

City of White, GA

City Council Meeting

July 6th, 2020

Present at the meeting were Mayor Kim Billue, Councilmember Dennis Huskins, Councilmember Tina Wilhite (via telephone), Councilmember Ryan Evans (arrived late), 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 June 1 were read. Motion made to approve the minutes as read was made by Councilmember Huskins and seconded by Councilmember Wilhite. Motion passed with a 3-0-0 vote.

The Mayor recognized Brent Rampley (local citizen) who asked to address the council about possibly leasing the baseball field. His traveling baseball group wants to use the ballfield. Rampley stated the group will fix up the field at their own expense. They will pay the city a fee to rent the field as well as cover costs for lost rental fees at city hall during tournaments. Councilmember Huskins expressed concern since this is the only ballfield White has to offer, once it's fixed up everyone's going to want to play there. Council agreed to review the requests and take the matter up at the next meeting.

Jimmy Nichols reported on the water department. He stated during June the city use 2,686,800 gallons of water which was down just a bit from the previous month. He reported meter reading day went well with just 2 meters not reading. Nichols said the yearly CCR report has been finished and posted on our web page (cityofwhitega.com) with copies available at city hall. Nichols reported the Ga Rural Water annual Fluoride Evaluation came back with a good report and no violations.

Chief Chris Barnes reported on the police department. For the month of June there were 124 case numbers issued, 34 citations, 7, arrests, 4 pending cases (one involved a juvenile) and 6 drug arrests made on E Rocky with help from the Bartow County Drug Task Force. Chief stated the work continues on all code violations. Chief reported that he had tried to contact Terry Cornwell's neighbor a few times about the down trees. Barnes said that the department has been helping with evictions due to a backup with the county due to a personnel shortage. Chief stated that the courts was in session in June and things went well. Barnes reported he has been asked recently about the type of training the department has had with everything going on. He said every year they have deadly force, de-escalation training, cultural awareness and community policing. Each course is about 3 hours in length. Barnes stated that POST requires 20 hours of training per year. The officers here get about 80 hours of training.

Robin Deal reported on city hall. Deal reported to the council about a company called Municode. They take the cities ordinances, code them and put them online. Deal explained the current notebook that contains the ordinances is bulky and time consuming when someone needs a copy of an ordinance. Deal stated the legal team at Municode will review all the ordinances with their legal team and work with our city attorney to make updates ordinances for the council to review. The cost will be about \$9,000. Deal reported that most all local governments in Bartow County have already codified their ordinances. Mayor Billue also stated that any new ordinances that we adopted have not been

numbered as we have no way of doing it. Deal said that we need to have all the ordinances coded and their company does that as part of this process. Mayor Billue told the council we could divide the payment up between two budgets. Deal said the current quote was good for 90 days. Councilmember Huskins stated that if we are budget for it then ok. Councilmember Evans asked for the yearly fee amount and Deal stated it's about \$650 per year to maintain. Councilmember Buttrum asked if this was something we already had, and Deal stated this is brand new. City Attorney Leslie Simmons stated that the Municode people will help us with updating our ordinances, they are not going to be deciding what they are, the council will still have approval of all ordinances. City Attorney Leslie Simmons restated that the council will still have the final approval of all the ordinances. Municode will just assist in determining which ones are outdated or duplications. Deal and Mayor Billue stated we will still have ordinances in book form as well. Councilmember Huskins stated that this has needed to be updated for a long time as most of the ordinances are not clear. Councilmember Huskins made the motion to approve the quote from Municode and move forward with the project. Councilmember Evans seconded the motion. Motions passed with a 4-0-0 vote.

Deal stated that last week Veronica Mingo had resigned; and we were looking for a new clerk. Lastly Deal mentioned that our festival this year is Sept 26 from 10-5. She stated she needed assistance getting vendors to come and sell their wares. Deal said she had secured two food vendors and was in the process of getting at least one more. She hopes that could be a dessert truck and she informed the council that last year's pie lady is not coming. Deal also said we are also in search of entertainment as well if you know anyone.

Deal reported on the Richards Rd project for Billy Baker as he is on vacation. The railroad is working on the contract for the Richards Rd project. Deal reported that we had heard back from GEFA about our loan. They are reviewing our application at this time and needed more information. Deal stated that the bucket Baker had wanted for the digging out of the ditches is in price negotiations.

Brett Shepherd asked to address the council about a zoning issue concerning his father's property. He was referred to the city clerk.

Roger Oswald asked to address the council about the down tree/retaining wall in his neighborhood and thanked the Mayor/City Hall Staff for taking care of the problem across the street from his house. He also asked about the liquor store at the shell station and Deal stated is it a non-issue at this time.

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


The meeting ended at 7:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Robin Deal
City Clerk

Approved:


Kim D. Billue, Mayor