

MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING AND WORK SESSION
G.L. Gilleland Council Chambers on 2nd Floor
Monday, September 20, 2021
5:00 P.M.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Eason called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.
2. **ROLL CALL:** Present were Councilmember John Walden, Councilmember Mark French, Councilmember Caleb Phillips, Councilmember William Illg, City Attorney Jonah Howell, City Manager Bob Bolz, City Clerk Beverly Banister, Public Works Director Trampas Hansard, Utilities Operation Manager Jacob Barr, Planning Director David Picklesimer and Finance Administrator Robin Gazaway.
3. **INVOCATION AND PLEDGE:** Invocation and Pledge were led by Councilmember French.
4. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** None
5. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:** Motion to approve the agenda as presented made by made by J. Walden; second by C. Phillips. Vote carried unanimously in favor.
6. **PUBLIC INPUT:** None
7. **CONSENT AGENDA:** Motion to approve the consent agenda for the following items (a b,c,d,e) made by M. French; second by W. Illg. Vote carried unanimously in favor.
 - a. Approve Minutes
 - Regular Meeting and Work Session held August 16, 2021
 - Executive Session held August 16, 2021
 - b. Approve to Ratify Letter of Support to Dawsonville History Museum for Grant Funding
 - c. Approve to Ratify Letter of Support to Chamber of Commerce for Grant Funding
 - d. Approve 2022 Solid Waste Collection Contract with Red Oak Sanitation
 - e. Approve Annual City Hall Closure for Mountain Moonshine Festival – **Friday, 10/22/2021**
8. **SAFETY GRANT FUNDS PRESENTATION:** Brenda Eckman from GMA awarded the City with the funds for the Worker's Compensation and Liability safety grants.
9. **EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION:** The Mayor and Council presented Jacob Barr with the July 2021 Employee of the Month award, Tony Seabolt with the August 2021 Employee of the Month award, Stan Zaverhuka with a three year service award, Steven McNeal with a three year service award and Jacob Barr with a ten year service award.
10. **AWARD ANNOUNCEMENT – CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT FOR EXCELLENCE IN FINANCIAL REPORTING FY 2020:** The Mayor and Council announced the City was awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for FY 2020. This is the seventh consecutive year the City has received this award.

BUSINESS

11. **54th ANNUAL MOUNTAIN MOONSHINE FESTIVAL PLAN REVIEW:** Rhonda Evans spoke on behalf of Kare for Kids; presenting a current map and stating they have obtained permission from the surrounding property owners for use of the property. She also stated the request from Dawson County Fire Chief Danny Thompson regarding the placement of cars has been resolved. She further stated they will abide by any restrictions in place by the Governor at the time of the festival regarding COVID-19. She asked if Kare for Kids could take possession of the City Hall parking lot on Thursday, October 21st at 4:30 pm, set up tents on the distillery side of City Hall on Wednesday, October 20th, place small metal flags in Main Street Park to mark vendor spots starting on Monday, October 18th (this will be contingent upon cutting grass and weather) and setting the stage up on Wednesday, October 20th or Thursday, October 21st; Council agreed to all requests. Councilmember Illg and Councilmember French both applauded Kare for Kids in their determination to accomplish everything involved with the festival and their commitment to the children of Dawson County.

Tom French from Kare for Kids approached the Council and stated their insurance company has raised a concern about alcohol being served at the Georgia Racing Hall of Fame inside of their festival permit. Mayor Eason asked him to obtain a letter from their insurance company to explain what they needed, and it could be addressed at that time. Tom French made further inquiries regarding the

MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING AND WORK SESSION
G.L. Gilleland Council Chambers on 2nd Floor
Monday, September 20, 2021
5:00 P.M.

need to obtain the alcohol and servers permits, the type of insurance provided by the museum and alleged signs required to be posted. Mayor Eason asked him to have his insurance company itemize these items in the letter. Councilmember French requested the Council be copied on the letter.

Rhonda Evans stated a concern about the Georgia Racing Hall of Fame serving BBQ and having a smoker in the vicinity of where they will have show cars placed. Cindy Elliott confirmed the BBQ will be prepared in advance and not during the festival. Tiffany Buchan voiced her concern that the museum should have been directed to obtain a vendors permit from Kare for Kids to serve BBQ. Mayor Eason stated he appreciated Kare for Kids coordination with all the parties involved and for all they are doing.

- 12. BUDGET AMENDMENT – PREPARATION OF AN ESTIMATED BUDGET DOCUMENT FOR ELLIOTT FIELD AIRPORT:** Motion to approve a \$2,200 budget amendment from General Fund Reserves to prepare an estimated budget document for the Elliott Field Airport made by W. Illg; C. Phillips. Vote carried unanimously in favor.
- 13. APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION (ARC) GRANT FOR DOWNTOWN STRATEGIC PLAN:** Motion to approve applying for a grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) for the development of a Downtown Strategic Plan and to be assisted by the Georgia Mountain Regional Commission (GMRC) made by C. Phillips; second by M. French. Vote carried unanimously in favor.

WORK SESSION

- 14. 2022 MEETING CALENDAR REVIEW:** The 2022 meeting calendar for all Boards and Commissions was presented; Council was encouraged to send any comments or questions to staff. The calendar will be on the next agenda for approval.
- 15. NAMING PRIVATE ROADS IN CITY HALL COMPLEX:** City Manager Bolz spoke to Council regarding naming the public road coming into the back of City Hall off Allen Street and the private road heading over to the City Hall Complex in front of Bojangles. He is asking for recommendations to name the roads. Councilmember Illg suggested naming the public road but not the private road. No other comments were made.
- 16. COVID-19 VACCINATION INCENTIVES FOR EMPLOYEES:** City Manager Bolz presented a monetary incentive plan for employees to receive the COVID-19 vaccinations. Each employee fully vaccinated and showing proof would receive \$250. Funding of the plan would be a combination of ARPA funds and excess revenue from the General Fund. Councilmember French asked if the City would hold any liability should the vaccination be recalled. Attorney Howell stated it's a voluntary incentive and not something the City is compelling employees to do. Councilmember Phillips asked if they could hold off on voting until legal has a chance to review the topic.
- 17. MAPLE HILL DRIVE DETENTION POND:** Planning Director Picklesimer informed the Council regarding the requirement for the City to inspect all detention ponds. During the process they found a detention pond on Maple Hill Drive that is located on two (2) homeowners' properties in which the area is not part of an HOA. He stated the property owners have requested the City to take over the maintenance of the detention pond and provided options the Council could consider. The property owners spoke to Council:
 - James and Julie Morgan, 91 Maple Hill Drive – Julie Morgan asked if the City could take over the care of the detention pond stating when they moved there, they did not know they had the responsibility of the detention pond. She does not have the funds to handle the maintenance. She also claimed the City has come before and cleaned it out. James Morgan also stated he was unaware of their responsibility to maintain the pond and cannot afford to do so; again, asking Council to consider taking over the maintenance of it.
 - Allen Gravitt, 80 Maple Hill Drive – Allen Gravitt stated he cannot come up with the funds to maintain the pond and was unaware of this responsibility since the City has always maintained it.

MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING AND WORK SESSION
G.L. Gilleland Council Chambers on 2nd Floor
Monday, September 20, 2021
5:00 P.M.

Councilmember Illg asked how long they have lived in their homes; the Morgan's have been there since 2003 and the Gravitt's since 2017. He also inquired when was the last time the detention pond was cleaned out; they believed it to be around 2018 or 2019. Councilmember Phillips stated he has asked legal to review the options to see how the Council can assist them. Mayor Eason stated once it's been reviewed by legal, the Council can decide on how to move forward.

- 18. UPDATED FEE SCHEDULE REVIEW:** Finance Administrator Gazaway stated she has provided information for consideration of an increase to water and sewer rates in anticipation of the new water treatment plant. She provided three options for an increase and is requesting feedback from the Council. Planning Director Picklesimer also stated he is requesting fee increases to be in line with the County's fees and added some additional fees the planning department has not been charging. Mayor Eason requested Council to review and stated historically the City has been behind with keeping up with fee increases.

STAFF REPORTS

- 19. BOB BOLZ, CITY MANAGER:** City Manager Bolz reported on one leak adjustment totaling \$147.74. His detailed report was provided in the packet. No questions from Council.
- 20. ROBIN GAZAWAY, FINANCE ADMINISTRATOR:** Financial reports representing fund balances and activity provided through August 31, 2021. Mayor Eason asked about LOST revenue; Gazaway responded the City's revenue is currently higher than expected.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 6:13 p.m. a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by J. Walden; second by W. Illg. Vote carried unanimously in favor.

Approved this 4th day of October 2021.

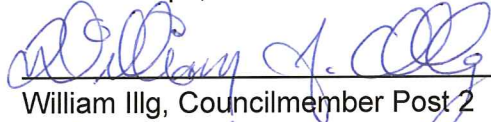
By: CITY OF DAWSONVILLE



Mike Eason, Mayor



Caleb Phillips, Councilmember Post 1



William Illg, Councilmember Post 2

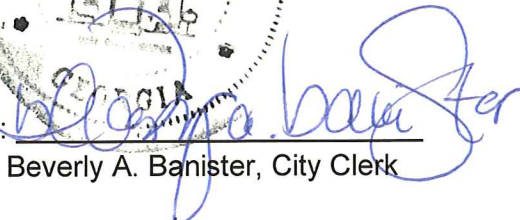


John Walden, Councilmember Post 3



Mark French, Councilmember Post 4



Attested: 

Beverly A. Banister, City Clerk