

City of White, GA
City Council Meeting
May 4, 2020

Present at the meeting were Mayor Kim Billue, Councilmember Dennis Huskins, 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. Mayor Billue lead us in the saying of the pledge. Councilmember Dennis Huskins lead us in the invocation.

The minutes from the meeting of March 2 were read. Councilmember Huskins made the motion to approve the minutes and Councilmember Buttrum seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 3-0-0 vote.

The council participated in a conference meeting with representative with the USDA to explain the terms of two loans/grants. Jack Stanek (Area Director from Athens) and Hope Williams (Loan Specialist) gave the council members the details of the loans/grants. Mr. Stanek provided two Resolutions for the council to vote on. First Resolution was for the trash truck which contained a loan amount of \$66,000, interest rate of 2.375% over 10 years. The City of White would pay \$598 in cash to cover the amount not covered in the loan/grant. The grant the City of White will receive will be \$35,000. Annual payments will be made in the amount of \$7493. A Reserve Account must be set up and monthly installments of \$756 made until the city has accumulated the total payment for the preceding year.

The second Resolution will cover the purchase of two patrol cars and a pickup truck for the water department contained a loan amount of \$91,000, interest rate of 2.375% over 5 years. The grant the City of White will receive will be \$49,000. Annual payments will be made in the amount of \$19,518. A Reserve Account must be set up and monthly installments of \$1952 made until the city has accumulated the total payment for the preceding year.

Councilmember Huskins made a motion to accept the loan/grant from the USDA for the garbage truck. Councilmember Buttrum seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 3-0-0 vote.

Councilmember Huskins made a motion to accept the loan/grant from the USDA for the two patrol cars and pickup truck for the water department. Councilmember Buttrum seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 3-0-0 vote.

Jimmy Nichols reported on the water department. Nichols reported we did 2,665,833 gallons of water in March. The department only had two meters that did not read on the first reading which Nichols stated was good. Nichols reported that we had some tree damage that knocked the power lines down going to the water tank. It took GA Power a few days to make the repairs and the automatic system was down for a few days. Nichols reported there was also a tree down at the Club House as well as one on the ballfield. Nichols reported they had been doing inspection on the sewer line when they encountered a snag and found that locks had been removed/replaced on gates leading to property owned by the Aubrey Corporation. Nichols states the city had locks on those gates so they could inspect the sewer line and mow the pasture along the line when necessary. As of now we are locked out and we cannot get in there to bush hog. Nichols stated he has called several times; and no one has returned a call. He stated we need to get in there as soon as possible. Nichols stated after the city received a high sewer bill his department started walking the lines and that's when the locked gates were discovered.

Chief Barnes reported on the police department. Barnes stated that the past few months have been strange. He stated that they were taking reports over the phone and trying to limit contact. Barnes stated that we are still going to do ride-along when the pandemic is over. The department has been doing extra patrol and has worked a lot of overtime. Barnes stated with lots of folks at home it has been necessary. The department has been working with Bartow County Schools helping to hand out meals to the elderly. Barnes stated he has been told that lots of folks are praying for the department and thanking them for the work they are doing. It makes us excited to work here. Barnes stated that the Urban Camping Ordinance and Panhandling Ordinance are needed but not an issue as of yet. Barnes stated the department had hired two officers. One is Andy Page who will be working about 30 hours and week. The other officer is Dan Viega who comes to the department with over 20 years of experience and is an instructor which will help the department with training. Veiga will also be helping with road checks and with our annual festival. Barnes reported that the new Durangos are here and one is complete; the other one will be complete next week.

Robin Deal gave a report on City Hall. Deal opened the sealed bids on the old chargers. Three bids were sent in on the two cars. Deal stated that a Chris Suggs bid \$400 on the charger that still runs with 68,450 miles. Second bid was from William Watkins bid \$312.97 on the charger that still runs. Third bid was from William Watkins bid \$150.99 on the charger that does not run. Deal stated that Mr. Chris Suggs was the winner of the charger that runs, and Mr. William Watkins was the winner of the charger that does not run.

Deal continued her report with an update on the North Georgia Mercantile property owned by Bobby Lowery and the code violations. Mr. Lowery has until June 4th to comply with city ordinances. In the meantime, he has sent back his application to sell used cars on that same property asking for the council to approve him for 12 cars on the lot at a time after he initially stated he would not have more than two cars. Deal stated she would not make that change without speaking to the council and get their input. Councilmember Buttrum asked if he was licensed as a dealer. Deal stated she did not know the answer. Deal continued by stating he has applied. Councilmember Huskins asked if he has done stuff on his end to become a licensed dealer. Huskins continued by saying until he cleans up the place; he does not have room for 12. Buttrum stated we should be willing to help all the businesses. He stated that as councilmembers they should meet with him. Huskins stated that he started out with a store and now has a barn, and two antique shops. He never did put a fence up and the place is a swamp. Huskins explained when you put dirt in one area, you push the water somewhere else. Huskins said he needs to clean out the ditch and put a top on the dumpster. Huskins wants him to succeed but he wants him to be compliant. Buttrum and Huskins agreed that if Mr. Lowery took care of the issues with his property, we would change his used car form from 2 cars to 12 cars. Buttrum stated they needed to speak with Mr. Lowery before making the change to his form.

Billy Baker reported on the projects underway. Baker reported that this year's LMIG project will be to pave Railroad Street. He only received one quote back from Bartow Paving for \$20,069. The other bidder did not send in a proposal. Baker needs the quote approved since it is prime paving season. Baker continued with his report stating that just this afternoon he got an email today from the consultants working with the railroad have finished their review of the Richards Rd project. He stated he does not have a copy of the railroad's engineer comments to look at. Baker says once we have a copy, we can get them to our engineer for review to see if there are any changes to be made. Baker stated that the project is moving a lot faster from the railroad that he thought. Baker reported that we are in the process of applying for a GEFA loan along with assistance from Bartow County's grant writers. Baker stated we need to complete the financial part of the application in the next 10 days and get it to Bartow County. GEFA must have this paperwork a month before their board meets and their meeting is in August.

Mayor Billue asked if the company that did not bid was also the company who's bid was higher last year. Baker said yes and continued to explain that these larger companies don't want to do the small paving jobs and therefore they don't bid. Bartow Paving left off the mobilization fee from their bid which saved us about \$2,500.

Councilmember Huskins made a motion to accept the bid from Bartow Paving on paving Railroad Street. Councilmember Buttrum seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 3-0-0 vote.

Mayor Billue asked the council to look over the new ordinances presented for first reading. She asked the members to be ready to vote next month. Councilmember Buttrum asked for a small change to the Urban Camping Ordinance to make it okay for private property owners to put a tent in their own yard for their kids. City Attorney Leslie Simmons agreed. Simmons continued by saying once you had a chance to review all the ordinances and you had questions, let her know.

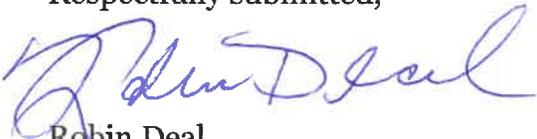
Councilmember Buttrum addressed the council about a ditch that needs to be dug in front of his house. He is having a hard time getting it mowed. Buttrum is willing to work with the city employees to get the ditch dug out. Billy Baker stated we had ordered a bucket attachment for the tractor that is specially made for ditch work.

Councilmember Buttrum also asked about a citizen that attended a previous meeting asking about a tree that was down on Whispering Pine. Buttrum was informed the tree had been removed. Then he asked about the retaining wall, had it been repaired. Jimmy Nichols stated we could use the block to fill the hole that the tree was removed from. Nichols said we had to be careful cause there is a water line underneath there. The City has already had to fix a leak in the area due to the water line being plastic. Buttrum continued by saying we should work with them to resolve the problem.

Councilmember Huskins made a motion to dismiss the meeting. Councilmember Buttrum seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 3-0-0 vote.

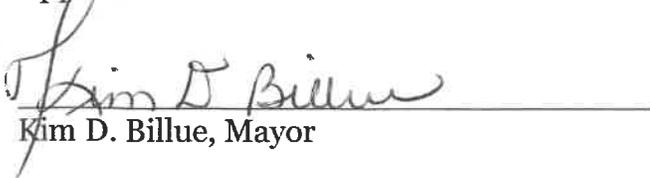
The meeting ended at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Robin Deal
City Clerk

Approved:



Kim D. Billue, Mayor