



**MARCH 5, 2013**

**CITY HALL**

**6:00 P.M.**

**I) CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Howard called the meeting to order. Charlie Sol gave the invocation. Mayor Howard led the Council and guests in the Pledge of Allegiance. Let the record show that Mayor Howard, Councilman Mills, Councilman Middleton, Councilman Hutchins and Councilman Smith were all present. Also present were the City Attorney Tommy Coleman, City Clerk, Melinda Crook, Utility Director, Charles Jenkins and Fire Chief, Kenneth Jones.

**II) APPROVE MINUTES**

A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Hutchins to approve the February 5th, 2013 Minutes. The motion carried unanimously

**III) CITIZENS AND DELEGATIONS**

**CHARLES JENKINS – UPDATES ON TTL PROJECT AT LANDFILL AND LIFT STATION**

The Utility Director, Charles Jenkins, updated the Mayor and Council on the Landfill project. He informed them that the project is about ½ ways completed, but there have been issues because of the weather and the blower still has not arrived. He then informed the Mayor and Council that the Lift Station project has been redesigned and moved to a better location. He stated that with these changes the cost should be less due to not needing as much pipe and that he was hoping to quotes on the piping by the end of the week. He then informed them that we were still waiting on an easement as well. He stated that this would not be a total fix, to the problem, but that it would help. Mr. Jenkins then stated that we were stilling pumping the water from the 39 lift station and that it was a slow process. He stated that the thought of the I & I infiltration was from the ditch. Mr. Jenkins then informed the Mayor and Council that the Oxford project was still waiting for the permit back from the railroad. He stated that he had received some papers to fill out and they had been completed and sent back off to the railroad, so we are hoping to get started shortly. Mr. Jenkins then updated the Mayor and Council on the monthly PCA. He informed them that for the month we were only 5¼ % under budget, which is about 13,000 under collected. He then gave the Mayor and Council the updated PSC rate sheet, showing that the City was still lower in cost then GA Power & Three Notch. He reminded the Council of the MEAG meeting on April 17th & 18th and stated that he had a representative coming to speak to him regarding prepaid electric meters.

**LISA COLLINS EC2055 CHANGES TO CONTRACT** - Lisa informed the Council that some items in the current contract had already been completed and therefore needed to be taken out of the contract. She stated that (a) under item #2 needed to be removed, in (b) "hired" needed to be changed to maintained, in (d) "The City's website" needed to be changed to "The EC2055 L.C. website and "The City will provide a link to EC2055 website" needed to be added at the end of (d) and (f) should be taken out altogether. She then stated that item #4 needed to be removed. These were the only changes she brought to the Council. The contract will go back through the City Attorney for a redraft and represented to the Council at the next regular scheduled meeting.

**WANDA HUDSON** - Wanda informed the Council that a target area had finally been located for the 2013 CDBG Grant. She informed the Council that the areas she would be putting in her application were, Lee St., a portion of Ft. Gaines St., Jackson Ave and Deal St. She questioned if any of the Council lived in these neighborhoods due to having to complete more paperwork. She then informed the Council that the estimated cost of repairs, in these areas, would be \$549,152. She then asked the Council to consider \$50,000 as being how much of a match they would be putting into this project, because the more the City could contribute the more leverage points they received in the grant process. She stated that the grant amount she was applying for was \$500,000. A motion was made by Councilman Mills and seconded by Councilman Middleton to approve a match of funds from the City in the amount of \$50,000. The motion carried unanimously

**IV) ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**BIDS FOR BUCKET TRUCKS** - Two bids were submitted for the purchase of a new bucket truck. Councilman Smith opened a bid from Altec in the amount of \$169,864 and Councilman Mills opened a bid from Terrance Utilities in the amount of \$176,822. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Mills to approve the bid, for a new bucket truck to be paid for out of SPLOST, in the amount of \$169,864. The motion carried unanimously

**BID FOR ALARM SYSTEM AT TREATMENT PLANT** - Adam Askew, Department Head of the Water Treatment Department, came before the Council asking to upgrade the alarm on the system. He informed the council that the present alarm, once tripped, will call every 10 minutes and not move on to continue monitoring the rest of the system but that the new system would continue to monitor. There was some discussion between Adam and the Council regarding where to place this item in his budget. Adam suggested his contingency account, however, the Council asked the Clerk if the alarm could be paid out of SPLOST and they were informed that it could, with a budget amendment. A motion was made by Councilman Mills and seconded by Councilman Hutchins to approve the quote from Southern Flow in the amount of \$7,175.00 for a new alarm to monitor the treatment plant system. The motion carried unanimously

Adam then updated the Council on the issues at the treatment plant. He explained that due to the heavy rains we were still experiencing an extremely high flow at the plant but that the plant was close to being fully operational again. He informed the Council that he had reported to EPD and that he has been following the guidelines. He stated that we may have been out of compliance on weekly flow only and that his results on samples were OK because of how diluted the sewage was from the rain & I&I.

**BIDS FOR GENERATOR** - The Fire Chief explained to the Council that the re-bid for the generator was due to the awarded bidder having to make changes to their initial bid, for additional charges for shipping. He stated that this was brought to his attention, by the company, after the fact. Only one bid was re-submitted from Cummins South in the amount of \$6,313. The Chief informed the Council that the Electric Department would be doing the wiring and that one of the bucket trucks would be moving the generator into place off the shipping truck. He then reminded the Council that insurance would be covering all the cost, less the \$1,000 deductible. Councilman Mills questioned how this could be rebid if the original bid met spec. There was some discussion between the Council and the City Attorney. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Smith to rescind the original award to Surgen, in the amount of \$4,999. The motion carried with Councilman Smith and Middleton voting "Yes", Councilman Mills and Hutchins voting "No" and the Mayor breaking the tie with a "Yes." A motion was then made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Smith to accept the bid from Cummins South in the amount of \$6,313 for a new generator. The motion carried with Councilman Middleton and Smith voting "Yes", Councilman Mills and Hutchins voting "No" and the Mayor breaking the tie with a vote of "Yes."

**ALCOHOL LICENSE FOR TAWANDA SPARROW – DADDY HIPZ** - The Fire Chief informed the Council that Public Safety had approved Ms. Sparrow for an alcohol license, for 1079 N. Church St. He then informed the Council that Ms. Sparrow had questioned if she could open, before final approve of the alcohol license, with pool tables and that he had informed her that was a totally separate issue and license. The Chief then informed the Council that the zoning, at this location, was R2 and not Commercial and that zoning started at the RR tracks and went to Jackson. The Mayor questioned the Council, if anyone knew why the zoning had not been changed in the past. The City Attorney stated that the zoning needed to be changed. The Chief informed the Council that he had check the minutes from 1990 to now and had not seen anything. There was then discussion between the Attorney and the Council regarding rezoning a complete section and not just this one business. The Attorney stated that they could. The Council then informed the Chief the change the Planning Commission meeting until the 4th Monday, therefore, allowing time for notice in the paper and posted at the property, for the public hearing, so that the Council could hold their public hearing at the April meeting. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Mills to take the steps to rezone the street front on Church St. from the RR tracks to Jackson Ave. to Commercial from R2. The motion carried unanimously. The Council agreed to readdress the alcohol license once the zone change was complete.

**V) CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

**SECOND READING AND ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE EXTENDING THE TIME WITHIN WHICH A HARDSHIP MOBILE HOME OR TRAVEL TRAILER SHALL BE REMOVED.....**

A motion was made by Councilman Mills and seconded by Councilman Middleton to adopt the Ordinance extending the time within which a hardship mobile home or travel trailer shall be removed to 180 days. The motion carried with Councilman Mills, Middleton and Hutchins voting "Yes" and Councilman Smith voting "No."

**SECOND READING AND ADOPTION OF AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE "ON PREMISE CONSUMPTION" ORDINANCE.**

A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Smith to adopt the Ordinance Amending the "One Premise Consumption". The motion carried unanimously

**VI) CITY CLERK'S REPORT**

The Clerk report that the City finished the month of February with 98,104.00 in the bank with was an increase from last month. She provided the revenue & expenditure comparison report, for January, which showed that the City was \$88,000 higher in revenue and \$57,000 higher in expenditures therefore putting the City to the good, from the same time last year. She then reported to the Council that the sales tax refund had been decreased to \$37,000, stating that the decrease was due to the generator and slip lining being omitted. She informed the Council that the City had authorized an appeal regarding the generator and slip lining. She then informed the Council that the City had received \$48,000, from DOT, for LMIG (Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant.) She then informed the Council that the DOT money and \$28,000, of the sales tax refund (with 9,800 being put into the General Fund to cover the Tax Specialist bill), was being put into a new bank account for DOT improvement (paving, sidewalks, etc...) The Clerk informed the Council that the City has a 30% match, for the LMIG projects, and that the \$28,000 would be the City's match from 2012 and 2013. The City Clerk briefly explained how the LMIG program, through DOT, works.

**VII) NEW ITEMS PROPOSED BY MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL**

**ONLINE UTILITY EXCHANGE** - The Clerk explained to the Council about this service and how it could help on accounts being sent for collection. She informed the Council that this credit checks customers on utility accounts, in other locations, and the Council could set deposit amounts according to credit rates. The Mayor explained a little further some of the information he had gotten when watching the web demo and that if interested the Council could ask the Clerk to set up a web demo for them as well. The Mayor asked the Council to review all the information and come back with some ideas.

**LIMB AND DEBRIS PICKUP SERVICE** - Copies of the cover sheet and RFP were given to the Council for review. The Mayor then asked for the Council's decision on how they wished to proceed in this process. A motion was made by Councilman Mills and seconded by Councilman Middleton to approve going out for bid proposals on the limb and debris pick. The motion carried unanimously

**LAW ENFORCEMENT CONTRACT** - The Mayor briefly explained the current law enforcement agreement. The City Attorney then explained that the County had opted to change/delete the school board member off the Public Safety Board. The City Attorney then explained the statute that the City could opt to follow regarding law enforcement (negotiate a cost to pay for actual services rendered by law enforcement). The City Attorney stated that, at the present time, without an agreement in place, Public Safety does not have to enforce City Ordinances. He went on to state that Public Safety does still have to patrol in the City because they are part of Early County, according to the statute. There was some discussion between the Council over how to proceed. The Mayor stated that he feels that Councilman Mills (PS Board Chair), himself, the County Chair and Sheriff should get together and try to reach an agreement. There was not further discussion

**DISCUSS GARBAGE TRUCK PURCHASE** - The Utility Director, Charles Jenkins, and the Sanitation Foreman, James Allen, came before the Council and informed them of the garbage truck (one arm bandit) that they had gone to see in operation. The explained that, once familiar with operating, the truck driver could be able to pick up 12 to 15 hundred cans per day. They also informed the Council that the cans we presently purchase, for garbage, will work if they decided to purchase this type of truck, but the older cans will not and that they run about 62.00 per can. They then informed the Council that this type of truck is about 60,000 higher in cost that a rear load and that, of that 60,000, we spend about 33,000 on temp employees for the rear load trucks. They explained that there would have to be a re-work of the garbage routes and that customers would have to be instructed on where to place their garbage cans for pick up. They also informed the Council that, on top of the add'l 60,000 for the truck, there would be an additional cost of about 21,000 to replace all the old cans. There was some discussion about the route scheduling and how the one arm bandit could possibly cut the time for garbage pickup in half. They informed the Council that the production time is about 120 days. There was then discussion on if the cans could be paid out of SPLOST. The Clerk stated that she did not think so but that she would double check. The Council decided to readdress the truck purchase after the Clerk found out about the funding.

**DISCUSS SOLID WASTE CONTRACT PROPOSAL** - The Mayor stated that there had been discussion on possibly changing where the City takes its solid waste. He stated that the process needed to move forward and that it needed to be joint discussion with the County. There was discussion about the current contract and the information that had been received from Decatur County. The Mayor informed the Council that upon reviewing some figures there could be a \$21,000 savings but that there would have to be trailer changes. There was then some discussion about the driving distance. The Mayor explained that there was only a couple of miles difference but there could be a time savings because of the route that would be driven (one being more of a straight shot than the other.)

**DISCUSS FIRE CHIEF POSITION** - There was discussion between the Council regarding the Fire Chief's retirement in June 2013 and the job description to be placed in the paper.

Councilman Mills and Councilman Hutchins spoke to the Council about painting the interior of the Civic Center a brighter color. The Chief spoke up to state that the paint needed to be flame retardant.

**VIII) PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**IX) ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Mills to adjourn the March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2013 City Council meeting. The motion carried unanimously

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Anthony Howard, Mayor