

# City of White, GA

## City Council Meeting

### April 1, 2019

Present at the meeting were Mayor Kim Billue, Councilmember Dennis Huskins, Councilmember Tina Wilhite, Councilmember Ryan Evans, Councilmember Charles Buttrum, City Attorney Leslie Simmons and City Clerk Robin Deal.

The meeting was called to order by our Mayor Billue at 7:00 p.m. Councilmember Dennis Huskins opened the meeting with an invocation. Mayor Billue lead us in the saying of the pledge.

The minutes from the meeting of March 4th were read. Councilmember Huskins made the motion to approve the minutes and Councilmember Wilhite seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0-0 vote.

Reports were given by Andrew Olsen, Chief Barnes, Robin Deal and Billy Baker.

Andrew Olsen from the water department reported that there are five water meter registers that need to be changed out, no leaks since our last meeting, put gravel in and leveled Kelly Drive, finished painting at City Hall, plants and flowerbeds spruced up at City Hall, and finally mowing/landscaping has started for the year. Mr. Olsen presented three bids to repair the City Shop roof and damage to the ceiling. \$4100, \$4200 and \$8750 were the prices given. Councilmember Evans made the motion to accept the low bid of \$4100 given by Michael Parker Construction. Councilmember Huskins seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 4-0-0 vote.

Chief Barnes from the police department reported that Officer Clanton went to training and is now certified in Laser use. Officer Cordell attended Radar training and is now certified. Chief Barnes mentioned to a few homeowners about the condition of their yard and grass. He encouraged them to sign up for the Spring Spruce Up Contest. He stated 93 case numbers were assigned in March, 37 calls for service and the department issued 56 citations. They spent most of the month concentrating on the complaints they had been getting about speeding, no trucks on certain roads and running stop signs. Our K-9, Nero had been requested and he searched three schools doing school sweeps. The City of Cartersville asked for Nero twice in March first time he located some marijuana and on the second call he located meth, marijuana and drug related materials.

Chief Barnes stated that last month Councilmember Huskins had asked about the purchase of a new patrol vehicle for the department. Barnes explained that his current vehicle is in good shape for patrol but not as a K-9 unit. We are constantly having issues with it as it must remaining running while Nero is in the vehicle. He presented a quote for a new vehicle complete with all safety equipment, and our current kennel will be swapped into the new vehicle. The cost of this 2019 Dodge Charger AWD is \$41135.

Councilmember Huskins asked if this would be purchased with SPLOST funds and Mayor Billue stated yes. Councilmember Huskins made a motion to purchase the 2019 Dodge Charges and look at purchasing another one later in the year. Councilmember Evans seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 4-0-0 vote.

Councilmember Huskins asked on behalf of Kevin Walker about driving his truck on the no truck streets. Mayor Billue stated that if he was delivering or picking up within the no truck area doing business it is okay, but this can't just be his daily route.

City Clerk, Robin Deal addressed the council on behalf of the city employees. She stated that the insurance provider had decided to offer vision insurance. Ms. Deal proposed that the employees could decide if they wanted the vision coverage and pay for it themselves. Since the health insurance and dental are all on the same policy council approval was required to add it. Councilmember Wilhite made the motion to add the vision insurance to the policy. Councilmember Evans seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 4-0-0 vote.

Ms. Deal continued with an update on the Railroad/Ditch project on Richards Rd. She spoke with Barbara Stitt with the DNR. Ms. Deal asked about her about grants, ditch cleanup and basically whatever help she could provide. Ms. Stitt stated she had reviewed the location on the Wolf Pen Branch and said there were no grants that could help us with the water issue unless the city has quality data showing water quality issues. Ms. Deal further explained to Ms. Stiff about the railroad, the eroding roadway, the issues with the water and that the railroad is busier now more than ever. Ms. Stitt stated that we have a traffic issue instead of a water issued. She stated that we should call the DOT and report that we have a high hazard rail and road crossing that is failing and could cause a catastrophic event. Ms. Stitt stated that if the road fails the water issue is insignificant. Ms. Deal stated that if someone drove their car off that roadway and flipped their car, the city would be in some serious trouble. Because of these factors we have decided to pursue a different avenue and Billy Baker will take over the reporting now to provide additional information.


Billy Baker continued reporting on the Railroad/Ditch project. He reported we had an engineer come and look at the area last week to see what could be done. Several options have been mentioned such as replacing the culverts, but not every option can be used in a flood plain. The area in question does not have the elevation needed to use this plan. Baker stated that the road is our big concern. The road does not have shoulders and it is eroding. The pavement is holding the road up on the side by the basketball courts. Baker stated to bore that road would cost the city \$200,000. And before you start the boring process you must locate the utilities that might be in the area. Plus, you worry about the pushing a new pipe into the hole and what happens to the remains of the existing pipe. Mr. Baker stated the old pipe would be pushed up and fill in the voids. You just don't know what you might tear up. All utilities in the area could be affected. Baker suggest that there's not enough right of way to repair the road and make shoulders without purchasing some property. He quoted a price of \$750,000 to \$1,000,000 to repair the road correctly.

Baker stated our biggest concern about the road/rail crossing is safety. He suggested that we temporarily close the road until such time a decision is made on a plan of action. DOT, Tom Sills and the Bartow County have all been contacted for help. If we can come up with a proposal that is beneficial to the city and the city can afford it, we can move forward with the project. We are to the point that we have got to do something before an accident happens. Baker stated that the studies on what to do can continue while the road is temporarily closed which will keep the liability of the situation down. Baker stated this project will take months to accomplish. If it is determined that we keep the road closed permanently then we will get help from the railroad to fix the banks and improve the water problems with an open ditch. City Attorney Leslie Simmons stated that the City of White will be responsible for the cost of repairing the roadway. Baker stated that the city could not afford the cost of the repair without some help. Billy Baker stated that Cass/White crossing will stay open and help with the traffic situation so there are two routes to go. Councilmember Huskins suggested we do it in increments. City Attorney Leslie Simmons stated we should do it in a day. Baker stated that the railroad loves to close crossings and they will help us with our problems. The road is in bad shape and has cracks in it which makes you wonder about the dirt underneath. City Attorney Leslie Simmons stated that citizens will be inconvenienced but still can drive around. We need to get more information from the engineers before we close it permanently. Councilmember Huskins made the motion to temporarily close Richards Rd at the high railroad. Councilmember Evans seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 4-0-0 vote.

Councilmember Huskins made a motion to end the meeting. Councilmember Wilhite seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 4-0-0 vote.

The meeting ended at 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Robin Deal  
City Clerk

