

City of White, GA

City Council Meeting

November 2, 2020

Present at the meeting were Mayor Kim Billue, Councilmember Dennis Huskins, 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 on Oct 5th were read. Councilmember Evans made a motion to approve the minutes. Councilmember Huskins seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 3-0-0 vote.

Special Guest Ginni Harris from Nichols, Cauley and Associates came to present the 2019 Audit. The City of White received a clean unmodified opinion for the year 2019. Ms. Harris presented each member of the council with a completed copy of the audit. She stated there are still some corrective action items that need to be in place to assure compliance. Harris concluded by saying that the Mayor and the City Clerk have been a huge help in getting these audits completed.

Special Guest Hannah Cook project manager with Art in Bartow presented a proposal to the council to participate in some art projects around the city. She proposed to display a 20-piece photo fence exhibit called Beauty and the Beast put together by two local artists and display it for 18 months at no costs to the city completely installed. The proposed display will be hung on the fence around the well house near City Hall where it can be centrally located for all to see Councilmember Huskins suggested that we do some photo displays of some historical site here in White. Ms. Cook even mentioned a plan to add some color to the old playground equipment with the assistance of the art teacher at Woodland Middle. Cook suggested it could be a competition county wide for students to come up with a color scheme for the playground equipment. Councilmember Huskins made a motion to participate in the Art in Bartow program. Councilmember Evans seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 3-0-0 vote.

Chief Davidson reported on the police department. He stated our part time officer, Andy Page, had resigned due a conflict with his full-time job. Chief said he was reviewing the SOP's for the police department from 2008 and we are in the process of bringing them up to date. Davidson stated that he had a copy of the SOP's from the Adairsville and will be using it to update our policies with the permission of the council. Chief continued by stating our new full-time officer would start on Nov 23 and another office within another week or so. Chief reported that the city was having a hard time getting back-up from Bartow County. Councilmember Buttrum expressed his concerns about the situation. Chief wants to have two officers working on the night shift. Regarding the academy Chief stated that the city does not have to pay to send someone to the academy but pay them like an employee for the 12 weeks. Davidson relayed his concerns about the person interested in going to the academy at the last council meeting and that he would be afraid to put him on the road after training as he has no experience. Chief stated he does have someone interested in being an officer here, going to the academy and has experience as a bounty hunter. He has the type of experience we are looking for to send to training. The Chief stated it's Brett Rampley. Councilmember Evans and Buttrum

stated it would be great to have somebody local. Councilmember Huskins raised the question that we hope after we send him to school, he would stay here a while. Chief stated there would be a contract signed stating he would have to stay for x amount of years. Councilmember Huskins said that we trust you and will pick the right person. Huskins stated that all new chiefs have started out with a bang and then they fall into a groove in a small town. Huskins continued by saying then we start to have issues and an executive session is called as there are problems balancing all the job duties. Huskins concerns are that we need somebody here to patrol during the day and he understands that scheduling is hard to do with a small staff. Chief stated the schedule will be like swing shifts and part time folks to fill in when others are not working. Davidson continued by explaining the new schedule that goes into effect will be 2-2 and the shifts will rotate. Councilmember Huskins asked again about the SOP's stating that the county is about like Adairsville. Councilmember Buttrum asked if our pay was competitive to which the Chief responded we are the lowest around. Buttrum asked if that was a problem in keeping fulltime officers. Chief said that's part of the problem. Chief went on to say we will pay a training rate for those at the academy and they will get a raise when they start working as an officer for the city.

Robin Deal reported on City Hall. Deal presented the 2021 Budget to the council for their review. She explained the budget was broken down by department expenses and fund revenues. Deal reminded the council and those in attendance the Nov 3 was election day and that the election was being held at White Methodist Church starting at 7 and not at city hall. Deal concluded by stating if the council had any questions about the budget please let her know.

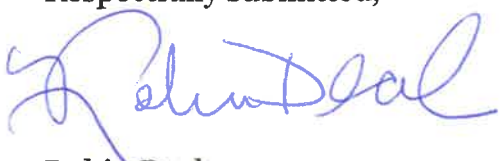
Billy Baker reported on the Richards Rd Project. He stated we had to change the bid date from Nov. 26 which is Thanksgiving and move it up to Nov. 30. Baker said it gives the contractors a few days to finish their bids. Baker continued his report with an update on the pump station inspections. He stated that all 6 of them need repair. He stated we have got to come up with a plan to get them repaired; seals, bearings as the electrical system is good. Baker stated the worst one is at the Toyo Lift Station. Baker spoke with the Mayor and suggests that we start with the one at Toyo and do one a month until all the pumps are in 100% working condition. Baker promised to come back with the numbers on what it will take to get them fixed. Councilmember Buttrum asked if the electrical panels were under a shed. Baker stated no, they are water proof and the electrical system checked out fine during the inspection. Buttrum continued by stating it would be a good idea to get them covered and Baker concluded by saying it could be done in house. Baker continued by saying all the GEFA paperwork was complete so that we can get our funds when needed.

Mayor Billue continued the meeting with unfinished business. She presented an amended lease for the ballfield stating that the team had been paying \$1000 in Adairsville but that was for 3 fields and here they only lease one field. The new agreed amount for the field would be \$500 plus lost rental fees for the reception hall. Councilmember Huskins made a motion to accept the amended lease with the change of \$1000 to \$500 for the year. Councilmember Evans seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 3-0-0 vote.

Citizen Tim Nichelson asked to address the council and encouraged all residents to participate in the police department ride along program. He stated he agreed that there should be two police officers at night. Nichelson said you really don't have any clue what you are pulling over.


Councilmember Huskins made a motion to end the meeting. Councilmember Buttrum seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 3-0-0 vote. The meeting ended at 7:55.

Respectfully submitted,



Robin Deal
City Clerk

Approved:



Kim D. Billue, Mayor