

City of White, GA

City Council Meeting

March 2, 2020

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 Feb 3rd were read. Councilmember Wilhite made the motion to approve the minutes and Councilmember Evans seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 4-0-0 vote.

Jimmy Nichols gave the water department report. He stated the city has used 2,546,000 gallons of water in February for an average of about 3 million a month. Nichols said the new truck for the water department had arrived a Nissan Frontier and it was broken in on meter reading day. Nichols continued by stating only two meters didn't read this time and that was awesome.

Billy Baker reported on Richards Rd project and some upcoming paving projects. He has put out two proposals to have Railroad Street paved this year. Baker said maybe next year we can get the county to help us with Old Tennessee Hwy. Baker stated that we had the initial contract from the railroad for the project to start. CSX will have to review all the work. Baker continued by saying City Attorney, Leslie Simmons had already approved the contract. Our initial payment to the railroad will be about \$5,700. Baker said they will let us know of any issue. Baker has been working with GEFA to obtain a loan for the project. He stated we have paperwork and audits to provide them.

Baker told the council that last year we ordered a bucket for ditch work for the backhoe. It has not come in yet as they had to build it. He said we can save about \$25K-\$30K if we do some of the ditch work ourselves.

Councilmember Huskins asked if there was any news on upgrading the RR Crossing at W Rocky street. Baker said that the Mayor sent a letter to GDOT and the RR. He is in the process of getting in touch with the Roadmaster.

Chief Barnes reported on the police department. Barnes stated we had had lots of rain in Feb and that Public Works had done a great job keeping the ditches cleaned out to help stop potential flooding. The Department has 84 calls for service, wrote 25 citations and was in the process of reviewing applications for part-time officers. Chief stated this would get the department closer to the 24/7 coverage. Barnes stated he had been attending safety training classes this week in order for the City to receive grants/discounts on insurance.

Barnes updated council on 21 Club House Drive by stating repairs were underway and the outside now has porches and steps with railing. Chief notified the council that the new vehicles were in and asked their permission to dispose of the old 2013 Dodge Charges. Councilmember Dennis Huskins made a motion to dispose of the 2 old 2013 Dodge Chargers by sealed bid. Councilmember Ryan Evans seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 4-0-0 vote.

Councilmember Charles Buttrum brought up an incident where he had been pulled over by the police. Buttrum stated we needed to approach crime in the correct areas; and he had 100% total respect for the police. Buttrum also stated someone broke into his vehicle and he saw them running through the woods. He stated they had cut a hole in his fence. Buttrum said he went to their house and knocked but did not call the police or make a report. He said it's going to come down to somebody's going to get in trouble trying to protect their property. Buttrum ended by saying I don't know which way we're approaching crime in the area, but I think we need to change direction and he thinks we have our priority in the wrong places. Chief Barnes agreed to sit down with Buttrum discuss some solutions.

Robin Deal reported on city hall. As the election superintendent about the upcoming presidential primary and that early voting had begun. Deal told the council that early voting is being held at the Board of Elections Office and the Civic Center from 8-5. They will also have a Saturday voting at the Board of Elections Office on March 14. Deal stated that the regular Primary Voting Day is March 24th and you go where you normally go to vote.

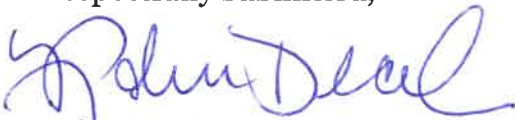
Mayor Billue brought up in unfinished business our new Sign Ordinance that we need to vote on. Councilmember Huskins asked if it was a new ordinance and City Attorney assured him it was a total rewrite of the old ordinance with new provisions for safety and reasons for denial. Councilmember Huskins made a motion to accept the new sign ordinance. Councilmember Wilhite seconded the motion. Motion passed with a 4-0-0 vote.

Citizen Roger Oswald addressed the council stating he didn't want there to be a liquor store in our town. He also wants the city to remove a tree and repair a retaining wall across from his home at 226 Whispering Pine.

Councilmember Dennis Huskins made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Tina Wilhite seconded the motion. Motion passed with a 4-0-0 vote.

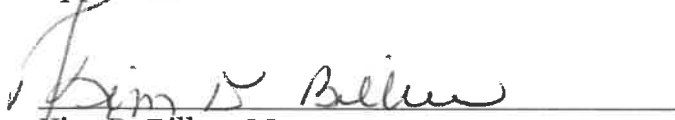
The meeting ended at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Robin Deal
City Clerk

Approved:



Kim D. Billue, Mayor