

# City of White, GA

## City Council Meeting

### June 1, 2020

Present at the meeting were Mayor Kim Billue, Councilmember Dennis Huskins, Councilmember Tina Wilhite (via telephone), 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 May 4<sup>th</sup> were read. Motion made to approve the minutes as read was made by Councilmember Huskins and seconded by Councilmember Evans. Motion passed with a 4-0-0 vote.

The minutes from the meeting on May 14<sup>th</sup> were read. Motion made to approve the minutes as read was made by Councilmember Huskins and seconded by Councilmember Evans. Motion passed with a 4-0-0 vote.

Jimmy Nichols gave the water department report. Nichols stated for the month of April 2,908,300 gallons of water. He said that the three million mark is close. Nichols reported that all streetlights were being replaced. At the time of his report only two lights had not been replaced. Nichols said that during our last meter read we only had two meters did not read. He stated too that we are trimming a lot of trees. His department is working on the CCR report for 2019 which is due by the end of June. Nichols mentioned we had a couple of small leaks had been reported.

Chief Chris Barnes reported on the police department. Chief stated they had 103 case numbers for May, 22 report calls, issued 23 citations and made 9 arrests including 5 drug arrests. Chief stated most of them were on E Rocky Street. Chief Barnes gave special recognition of Office Blake Davidson while doing a business check at the Trim Depot saw someone with a flashlight trying to break into the building and stopped it. Chief reported that Sgt. Cordell resigned earlier this month. Chief said Cordell appreciated the opportunity to work for the city but moved on to a new position with a bigger city to make more money. Chief Barnes said he had been working with FEMA and Homeland Security with everything that has been going on. He stated they had been very helpful asking if we needed anything. Barnes said he was also contacted by the US Attorney's Office due to the generic threats that everybody wants to kill law enforcement. He stated we need to be vigilant even in a small town. Chief said that court will be back in session on June 19<sup>th</sup>. He reported there had been a lot of continuances over the past few months. Chief said that residents were aware of the new streetlights and they were thanking them.

Billy Baker updated the council on the Richards Rd. Project. Baker stated that we completed the GEFA loan and it was sent on Friday afternoon. Baker said the GEFA Board meets in July and it will be August before we know if we are approved. \$463,000 was the loan amount to cover all aspects of the project.

Mayor Billue reported on the unfinished business from last meeting. We had several ordinances that needed to be voted on. Billue started with the Urban Camping Ordinance and asked for a motion. Councilmember Buttrum asked if the change had been made to allow camping in your yard. City Attorney Leslie Simmons replied yes. Councilmember Huskins made a motion to approve the ordinance and Councilmember Evans seconded the motion. Motion passed with a 4-0-0 vote. Mayor

continued with the Ordinance for the Occupation Tax and asked for a motion. Councilmember Huskins made a motion to approve the ordinance and Councilmember Wilhite seconded the motion. Motion passed with a 4-0-0 vote. Mayor proceeded to the Panhandling Ordinance and asked for a motion. Councilmember Huskins made a motion to approve the Panhandling Ordinance and Councilmember Wilhite seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 4-0-0 vote. Lastly the Mayor asked for a motion to approve the Alcohol Sales/Tax Ordinance. Councilmember Evans made the motion to approve the Alcohol Sales/Tax Ordinance and Councilmember Huskins seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 4-0-0 vote.

Mayor Billue continued with new business. Mayor Billue presented amendments to the Bartow County Animal Control Ordinance. Councilmember Huskins made a motion to accept the amendments and Councilmember Wilhite seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 4-0-0 vote. Billue finished new business with a resolution to amend Floodplain Management Ordinance. Councilmember Huskins asked a question about the ordinance saying this is the fee for the engineer to do the work. Councilmember Huskins made a motion to accept the resolution and Councilmember Wilhite seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 4-0-0 vote.

Mayor Billue then allowed the public to speak at the meeting. Bobby Lowery, William Watkins, Terry Cornwell and Eddie Billue all addressed the council on various topics.

Mr. Lowery wanted to know:

- (1) if he had cleared up all the code violation
- (2) that he would put up a fence between his property/residential
- (3) if he could be allowed to keep his trailers
- (4) that the water drainage issue would be corrected
- (5) that he wanted his form to sell used cars/12 car lot limit

The councilmembers were pleased with the progress he had made. They gave him a special condition permit to leave the 4 trailers on the property as long as they are maintained in good condition and he is the property owner. Councilmember Buttrum made the motion to change the used car limit from 2 to 12 and Councilmember Huskins seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 4-0-0 vote.

William Watkins addressed the council about Mr. Lowery's code violations asking questions about the length of the special condition permit to be as long as Mr. Lowery owns the property.

Terry Cornwell wants the mess in front of his house cleaned up by his neighbors and he wants the city to top some trees as well near his house. Mayor Billue asked the Chief to look into the situation.

Eddie Billue addressed the council and face the audience. He said a few words about our city. Business as usual, negative image, laws unenforced...then if the answer is know please stop all the negative comments around the city. He stated there are a lot of hard-working people in the city working hard to make it better. Speak to those you have problems with directly. You have to adjust your way of thinking to the betterment of the people around you. Change is hard to accept and takes time, never easy. Be a part of the positive changes and solution in this city. Don't run this city into the ground. Start with a positive image. White has many issues and projects that are underway and have been for years. If you come with a problem, then at least come with a solution. We as individuals are a community. Love one another through good and bad. Love yourself, love your city, love your neighbor, be an extraordinary person for this city.

Councilmember Buttrum addressed the council and audience about the crime issues in White. He stated he has had more problems in the last 6 weeks. Three or four times he has caught them on his property. Buttrum stated they broke into his car, stole \$1200, kicked in front door, showered and shaved. He stated he told the Chief about every situation. Buttrum continued by stating at the last

meeting he complained and didn't try to make the police look bad. He stated he was stopped and given two tickets. Councilmember Huskins asked if he would like to go into executive session. Buttrum said that his complaint was made in the public and that's what he needs to address. Councilmember Huskins asked if he wanted to videos shown to the public. Buttrum says he is explaining the situation by saying that he didn't mean to make the police look bad. Buttrum stated he apologizes for making the Chief look bad. He continued by saying that he had been pulled over twice and was irate. He didn't mean to blacken the cities reputation. He backs the police. Buttrum apologized again to the Chief and to Officer Blake. Buttrum said the person took \$1200 from his vehicle where he had \$1700. Buttrum donated that \$500 to our Councilmember Tina Wilhite as he said tries to fine good in the situation. He apologized again to the police department, the city and the public.


Chief Barnes reminded everyone to call 911 and make a report that's our job. Barnes reminded him that problems can be brought to the meeting but give him the opportunity to address it first.

William Watkins addressed the council once more. Watkins stated it is a small city. He continued that he said it is a small city and he had made as open records request on the stops. Transcripts were available if anyone needs a copy. Watkins suggested it should have gone to executive session.

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

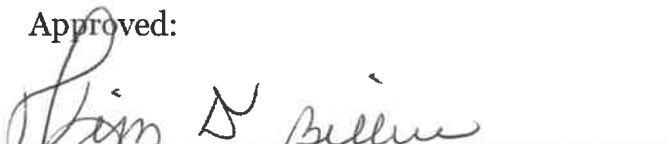
The meeting ended at 7:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Robin Deal  
City Clerk

Approved:



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Kim D. Billue, Mayor