

City of White, GA

City Council Meeting

August 3, 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 July 6th 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.

The Mayor recognized the representative from Nichols, Cauley and Associates, Ginni Harris. She presented the council and Mayor with copies of the audit for their review. Ms. Harris presented the 2018 Audit and gave a fairly clean opinion as their finding.

Jimmy Nichols reported on the water department. He stated the city had used 2,590,900 gallons of water for July. Nichols said we had gained one new customer at 315 Old Tennessee Hwy and during the last meter reading only 4 meters did not read this month but will be changed out.

Robin Deal reported on City Hall. Deal started with an update on the festival saying we had 25 vendors. Deal gave credit to our new employee, Breanna, who spent two days putting together 1000 prize bags for the games. Deal said that Stephanie Nicholson was working on the entertainment. Deal reported that the government has given Cares Act/Corona Virus Relief Fund money to the cities that did not previously received funds for the Covid19 crisis. These funds will cover the extra costs the city had to cover. Deal presented a Resolution to the council giving the city permission to accept these funds. Deal explained that all expenses for the public health including police overtime had to be entered into the Cares Act portal on the computer. The grant money will be available for expenses through the end of December. A motion to accept the Cares Act Grant Funds was made by Councilmember Huskins. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Evans. Motion passed with a 3-0-0 vote.

Deal reported that our councilmember Tina Wilhite was not doing well and needed our prayers. Then Deal read a letter by a concerned citizen stating they use the ballfield and were afraid if it gets leased to the traveling team the local kids will have nowhere to play ball.

Billy Baker reported on the Richards Rd Project. Baker stated that the GEFA loan has been submitted and we should have an answer by August 25th. Baker reported that the contract from the railroad came today and he will turn it over to our city attorney for review.

Mayor Billue stated that under unfinished business we have the leasing of the ballfield. She asked the council had they come up with any solutions. Councilmember Huskins stated he agreed with the letter read aloud earlier by the concerned citizen and as the same time he is impressed the proposal put forth by Brett Rampley for his traveling team. Huskins said we need to find other land for the

locals to use in case they can't get access to the field. Brett Rampley asked to address the council. Rampley said that his group understands the locals will want access to field. Rampley said they are willing to keep the field up/litter free and make sure others do as well. He understands that the locals want to use the field. Small tournaments will not run late and will not be a bother to local citizens. Rampley understand that if you build it, they will come. Posting a schedule and locking the field up are all solutions to keep it in good shape for everyone. Schedule would show free days when anyone could have access to the field. City Attorney Simmons stated we need to set some terms for the lease of the ballfield and asked for contact information.

The Mayor recognized Valerie Gilreath and Jessica Cantrell from the county Grant Writing Office to address the council about a playground grant. She spoke about the Land and Water Conservation Grant which could cover the playground as well as update the ballfield. The program is a dollar for dollar match with the city putting up all the funds first and being reimbursed at a 50% max. We have a two-month time frame to get the application in with awards being handed out next year. Gilreath says it could take up to 18 months to get the funds. The minimum project budget is \$50,000 which means the city would have to spend \$25,000 to match their funds. Gilreath said one thing to consider is how much money can the city afford to spend on recreation over the next two years. The land that this money is used on must be protected as a park in perpetuity. Councilmember Huskins asked if Splost funds can be used as a match? Gilreath said yes. The Mayor asked Gilreath about using a grant from the playground equipment company as our match, she said yes.

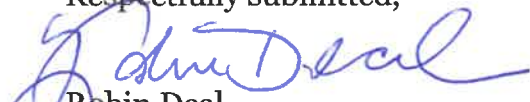
Brandon Owens asked to address the council about splitting a piece of property that belonged to his aunt so that he and his brother can both purchase a portion. He presented a copy of a parcel with the separation line indicated. Owens needs to have the land surveyed before the land split can be recorded. A motion was made by Councilmember Evans to give permission for the land parcel to be split. Councilmember Huskins seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 3-0-0 vote.

Marvin Shelper asked to address the council about putting a camper in their front yard with a special use permit at 18 John Huskins Drive. He needs this for his family to stay in while they help take care of him and his wife. Shelper wants this hardship permit so he does not have to move the camper between his family members coming down. Councilmember Buttrum made a motion to grant the special use permit for Mr. Shelper to put the camper in the front yard while family member take care of them. Councilmember Evans seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 3-0-0 vote.

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 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Robin Deal
City Clerk

Approved:



Kim D. Billue, Mayor