many serious adverse health impacts of RFR, we strenuously object to the poor source material chosen by DHHS staff. With a leading DHHS staff member admitting that he is not qualified to review the literature, and the fact that he relied on industry representatives for assistance, the DHHS conclusion is not surprising. Further, the unscientific, medically unsupported characterization by another DHHS staff member that people who experience electromagnetic hypersensitivity are mentally ill (this staff member also stated that he is advocating for Duke Energy in relation to smart meter opt-out) reveals a public health agency that is not only incapable of producing an adequate report, but one that is not working to ensure fair treatment of and protection of the public.

The adverse health impacts of low intensity RFR are real, significant and for some people debilitating. We want to stress three fundamentals as your agency proceeds to consider a smart meter opt-out:

- The Federal Communication Commission's safety standards do not apply to low intensity RFR.
- There is no safe level of exposure established for RFR.
- People around the world are suffering from low intensity RFR exposure, being at increased risk of developing both cancer and EHS.

Citizens rely on their government agencies for protection from harm. Accordingly, we urge the NCUC to reject any fees or tariffs associated with smart meter opt-out and allow citizens to opt out without penalty.

Thank you for your attention and consideration. What you do in this instance affects the lives of many in North Carolina and beyond.

Yours sincerely,



David Carpenter, MD
Director, Institute for Health and the Environment
University at Albany

Dr. Lennart Hardell, MD, PhD
Professor
Department of Oncology, University Hospital
Orebro, Sweden

Dr. Magda Havas, BSc, PhD
Environmental & Resource Studies, Trent University
Canada

Dr. Martha Herbert, MD, PhD
Assistant Professor of Neurology, Harvard Medical School
Pediatric Neurologist and Neuroscientist at the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston

Dr. Sam Milham, MD, MPH
Former chief epidemiologist, Washington State Department of Health