

**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
JULY 12, 2010
5:00 P.M.**

CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER: Mayor Cox called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Those present included Council Members Calvin Byrd, Mike Wilson, and Mike Sosebee. Staff included Dana Miles, Kim Cornelison, Gary Barr, Trampas Hansard and Russ Chambers. Mayor Cox reported that Councilman James Grogan was out of town.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE: Invocation was led by Councilman Calvin Byrd, followed by the pledge.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Council approved the minutes from the regular meeting held June 7, 2010. Motion by Wilson, second by Byrd.

NEW BUSINESS:

Proposed Sign Ordinance: Dana Miles presented a draft of a proposed sign ordinance stating that would appreciate staff and council input over the next thirty days so that in the next 30 days. He also stated that changes via recent court decisions makes certain provisions in the existing ordinance less than ideal. The revision will also allow staff to issue sign permits provided the application falls within the sign ordinance criteria. Variances would come before the council.

Bonnie Warne has provided three other entities ordinances for comparisons and review as well. Mr. Miles asked the council to review the ordinances and make suggestions

Mayor Cox suggested changes regarding political signs – limiting one sign per candidate per parcel. Discuss was also presented on sign placement, specifically regarding right-of-way.

Proposal to incorporate speed tables and raised crosswalks on Allen Street: Mayor Cox presented quotes staff acquired for installing speed tables and crosswalks on Allen Street. Mayor Cox asked for the crosswalks to be upgraded to including using bricks the city owns – making the sidewalk/crosswalks look a little more aesthetic.

There was discussion about having two crosswalks and one speed table. Crosswalks could be funded out of SPLOST money. One crosswalk would be by the middle school and the other by head start. Council instructed staff to examine the possibility of installing two crosswalks and one speed bump and incorporate the city-owned brick into the crosswalks.

Council approved the unit prices for two crosswalks and one speed table and authorized the mayor to get costs on the brick inserts. Provided the cost to incorporate the bricks is not too substantial, then the project can proceed. Motion by Mike Sosebee, second by Mike Wilson. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Utility Ordinance Amendment: To hear an ordinance to amend the utilities code on water and sewer bill payments by repealing existing Section 14-25; to provide for a new Section 14-25; to provide for an effective date and for other purposes. Public Hearings: July 12 and August 2, 2010.

Dana Miles opened the public hearing and presented the ordinance. There were approximately 10 people present. There being no public comment, the hearing was closed.

Mayor Cox asked the council for a motion. Mike Sosebee made a motion to approve the first reading of the utility ordinance amendment. Mike Wilson seconded; the motion carried unanimously.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

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Calvin Byrd had no reports on GMRC or Read, Inc. but stated he would be meeting with Sandy Lipkowitz from READ, Inc. in the near future.

Mike Wilson reported that Health Department reported there are 73 restaurant in the city and county; hired a new part-time health inspector and a part-time nurse to replace the previous nurse who resigned. The Health Board made a point of expressing their appreciation to both Mayor and Mrs. Cox for their service to the community over the past ten years. Councilman Wilson also stated that financial reports were left with the Mayor and are available in his office.

Mike Sosebee reported that the DDA had a good meeting and that they discussed aligning fiscal years with the city. Mayor Cox stated a citizen requested more flower boxes be installed around town. The Mayor also inquired about the bench the DDA purchased. Staff responded that the bench was assembled and is at the maintenance shop. It is a heavy plain bench that doesn't necessarily theme or match the architectural concept designed for the Municipal Complex. The bench was intended to be installed at the corner of Hwy. 53 at the former Appalachian Community Bank.

Calvin Byrd reported on the Chamber stating the guest speaker was Brook Anderson from Etowah Water and Sewer Authority. He presented the proposed water improvements for the west side of the county.

STAFF REPORTS:

Trampas Hansard reported that the new signs on the highways have been installed and other than doing a little dress up work, that job is complete. The signs were installed about one foot higher which gives them clearance to plant flowers under them. These signs are expected to last at a minimum of six years. The old signs lasted approximately 16 months.

Gary Barr reported that the altitude valve failed at the Burts Crossing tank. The valve helps with pressure and keeps the tanks from overflowing. Russ Chambers did the research and he and Trampas rebuilt the valve and saved the city several thousand dollars.

Russ Chambers presented a request from the water department to upgrade the existing filtration system; the well is current down due to a line break. The staff would like to upgrade the system to a schedule 80 pipe which is twice the strength of the pipe currently installed. Staff would like to upgrade the filter system to help free up labor resources. Current system requires the well being turned off and maintained. The upgrade would allow the system to continuously run even when the filters are being regenerated.

The approximate price to replace all of these parts using city staff to install the upgrade is \$15,000. Russ Chambers further stated that he has acquired four bids and by working with the manufacturer they are getting the best price. The project would take approximately one week to complete.

Calvin Byrd made a motion to authorize the purchase of parts from Wood Brothers Industries. Mike Wilson seconded; the motion carried unanimously.

Kim Cornelison presented the financial reports for May and June. Reports are attached as Exhibit "A". Cornelison shared that after working with Gary Barr, the Mayor and the city's auditor the funds in the fund 505 reserve accounts can be recognized as revenue because the taps have been set, the majority being sewer taps. Because the taps are set and would require no more city staff labor there could be a change in accounting principles recognizing the revenue in the year of receipt (2004) and increase available fund balance, no longer reserved or restricted funds.

These funds could be used for valuable projects like radio read meters of whatever the council and staff feels is the best utilization of funds. There is no wiggle room in the current budget to complete any capital improvement projects in the enterprise fund. Meter reading alone is approximately 3 days times 4 employees – this could be a tremendous labor savings. Essentially this is a great opportunity to move

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funds from a reserved or restricted status to increasing fund balance and having readily available funds for capital improvement projects.

Calvin Byrd made a motion to reallocate reserve funds for those taps that have been set in to fund balance. Mike Wilson seconded the motion; the motion carried unanimously.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

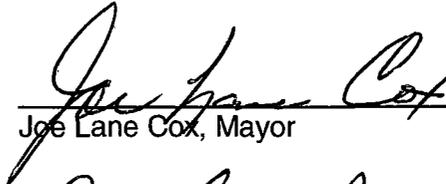
Mayor Cox reported that the city's contracted inspector has tendered his resignation stating that it interferes with his business. The Mayor further stated that he is in the process of working on a replacement. Inspections are done on a case by case basis; he hopes to find a retiree that is qualified.

Council amended the agenda to include a GEFA intergovernmental agreement. Mike Sosebee made a motion to amend the agenda to include the GEFA intergovernmental agreement. Mike Wilson seconded; the motion carried unanimously.

Dana Miles explained that the purpose of the agreement is because the city, Dawson County, and Lumpkin County have been jointly awarded stimulus funds to replace inefficient fixtures at the city hall location. The county would like the city to acknowledge the agreement and abide by the terms of the grant, even though the county will administer the grant.

Council made a motion to authorize the city to accept the GEFA grant and to abide by the terms of the GEFA agreement. Authorizing the mayor to do whatever is necessary to implement that acceptance. Motion by Mike Sosebee, second by Mike Wilson; the motion carried.

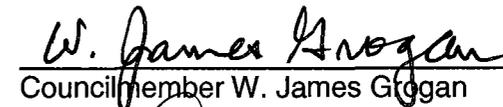
ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to attend to the meeting adjourned at 6:16 p.m. The motion carried unanimously; Byrd/Wilson.



Joe Lane Cox, Mayor



Councilmember Calvin Byrd



Councilmember W. James Grogan



Councilmember Mike Sosebee



Councilmember Mike Wilson

Attested: 

Kim Cornelison, City Clerk

May-10

Cash by Fund	
General Fund 100	\$ 805,666.30
SPLOST Fund 200	\$ 189,930.87
Hotel/Motel Tax Fund 275	\$ -
Enterprise W/S Fund 505	\$ 1,840,149.17
Fund 505 Reserved/Allocated	\$ 178,297.28
Enterprise Solid Waste Fund 540	\$ 19,563.36
Cemetery Fund 790	\$ 55,134.29
Cemetery Fund 790 Reserve	\$ 112,878.38
Total Cash Accounts	\$ 3,201,619.65

Notes
Reserve funds are held due to various agreements, state code, special allocations, or for prepaid taps.

Revenue/Expenditure Recap	
YTD Revenue	\$ 2,780,749.29
YTD Expense	\$ 1,938,269.55
Net Difference	\$ 842,479.74

Cash Account Detail	
100	29,014.25 General Fund Primary Checking
	776,652.05 Fund 1
100 Total	805,666.30
200	189,930.87 SPLOST Allocated Capital Projects
275	0.00 Hotel/Motel *reported separately but included in fund 100 cash account.
505	1,840,149.17 Enterprise Fund
	-932,500.00 Taps - Reserved
505 Total	907,649.17 Net Enterprise Fund
505 Reserve	146.78 Projects
	72,122.50 Deposits
	31,764.00 Bond
	50,000.00 Bond
	24,264.00 Bond
505 Reserve Total	178,297.28
540	19,563.36 Solid Waste
790 Reserve	25,098.73 CD Perpetual Care Fund Historic Cemetery
	87,779.65 CD Perpetual Care Fund Memorial Gardens
790 Reserve Total	112,878.38
790	46,831.06 Money Market Memorial Gardens
	8,303.23 Money Market Historic Cemetery
790 Total	55,134.29

Exhibit "A"

Jun-10

Cash by Fund	
General Fund 100	\$ 804,161.87
SPLOST Fund 200	\$ 189,628.97
Hotel/Motel Tax Fund 275	\$ -
Enterprise W/S Fund 505	\$ 1,700,141.14
Fund 505 Reserved/Allocated	\$ 178,329.37
Enterprise Solid Waste Fund 540	\$ 22,333.69
Cemetery Fund 790	\$ 54,713.76
Cemetery Fund 790 Reserve	\$ 112,878.38
Total Cash Accounts	\$ 3,062,187.18

Notes
Reserve funds are held due to various agreements, state code, special allocations, or for prepaid taps.



Revenue/Expenditure Recap	
YTD Revenue	\$ 2,950,048.31
YTD Expense	\$ 2,120,700.12
Net Difference	\$ 829,348.19

Cash Account Detail	
100	57,730.26 General Fund Primary Checking
	746,431.61 Fund 1
100 Total	804,161.87
200	189,628.97 SPLOST Allocated Capital Projects
275	0.00 Hotel/Motel *reported separately but included in fund 100 cash account.
505	1,700,141.14 Enterprise Fund
	-932,500.00 Taps - Reserved
505 Total	767,641.14 Net Enterprise Fund
505 Reserve	146.87 Projects
	72,154.50 Deposits
	31,764.00 Bond
	50,000.00 Bond
	24,264.00 Bond
505 Reserve Total	178,329.37
540	22,333.69 Solid Waste
790 Reserve	25,098.73 CD Perpetual Care Fund Historic Cemetery
	87,779.65 CD Perpetual Care Fund Memorial Gardens
790 Reserve Total	112,878.38
790	46,407.90 Money Market Memorial Gardens
	8,305.86 Money Market Historic Cemetery
790 Total	54,713.76