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MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING

FEBRUARY 5, 2019 5:00 P.M.

The Mayor and Council met for a called meeting.

Those Present:	John Howard	Mayor
	Wayne Adcock	Vice-Mayor
	Lee Malcom	Council Member
	Myoshia Crawford	Council Member
	Ross Bradley	Council Member
	Larry Bradley	Council Member
	Norman Garrett	Council Member
	Nathan Little	Council Member
	David Dickinson	Council Member
	Logan Propes	City Administrator
	Debbie Kirk	City Clerk

Staff Present: Rodney Middlebrooks, Darrell Stone, Patrick Kelley, Sadie Krawczyk, Chris Bailey

Visitors: Shane Short, Andrew Kenneson, Sharon Swanepoel, Les Russell, Lawrence Quammen

I. CALL TO ORDER – JOHN HOWARD

1. Roll Call

Mayor Howard noted that Council Member Ross Bradley and Council Member Nathan Little were absent. There was a quorum.

Council Member Ross Bradley arrived during the discussion.

Council Member Nathan Little arrived during the discussion.

II. NEW BUSINESS

1. Council Industrial Development Session


Mr. Shane Short, Executive Director of the Development Authority of Walton County, facilitated the meeting to discuss Industrial Development. He questioned where we go from here and discussed communication being the missing link between the County and the City. He stated that infrastructure is needed on the front-end. Mr. Short questioned goals and the extent that the City is willing to go in order to get industries. Infrastructure costs and taxes have to be considered. He stated in order to grow the City and County need a plan. Mr. Short discussed what to expect at the upcoming Economic Development Summit which will be held in Madison, Georgia on March 21 and 22. He stated there have been lots of large industries to come and go in Walton County and Stanton Springs. Those industries were willing to invest over a billion dollars and hire thousands of employees, but did not stay. He questioned whether the voters, Board of Commissioners, and Council Members want these kinds of companies (i.e. automobile manufacturers) in our community. He noted that the decision makers never had the opportunity to make that decision. The decision makers are the people that vote and control the popular vote, and that would be your Board of Commissioners and City Council Members. Together as a group, he stated we have never talked about who and what type of industry we want in Walton County.

Mayor, Council, staff, and Mr. Short discussed future growth, household salaries, education, training, communication gaps, tax abatements, and land. They discussed attracting the younger generation with a vibrant downtown, their education, and a diversity of quality housing. They discussed wages and the competitive job market. They discussed doing a tour of the industries for the seniors again this year and communities working together. Intergovernmental Agreements, other Cities, and sharing of resources were also discussed.

III. ADJOURN

*Motion by R. Bradley, seconded by Malcom.
Passed Unanimously.*


MAYOR


CITY CLERK

1974

MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING

FEBRUARY 5, 2019

6:00 P.M.

The Mayor and Council met for a called meeting.

Those Present:	John Howard	Mayor
	Wayne Adcock	Vice-Mayor
	Lee Malcom	Council Member
	Myoshia Crawford	Council Member
	Ross Bradley	Council Member
	Larry Bradley	Council Member
	Norman Garrett	Council Member
	Nathan Little	Council Member
	David Dickinson	Council Member
	Logan Propes	City Administrator
	Debbie Kirk	City Clerk
	Paul Rosenthal	City Attorney
	Jesse Couch	City Attorney

Staff Present: Danny Smith, Chris Croy, R.V. Watts, Bill Owens, Beth Thompson, Rodney Middlebrooks, Brian Thompson, Darrell Stone, Patrick Kelley, Sadie Krawczyk, Chris Bailey, Beverly Harrison

Visitors: Andrew Kenneson, Sharon Swanepoel, Les Russell, Matt Bidwell, Carson Saville, Brian Collins, James Draper

I. CALL TO ORDER – JOHN HOWARD

1. Roll Call

Mayor Howard noted that all Council Members were present. There was a quorum.

2. City Administrator Update

City Administrator Logan Propes stated progress is being made on the sidewalk projects, especially on the North end of town. Staff has been working hard on the R1A Zoning edits that were discussed at the Planning Retreat. He explained a Special Planning and Code Committee Meeting will be held on February 20 or 21 for input on the edits, prior to the March Planning and Zoning Committee Meeting. It will then be brought to Council for approval in April.

3. Central Services Update

Mr. Chris Bailey explained the numbers were standard for January compared to last year. He discussed the GIS System, which is one of the new preapproved CIP Projects. The bid from Carter & Sloope Consulting Engineers came in just under the budgeted amount of \$250,000.00. They are currently working through the City's system and needs assessment to start building the program. Mr. Bailey explained depending on whether the program is hosted locally or in the cloud, he may request to purchase the hardware for the project around mid-year. The grounds crew picked up almost 3,000 pounds of trash in January. He stated a new roof is being donated to the On-Stage Playhouse building. The City will be getting an intern from the School of Public and International Affairs for the Emerging Leaders Internship Program through the University of Georgia. Interviews will be held with three individuals from the undergraduate program over the next few days. They should be starting by the end of next week and work 20 hours a week.

II. COMMITTEE INFORMATION

1. Finance

a. Monthly Finance Report

Ms. Beth Thompson presented the monthly Finance Report. Due to yearend and audit entries, the numbers are not final for December. She anticipates having budget amendments for Council approval next month. The property tax collections are up to 98% for 2018. Staff has been working diligently training on the new utility billing system. She stated Mauldin & Jenkins will be on-site for two weeks doing their field work for the external audit.

b. Renewal – Health & Ancillary Insurance

Mr. Les Russell discussed the proposed changes to the health plan, which were presented during the budget meeting. The proposal is for a 9-month period, from April until the end of December. This would change the renewal date so the health plan would start on January 1, 2020. Due to the extremely high utilization they are looking at adding a third day to the clinic schedule. The clinic helps to keep the costs down, and they plan to promote the Teladoc system, which is a free service that has not been advertised enough. He explained the elective benefits will not change,

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but they are trying to make the wellness plan easier to understand. There will be four metrics measured: cholesterol, blood pressure, BMI, and tobacco. He stated this will reduce the deduction codes from 28 codes down to 4 codes.

Mr. Matt Bidwell, with MSI Benefits Group, reviewed the changes that were made last year. The City changed the claims administrator to Meritain, the network provider to Aetna, Delta for dental, and Aetna for vision. The basic life renewed with Standard Life last year with no changes. He explained the dental, vision, and life have two-year rate guarantees, so they are not currently up for review. He discussed the proposed changes in detail. He recommended that the surcharges be eliminated and the employee bi-weekly deductions be uniform. He explained the slight cost adjustments for recouping the difference and keeping the change cost neutral. Instead of multiple amounts being paid, there would be employee benefit changes. The maximum out-of-pocket and deductible amounts will change. He stated the amount of the deductible does not affect co-pay amounts. Costs for surgery, advanced imaging scans, out-patient surgery, and hospitalization go toward deductible amounts. Most employees don't pay their deductible during the year. The current standard deductible will change from \$500 to \$1,750 and the maximum out-of-pocket will change from \$2,000 to \$3,000. Employees will have the opportunity to lower their deductible by participating in the wellness program. He explained deductible credits will be given for body mass index, cholesterol ratio, blood pressure, and non-tobacco use. Employees that fully participate will not see an increase in their deductible amount. Mr. Bidwell stated his recommendation is to continue with Meritain, change the anniversary policy to 9-months with renewal on January 1, and accept the recommended lasers.

Council, staff, and Mr. Bidwell further discussed lasers, risks, premiums, and percentages.

City Administrator Logan Propes stated it is a lot of information, but is also one of the biggest things the City does for the employees. He stated the proposed recommendation is for the 9-month renewal with the laser option included with Meritain, and the associated fee schedules and deductibles as presented.

Mr. Russell discussed incentivizing the wellness component, the clinic, maintenance drugs, diet, exercise, and disease management.

The committee recommends to Council approval of the 9-month renewal with the laser option included with Meritain and the fee schedules and deductibles as presented.

*Motion by Malcom, seconded by Little.
Passed Unanimously.*

c. Renewal – Property & Casualty Insurance

Mr. Carson Saville explained the renewal details for property and casualty insurance for 2019, stating the recommendation is to stay with State National. The total premium is \$375,412 which is \$13,621 more than last year. He explained the increases are based solely upon exposure. The automobile liability premium increased due to the addition of 12 new units. The cyber liability premium is also higher due to the expanded broader coverage.

Council, staff and Mr. Saville discussed the potential addition of vehicles, and the impact to the premium amounts.

The committee recommends renewal of the property and casualty insurance coverage to Council.

*Motion by Little, seconded by Malcom.
Passed Unanimously.*

d. Utility Deposit Update

Ms. Beth Thompson explained the update of the utility customer deposit policy. The policy has been in place for a long time without updates. She stated the deposits are set up in the system and handled manually. Currently, residential customers with five years of uninterrupted service are eligible to receive a refund of their security deposit down to \$50. The security deposits get applied directly to their account annually each February. She explained the policy change would allow the entire amount of the deposit plus interest to be refunded at the end of the five years. The refund would be applied directly to the eligible customer's utility account during the month after the fifth year of uninterrupted service, effective immediately.

Council and staff discussed the quantity of customers affected, accumulated interest, and deposit amounts.

The committee recommends to Council to accept the utility deposit policy change.

*Motion by Little, seconded by Malcom.
Passed Unanimously.*

2. Airport

a. Monthly Airport Report

Mr. Chris Bailey presented the monthly Airport Report. He discussed the prices and comparison of AvGas fuel within the region. The East Apron Rehabilitation and Expansion Project is complete, with the exception of lowering a manhole cover. The final inspection will be on February 14, and the project should finish approximately \$50,000 under budget. He explained they are currently working with the Georgia Department of Transportation for approval to use the savings from the East Apron to help fund the West Apron Project, which may potentially incur an additional \$15,000. The annual inspection by GDOT is scheduled for February 13.

3. Public Works

a. Monthly Solid Waste Report

Mr. Danny Smith presented the monthly Solid Waste Report. He discussed the annual tipping fees, diversion rates, and tonnage. The Transfer Station projects are still pending. The work was unable to be completed due to the overflow inside the building, but that has been handled. The sprinkler system will be replaced for fire protection. The Friday schedule is being extended; the Transfer Station will stay open until 5:00 pm for the remainder of February. The hours will then be analyzed at that time.

Council and staff discussed glass recycling.

b. Monthly Streets & Transportation Report

Mr. Chris Croy presented the monthly Streets & Transportation Report. The sidewalk project on Bold Springs Avenue and curb replacement on Midland Avenue were recently finished. The sidewalk replacement on Williams Street started this week; the crews will go back to the Highland Avenue project when it is complete. He explained the leaf truck continues to run every day, with a large increase in volume this year. The crews are picking up between 20,000 and 24,000 pounds of leaves each day. They also continue to battle litter on the right-of-ways.

4. Utilities

a. Monthly Electric & Telecom Report

Mr. Brian Thompson presented the monthly Electric & Telecom Report. He stated the crews have installed the conduit, piping, and boxes for the lighting on Spring Street. They have also started planting the trees. Due to some redesign and other facilities being in the way, they will be jumping around doing sections at a time. The Stonecreek Subdivision conduit has been completed and the poles have been set. The primary cable will be pulled next week. He explained they are building a three-phase line on 2nd Street and Barrett Street in conjunction with the Walton Mill Apartments. Silver Queen is moving forward, and Windstream is working on a solution. WOW Express is installing an automated car wash, which will use three-phase voltage. Conduit is being placed in areas that may have concrete and asphalt for the light installation on North Broad Street. Mr. Thompson explained the lasers for the second CMTS have been delayed until March, but the first phase is complete and running at 60% capacity. He stated there are a limited number of fibers between Monroe and Loganville. They are working on a design to add a four-way microduct at the same time as the water line is being installed going to Loganville. He explained at some point this year they will be looking at doing an IPV6 conversion, which is basically an updated network translation device.

b. CallTower Resale Partner Agreement

Mr. Brian Thompson stated BroadRiver was purchased by CallTower, Inc. They supply the dial tone services to the City, and CallTower provides a more advanced set of services. He explained this agreement will allow the City to resale those advanced services to existing customers.

The committee recommends approval of the CallTower Resale Partner Agreement to Council.

*Motion by L. Bradley, seconded by Adcock.
Passed Unanimously.*

MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING FEBRUARY 5, 2019 6:00 P.M.**c. Overhead & Underground Wiring Policy Amendment**

Mr. Brian Thompson discussed the Overhead and Underground Wiring Policy. The amendment will simplify the policy for development. The existing policy was written to recoup costs and cover the ratepayers, but it causes delays in the development process. He explained the uncertainty of costs prior to the design and bidding being completed can add months to the process. The proposed policy simplifies the process, while recouping the cost and preventing existing ratepayers from subsidizing a project. He stated the Electric Cities of Georgia will reevaluate the development costs each year in December, and if any changes are needed, they will go into effect in January.

Council and staff discussed amounts, large developments, small developments, infill developments, other Cities, and Electric Companies.

The committee recommends approval of the Overhead and Underground Wiring Policy Amendment to Council.

*Motion by Adcock, seconded by L. Bradley.
Passed Unanimously.*

d. Monthly Water, Sewer, Gas, & Stormwater Report

Mr. Rodney Middlebrooks presented the monthly Water, Sewer, Gas, & Stormwater Report. He stated they are currently installing the gas line to five lots on a private drive neighborhood on Dean Hill Road. The gas main replacement on Young Street was completed a couple of weeks ago. The Main Street Walton Mill Development and the Felkers have agreed to split the cost of the materials to upgrade the sewer line along 2nd Street. The Wayne Street and Highland Avenue water line will be done tomorrow, and will get started on the Radford Street water main extension. He explained the water treatment plant remodel is nearing completion. They started landscaping to match City Hall today.

5. Public Safety**a. Monthly Fire Report**

Fire Chief Bill Owens presented the monthly Fire Report. He discussed the Fire Loss Save Report for 2018. There has been a 32% increase in call volume over the last five years, which is normal. He highlighted the SAFER Program and the FM Global Grant from 2018. He stated they have almost completed the Firefighter II Training Program. Chief Owens discussed the benefits and advantages of having the New Fire Training Facility.

b. Monthly Police Report

Council Member Larry Bradley discussed touring the 911 Center, their call volume, and statistics. He encouraged Council Members to visit the facility. He commended the dispatchers for their multitasking and doing an amazing job.

Police Chief R.V. Watts presented the monthly Police Report. He stated December had the lowest call volume of the year. The officers participated in nine community events. He discussed the Shop with a Hero Event. Chief Watts stated the event had the largest sponsorship ever. They sponsored 70 kids and spent approximately \$200 on each kid. He discussed receiving hand written thank you letters from some of the kids. He recognized having two new officers to graduate from the Police Academy.

c. Approval – Out of State Training for Police

Police Chief R.V. Watts explained FBI-LEEDA will be holding the same Media and Public Relations Officers Training in Gwinnett County in June. Therefore, he withdrew the out-of-state training request.

Withdrawn.

d. Lease Program – Police Vehicles

Mr. Chris Bailey discussed the policy change concerning preapproved CIP budgeted items. He wanted to clarify the purchase agreement for the City to obtain leased vehicles going forward. The request is for the lease purchase of six new fully-outfitted 2019 Chevrolet Tahoes for the total amount of \$67,711.68. He explained this speeds up the process for acquiring new police vehicles and allows full management of the fleet. It also provides more purchasing power, due to Enterprise buying more vehicles each year. The capital outlay gets spread out over a period of 48 months, instead of being paid out-front for the purchase.

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City Administrator Logan Propes stated the funding comes from SPLOST Funds, not the General Fund.

The committee recommends to Council approval of the Lease Purchase Agreement for \$67,711.68.

*Motion by Malcom, seconded by R. Bradley.
Passed Unanimously.*

6. Planning & Code

a. Monthly Code Report

Mr. Patrick Kelley presented the monthly Code Report. He stated Silver Queen broke ground in December, and the Main Street Walton Mill Apartments have gotten started.

7. Economic Development

a. Monthly Economic Development Report

Ms. Sadie Krawczyk presented the monthly Economic Development Report. She explained the Annual Downtown Awards Celebration recognized JEC Development with the Golden Hammer Award for the renovation of the Monroe Mercantile Building. Carole Queen was recognized as Volunteer of the Year, Made in Monroe Business of the Year. The Young Gamechangers were welcomed to the community last week. She explained the Event Cards will be mailed out soon, and they are working on raising the sponsorship for the events. The Chocolate Walk is Thursday and the Car Show is coming in March. She stated the Visitors Center had 287 more visitors in 2018 than the previous year.

8. Parks

a. Monthly Parks Report

Ms. Sadie Krawczyk stated part of the Crowdfunding Campaign was for equipment at Childers Park, and the slides have already been put into the hillside.

City Administrator Logan Propes explained that he and Darrell Stone will be meeting with Council Members to get started with a master plan for each of the City Parks within their districts.

III. ITEMS OF DISCUSSION

1. Rezone – 1600 East Church Street
2. Appointments (3) – Tree Board
3. Approval – Fireworks Agreement
4. 2nd Reading – Historic Preservation Commission Membership Ordinance Amendment
5. 1st Reading – Performance and Maintenance Bonds Ordinance Amendment
6. Approval – NextSite Contract Funding Renewal
7. Approval – 2019 Concert Series Contracts for DDA

There was a general discussion on the above items. There was no action taken.

IV. ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION

1. Resolution – Electric Cities of Georgia (ECG) Participant Contract Amendment No. 3

Mr. Brian Thompson explained the contract previously left unfunded engineering costs. Those costs were spread out for all of the service participants to cover. He explained this amendment changes that. The costs will be paid by the City that actually incurs the costs.

To approve the resolution as presented.

*Motion by Little, seconded by R. Bradley.
Passed Unanimously.*

V. ADJOURN

*Motion by Malcom, seconded by Adcock.
Passed Unanimously.*


MAYOR


CITY CLERK