

# City of White, GA

## City Council Meeting

### January 7, 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 Tina Wilhite opened the meeting with an invocation. Mayor Billue lead us in the saying of the pledge.

The minutes from the meeting of Dec. 3rd were read. Councilmember Huskins made the motion to approve the minutes and Councilmember Evans seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0-0 vote.

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

Andrew Olsen reported on behalf of the Water Department. He reported that the water meter swap was still underway. He stated that about 4-7 go out per month. Over the next 4 months we should have all digital meters installed. These meters will provide the city and customer more information about their water usage. Olsen stated they had learned a lot about the new trash truck. He stated that they are currently replacing the old trash cans with new ones that the trash truck can handle. All older cans will be replaced as needed. Olsen stated there were a lot of leaves and limbs being picked up around the city.

Billy Baker reported on the Water Rate Study about our water/sewer system. These studies need to be done every two years to keep up with the state mandate. He stated that the Mayor, City Clerk and himself had met with Sweitzer Engineering to review their information. Mr. Baker ran through the proposed increases for the next ten years. The primary objective was to produce sufficient revenues while complying with applicable ordinances, equitable municipal billing process, all while meeting stated mandated compliances. The study was based on data from billing information along with financial records from 2018 and audit information from 2015 and 2016. Baker stated the reported stated all water rates should increase 3% as of Jan 1, 2019 with subsequent increases in 2020 and 2021 of 3%. In 2022 through 2027 the increase would be 2%. The base rate volume will be decreased by 500 gallons each year until the base rate is zeros out in 2027. Sewer rates for residential customers will not increase. Toyo, Hickory Log and Bartow County Schools will see a 5% increase in sewer rates. In 2020 and 2021 in the increase will be 3%. In the years 2022 through 2027 will see 2% increases per year for the Toyo, Hickory Log and Bartow County Schools sewer rates. The base rate in 2022 will be decreased by 500 gallons per year until the base zeros out in 2027. With these increases the city will be able to start their emergency fund. A

motion was made by Councilmember Huskins to accept the Water Rate Study. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Evans. Motion carried with a 4-0-0 vote.

Interim Chief Barnes reported on the Police Department. He reported that the department had been busy and distributed four free car seats. Barnes reported there were several felony arrests in Dec. including someone that was stealing water from the City. On Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> the Cartersville Police Department had requested our K-9 unit to help apprehend a violent suspect with a gun that ran from a traffic stop. After tracking the suspect 1.5 miles he was apprehended. Chief stated that for the first time ever the City of White participated in Shop with a Hero program for kids in our county. We are working on closing out 2018 case files and had 695 calls for service. Chief is looking for additional manpower for the department along with cheaper options for vehicles for the department. He stated the Dodge Charger is \$24,930 base price. We have the equipment already that can just transfer a lot of the equipment over and save the taxpayers money.

The demolition of the property at 30 School Street was discussed by the council. Councilmember Huskins made a motion to allow the property to be demoed by Michael Parker Construction. Councilmember Wilhite seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 4-0-0 vote.

City Clerk Robin Deal presented a resolution to add additional holidays to the city calendar. Councilmember Evans made a motion to add Veteran's Day and the Day after Thanksgiving to the holiday list. Councilmember Buttrum seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 4-0-0 vote.

Mayor Billue presented a resolution that would give raises to all city employees. Councilmember Huskins made the motion to approve the resolution. Councilmember Buttrum seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 4-0-0 vote.

City Attorney Leslie Simmons presented a resolution to adopt our new City Charter. Councilmember Huskins made the motion. Councilmember Evans seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 4-0-0 vote.

Mayor Billue presented a resolution to adopt the Traffic Citation Fine increase for CDL. A motion was made by Councilmember Huskins and seconded by Councilmember Wilhite. Motion carried with a 4-0-0 vote.

An Executive Session was called at 7:47 p.m. by Mayor Billue to discuss matters of personnel.

The regular council meeting was called back into order at 8:10 p.m. No matters were voted on during the executive session. A motion was made by Councilmember Evans to make Interim Police Chief Barnes our Police Chief. Councilmember Wilhite seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 4-0-0 vote.

Mayor Billue swore in our new Police Chief, Chris Barnes. The Chief's wife, Cara, was given the honor of pinning on his new badge.

Citizen Stephanie Nicholson gave an update on the upcoming centennial celebration.

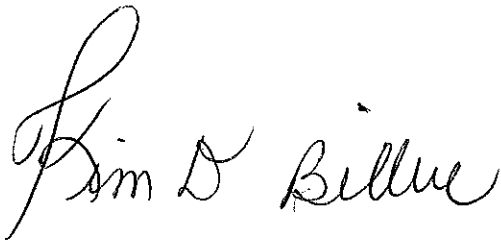
Councilmember Huskins made a motion to end the meeting. Councilmember Wilhite seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 4-0-0 vote.

The meeting ended at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robin Deal".

Robin Deal  
City Clerk

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kim D. Billue".