

City of White, GA
City Council Meeting
Jan 6, 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 Dec 2nd 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.

Robin Deal gave the report on City Hall. Deal restated that the city needs a part time building inspector. Deal stated she's having a hard time and that we will have to seek other options if we can't find someone due to the liability. Mr. Tidwell our current inspector has agreed to finish up the jobs that are already started. Deal said we need to find someone, or we are going to have to turn it over to the county or private company. Councilmember Huskins restated how hard it has been to find someone. Attorney Leslie Simmons asked how they would charge, and would they charge us a fee? Deal stated she has not asked those questions because she needed permission from the council to ask them. Simmons continued by asking about private companies and what they would do. Huskins stated they may require a contract. Simmons said that we would pass along the expense to the citizen. Deal said that's a problem because we adopted the county fee schedule and if we went with an outside company, we would have to look at the permit fees. Councilmember Buttrum stated we need to find out from the county what they would do. Deal said she would find out before next council meeting.

Deal continued with her report stated that a citizen Mr. Bobby Lowery had asked about his property, North Georgia Mercantile located at 3351 Hwy 411. He has applied to the professional license board to be a used car dealer. Deal stated since we don't have a zoning committee; she needed approval from the council to approve his application for the state. Councilmember Huskins stated this is where he comes in. Huskins said he lives next door and it has become a junk yard. A 6' privacy fence needs to be put up around the property according to the ordinance. Huskins stated he has been allowed to slide and he needs a 20' buffer from the property line and then the 6' fence should be put up between him and any residential property. Nutter's and Jay's both have up a fence and now it's his turn. Councilmember Evans stated he should be compliant with all ordinances. Deal stated that as long as he complies; we will sign his form.

Jimmy Nichols reported on the water department. Nichols stated for the month of December we did 3,163,500 gallons of water pumped through our system. Nichols said we only had 2 meters that didn't read last month and about three that had the same reading. Jimmy stated that his pickup needs to be replaced as it is starting to have issues. He also said that the backhoe is in the same shape and we have to work on it every time we use it. Nichols stated it's about 15-20 years old. Councilmember Huskins said that if its in the budget and asked if want to do it all at once? Mayor Billue stated that we are just seeking approval to get it when funds are available. Councilmember Huskins made the motion for the water department to purchase a new truck for Nichols and a backhoe when funds are available. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Wilhite. Motion carried with a 4-0-0 vote.

Billy Baker reported on a Capital Improvement Program he has been working on with the Mayor and the Regional Planning Commission. Starting with the water system we need to replace the service lines in the Whispering Pine Subdivision and East Rocky Street, replace or upgrade the water main from the post office to Barry Drive, from Cass White to Hwy 411 over at Wofford's Crossing and lastly from Old Tennessee up to the pallet factory. Baker stated that the preliminary numbers on this project are \$3,000,000. Baker continued another area is the fluoride feed equipment at pumphouse #2 and #5 are in need of replacing. Baker continued by stating our meter reading equipment is outdated and in need of replacing. Baker said the electronic part needs to be upgraded. Baker continued by saying the sewer system needs work at the Toyo Lift Station and Aubrey Lake. There are three pumps at each station that need to be pulled and the electrical system needs an upgrade which will cost about \$100,000. Baker stated the city currently does not have any spare pumps.

Baker spoke about the playground and equipment \$75,000 to get it updated. The parking lot connected to it needs paving and should cost about \$30,000. Baker stated that Old Tennessee Hwy needs to be repaved and while we are at it see about straightening out that curve in the road. Baker estimates about \$175,000 for this project. Baker continued with the cost of street improvements and possible sidewalks would run \$50,000. Baker stated the property on Richards Rd needs a comprehensive plan together so that we can apply for grants would cost about \$25,000. Baker said the D.O.T has a 30-year plan for Hwy 411 through White spending \$6,400,000. Baker says while they are doing that; we should look at a street scape project. General improvements to storm drainage and possible sidewalks.

Baker said we need a maintenance building for the water/sewer equipment in order to take care of equipment and personnel. Baker stated to that we need a dump trailer about 14', 15000 lbs. capacity would run the city about \$20,000. Baker continued with public safety purchasing two new police cars fully equipped for \$120,000. Baker continued with the capital projects stating we needed to upgrade our camera system for security purposes. Everything that was mentioned was on the planning commission program.

Baker continued with an update on the Richards Rd project stating that we are moving forward. The storm water improvement report is back from the engineers. Baker stated

the cost estimate was about \$350,000. \$2500 is needed for the drawings to send them to the railroad for review. Baker continued with his requests asking for \$25,000 to obtain the necessary permits from CSX for the project to move forward after the drawings have been approved. Councilmember Huskins made a motion to approve the funds. Councilmember Buttrum seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 4-0-0 vote.

Chief Barnes reported on the police department. Barnes stated it was a productive month with 88 case numbers, 16 citations and 6 arrests. Barnes said one of the arrests was one of the issues we had been having and he is still incarcerated. Chief continued with his report talking about the Calendar Fund Raiser. The department has already received a check for \$1200 which was used to purchase gym equipment that is available for all city hall employees. Chief referenced the comprehensive plan as it pertains to new patrol vehicles. Barnes presented information on the Dodge Durango all-wheel drive pursuit model. It comes with a 5-year, \$100,000 mile warranty and a grand total of about \$95,000. Barnes stated he will swap equipment into one of the Durangos for the K-9. Chief stated that we are having lots of problems with our current patrol cars especially the electrical system. Barnes reported that a lot of the current equipment including radar and camera systems that cost about \$5000 each. He stated we will reuse most of the equipment which will save money. Chief suggested we sell the two old chargers and put money back into the general fund. Councilmember Huskins made a motion to purchase the new patrol vehicles (Dodge Durangos). Councilmember Wilhite seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 4-0-0 vote.

Barnes thanked his department for their participation in Shop with A Hero. He continued by saying White Methodist Church reached out to the department for a special young man who wanted to shop with a hero. The entire department and the Mayor took this young man shopping.

Mayor Billue reported under new business the council needed to elect a new Mayor Pro Tem. Councilmember Wilhite nominated Councilmember Ryan Evans. Councilmember Huskins seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 4-0-0 vote.

Mayor Billue proposed to the council a 3% raise for all City employees. Councilmember Huskins made a motion to approve the request for the 3% raise. Councilmember Wilhite seconded the motion. Motion carries with a 4-0-0 vote.

Mayor Billue presented a resolution to adopt the state of Georgia's records retention plan. Councilmember Huskins made a motion to pass the resolution. Councilmember Wilhite seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 4-0-0 vote.

Mayor Billue presented a resolution to appoint Robin Deal as the Election Superintendent. Councilmember Wilhite made a motion to approve the resolution. Councilmember Evans seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 4-0-0 vote.

Mayor Billue presented an ordinance from GMA with some minor amendments to the Retirement Fund. She asked Robin Deal to explain the ordinance. Deal stated these

amendments were minor and had been reviewed by our attorney's office along with the entire plan. The vote will be taken at the second reading.

Mayor Billue asked the council for permission to open a new bank account for the 2020 Splost. Councilmember Wilhite made a motion to approve the opening of the account. Councilmember Huskins seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 4-0-0 vote.

Citizen Eddie Billue asked to address the council and announced that our Mayor Kim Billue was elected GMA President of District 1.

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

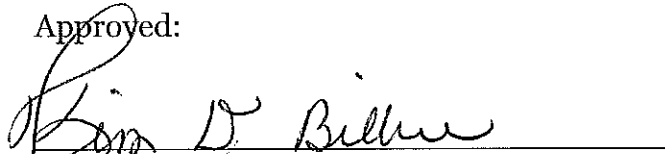
The meeting ended at 8:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Robin Deal
City Clerk

Approved:



Kim Billue, Mayor