

City of White, GA

City Council Meeting

September 8, 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. She asked for a moment of silence for our councilmember Tina Wilhite who passed away Aug 10, 2020. Councilmember Dennis Huskins opened the meeting with an invocation. Mayor Billue lead us in the saying of the pledge.

The minutes from the meeting August 3rd were read. Motion to approve the minutes as read was made by Councilmember Evans and seconded by Councilmember Huskins. Motion passed with a 3-0-0 vote.

Jimmy Nichols reported on the water department. He stated in the month of August the city used 2,874,000 gallons of water. Nichols said only a couple of meters did not read in August and they will be replaced. Nichols reported that new benches had been added to the walking path. He gave an update on the bridge connecting Hwy 411 to Cass/White Rd stating it should be open by the end of Oct.

Chief Barnes reported on the police department. He stated in the month of August they had 174 Calls for Service, conducted 101 traffic stops, issued 97 warnings, issued 53 citations and made 9 drug cases were made. Barnes stated the county had been working on the tornado siren system and will be testing it the first Wed of every month. He reported the new system is automated and should work better. Barnes said they had been busy lately with schools opening back up. He said programs like Ice Cream with a Cop and Shop with a Hero are planned as soon as they figure out how to do it safely. Barnes gave a thanks to Officer Page and to William Watkins. He said we had a call about an elderly female that was living alone and needed help. Barnes also thanked Jimmy and Wille for taking care of her grass. Barnes said that adult protective services stepped in and got her to the hospital. He stated that now she is living with family members. He continued by saying it was nice to see the community come together. Barnes reported that the hardship permit issued for 542 Old Tennessee Highway allowing a camper on the property was up and we needed to get the camper removed. The department has been getting a lot of complaints about drug activity at this location. Barnes spoke about the police departments ride along program. He stated you can get the form to participate at city hall. He encouraged everyone to participate and see what policing is about in a small town. Barnes noted that Eddie Billue had participated in the ride along.

Robin Deal gave the city hall report. Deal started with a Resolution to set the city's millage rate back to 0%. Councilmember Buttrum made a motion to set the rate to 0%. Councilmember Evans seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 3-0-0 vote. Deal continued with a Resolution for the city to apply for a Land and Water Conservation grant to renovate the playground. Councilmember Evans made a motion to apply for the grant. Councilmember Huskins seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 3-0-0 vote. Deal presented the Resolution from GMA about employee health insurance. This item was tabled till the next meeting until the employees could have their input heard. Deal said that the GEFA loan application was sent to us and we needed to pass a Resolution accepting the loan. Councilmember Buttrum made a motion to accept the loan. Councilmember Evans seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 3-0-0 vote. Deal continued with information concerning a special election to replace our empty council seat. Deal stated the city has two choices. Hold a special

election in November or March. She explained they would both be separate from other county/state elections. Deal was concerned that holding it in Nov candidates would not have much time to campaign and it would be difficult on voters having to vote in two different locations since the deadline to change the ballot had passed. Also, there would have to be a special hearing to add an additional polling place. Deal reported that holding the event in March folks could vote at the church and candidates would have more time to campaign. The costs would be the same. Councilmember Evans made a motion to hold the election on March 16th, 2021. Councilmember Huskins seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 3-0-0 vote.

Billy Baker started with a report on the Richards Rd Project. He stated we have been working on this project for three years. Baked said we have the GEFA Loan paperwork and the Railroad Contract which is under review by our attorney. City Attorney Leslie Simmons stated she had the Resolution complete if he wanted the council to vote tonight on binding the city to the Railroad's Contract. Councilmember Buttrum made a motion to approve the Resolution to bind the city to the Railroad's Contract. Councilmember Huskins seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 3-0-0 vote.

Baker continued by talking about the insurance that the railroad required. He stated we needed to send them a check for \$17,150.00 to get things approved. Baker was going to call the engineer to get things underway this coming week. Baker said he hopes he can stand here in 6 months and say the project is complete.


Mayor Billue continued the meeting with unfinished business. Leasing of the ballfield had been left on the table. City Attorney Leslie Simmons said that her office was working on the lease. Councilmember Huskins said that citizens still need access to the field when not in use by the traveling team. Mayor Billue suggested the gate be locked and that Mr. Rampley be responsible for unlocking it for folks that wanted to use it. Other suggestions were made to lock up the equipment and dugouts but leave the gates unlocked. \$1000 for the year and the additional \$150 on weekends when they have a tournament to compensate city hall for non-rental income. Councilmember Huskins made a motion to lease the ballfield to the traveling team coached by Brett Rampley. Councilmember Evans seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 3-0-0 vote.

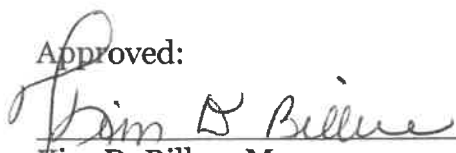
Citizen Eddie Billue stated he had participated in the ride along program and encouraged others to do the same.

Councilmember Huskins made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Evans seconded the motion. Motion passed with a 3-0-0 vote.

The meeting ended at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Robin Deal
City Clerk

Approved:

Kim D. Billue, Mayor