

City of White Georgia
City Council Meeting
November 4th, 2024

Present at the council meeting were Mayor Curtis Powell, Councilmembers Gary Crisp, Stephanie Nicholson, Karissa Noland, Jean Swank, City Clerk Robin Cochran, and City Attorney Harold Lemoine.

Mayor Powell called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and led with the pledge of allegiance. Councilmember Nicholson followed with the invocation.

Mayor Powell started with the review and approval of the agenda for the meeting and opened the floor for council discussion. Councilmember Nicholson made a motion to approve the agenda. Councilmember Noland seconded the motion. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

Mayor Powell moved to the approval of the October 7th meeting minutes and opened the floor for discussion. Councilmember Nicholson made a motion to approve. Councilmember Crisp seconded the motion. The motion was carried with a 5-0 vote.

Mayor Powell opened the floor for public comments. Citizen Tiffany Powell approached the council. She asked that the council consider the cost for lights along the walking trail when planning for the 2025 budget.

Mayor Powell moved to announcements and reports. City Clerk, Robin Cochran addressed the council and reminded everyone of election day November 5th and encouraged everyone to vote. Cochran stated the city was still accepting sealed bids on the two surplus cars until November the 22nd and that the city was working on restocking the food pantry from their last send-off to Hurricane Helene victims. Cochran continued by announcing the hearing on November 25th to go over the 2025 budget and stated citizens can pick up a copy of the budget on November 5th, 2024. She asked for a motion and vote to cash out the two current CD's, one for \$41,000 and the other for \$50,000 that are maturing at the end of the month with a .01% interest rate and plans for their use will be presented in Dec. Councilmember Nicholson made a motion to cash out the two CD's and shop

for better rates. Councilmember Swank seconded the motion. The motion was carried with a 5-0 vote.

Police Chief Jason Smith addressed the council to give the report from his department stating it was business as usual and reminded everyone of the upcoming holiday, asking them to be extra careful driving around.

Mayor Powell moved to unfinished business and began with the third reading of the proposed zoning ordinance. Mayor Powell opened the floor for public comments. Citizen Eddie Billue approached the council and questioned the proposed zoning ordinance asking for clarification between multiple readings of the zoning ordinance and a new zoning ordinance. Citizen DJ Bennett approached the council to ask if the zoning ordinance would be voted on at this meeting. Powell stated it would not be voted on at this meeting. Mr. Bennett stated that someone near him, he thinks in the trailer park near the club house, keeps burning something and it smells like an electrical fire, or someone burning their trash. Chief Smith told Mr. Bennett to call 9-1-1 the next time he sees or smells it, and they will handle it. Mayor Powell closed the public comments and opened the floor for council discussion. Councilmember Swank stated she reviewed the old ordinance, focusing on residential, and the new proposed zoning ordinance is no more restricted than before. Councilmember Crisp stated he didn't have time to read the newest draft of the proposed zoning ordinance. Mayor Powell rebutted this by reminding the council that they had already had seven meetings and two work sessions, the last one being held on the previous Friday for the proposed changes which had given everyone numerous opportunities to appear and voice their opinions. Powell continued by going over the big changes from the original zoning ordinance; R-1 was changed from 10,000sqft to 8500sqft, R-2 was lowered to 6000 sq ft and with an optional density of 4000 sq ft if it meets LEED requirements, R-3 was kept the same, and R-4 the front yard setback went from 10ft to 20ft. Citizen David Bennett asked about his current property regarding the setback. Powell reassured him that the proposed changes were not going to affect him, these proposed changes are for new construction. There was some chatter amongst the council and citizens. Councilmember Crisp stated the zoning map/future land use map needed to be updated as well. There was more chatter amongst the council. Powell reminded everyone that the future land use map is not the zoning map. There was more chatter amongst the council and citizens. Councilmember Crisp stated there needed to be another work session or hearing

to let the citizens voice their opinions. Councilmember Nicholson reminded him of the numerous council meetings and work sessions that have already been held up to this point. Nicholson continued by stating that she was fine with postponing for another month but asked if anyone would come besides the one citizen who showed up to the last two sessions. There was more chatter amongst the council and citizens. Councilmember Nicholson made a motion to add a public hearing for the White zoning ordinance to the November 25th public hearing budget meeting. Councilmember Noland seconded the motion. The motion was carried with a 5-0 vote.

Mayor Powell moved to the first reading of the 2025 budget. There was some chatter amongst citizens that got out of hand and Mayor Powell put an end to it quickly. Powell opened the floor for Mayor and Council comments and said the city added additional signage to Richards Rd and added no right turn sign on Old Tennessee Hwy as you turn onto Richards Rd. He continued by offering the latest PFAS samples saying the city sent a third sample at the end of October and he will have them available at the public hearing in November if the results are back by then. Councilmember Swank gave an update on her Senior Social event being held on the second Tuesday of every month from 2:30-4:30 adding those to be her office hours giving the citizens an opportunity to come and speak with her about concerns. Mayor Powell closed the Mayor and Council comments and asked for a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Swank made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Nicholson seconded the motion. The motion was carried with a 5-0 vote. The meeting was adjourned at 7:38pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Robin Cochran
City Clerk

Attest:



Curtis Powell, Mayor