

City of White, GA City Council Meeting March 4, 2019

Present at the meeting were Mayor Kim Billue, Councilmember Dennis Huskins, Councilmember Tina Wilhite, Councilmember Ryan Evans, Councilmember Charles Buttrum, and City Clerk Robin Deal.

The meeting was called to order by our Mayor Billue at 7:00 p.m. Councilmember Tina Wilhite opened the meeting with an invocation. Mayor Billue lead us in the saying of the pledge.

The minutes from the meeting of Feb. 4th were read. Councilmember Wilhite made the motion to approve the minutes and Councilmember Evans seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0-0 vote.

Reports were given by Jimmy Nichols, Chief Barnes, Stephanie Nichelson, Eddie Billue, Robin Deal and Billy Baker.

Jimmy Nichols reported no leaks as of 5:00 p.m. He stated the roof of the city shop was leaking and needed to be repaired. He further stated that 42 of our old city trash cans are for sale. New nets have been placed on the basketball goals and street signs continue to be replaced.

Chief Chris Barnes reported on the police department stating he had hired one full time officer (Norman Clanton) and one part time officer (Jonathan Cordell) to assure more coverage of the city.

Stephanie Nichelson gave updates on the centennial celebration. A release of liability will need to be reviewed by the City Attorney to be used for volunteers, vendors and bouncy house participants. She stated we still need vendors. A proposal to purchase wooden nickels to sell at the event as a keepsake was presented. A proposal to reprint the history of White books with a couple of additions was presented. 250 copies would cost the city about \$1700 and would sell for about 20-25 dollars each. Councilmember Evans made a motion to approve funds for the purchase of wooden nickels and to start on the reprinting of the history books. Councilmember Huskins and Councilmember Wilhite seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0-0 vote.

Eddie Billue spoke to the council on becoming a camera-ready city. We want to make our city appealing for the movie, tv show and commercial industry. He asked for permission to start the process to get our city approved as camera-ready city. Councilmember Huskins made the motion for the process to begin in making our city a camera-ready city. Councilmember Buttrum seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 4-0-0 vote.

Robin Deal gave a report on the progress of the Richards Rd Railroad/Ditch Project. She reported she had spoken with Brian Shoun from FEMA/Flood Plain Management and gave several options for resolving the drainage ditch problem.

Billy Baker continued the subject of the Richards Rd Railroad/Ditch Project stating that the road is a major concern as well as the erosion of the banks. We have tried to stabilize the bank. Baker stated the road needs to be widened and leveled out at the tracks. He reminded the citizens that we passed an ordinance about trucks on that portion of Richards Rd and we need to work together to keep them off the road. Also, he reminded us of the length of this project and all the agencies that will have to be involved to get this accomplished. It is just going to take two to three years. We need approval from the council to bring in an engineer to get this project started. He reminded us that last year we were quoted \$150,000 for each side to get a new pipe and be re-bored. Baker suggested the city hire a consultant to give us some guidance. Councilmember Huskins made a motion to get the consultant to work on the project. Councilmember Buttrum seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 4-0-0 vote.

Baker continued with his report suggesting that the City become a Tree City. The Georgia Forestry Service has a program that you budget \$2 per capita, have two Arbor Days a year and get together a Tree City Committee.

Mayor Billue presented the new employee handbook for approval. Councilmember Wilhite made the motion to adopt the handbook. Councilmember Huskins seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 3-1-0 vote with Councilmember Buttrum voting opposed.

Mayor Billue opened a discussion on what to do with the old trash cans. A motion was made by Councilmember Huskins to sell them for \$10 each. Councilmember Evans seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 4-0-0 vote.

Mayor Billue presented a resolution appointing the City Clerk, Robin Deal as our Election Superintendent. Councilmember Wilhite made the motion and Councilmember Huskins seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 4-0-0 vote.

Councilmember Evans presented a proposal to have a Christmas Dinner for the unfortunate citizens of our community. He suggested getting local businesses involved and holding it at the clubhouse near the holiday. Councilmember Huskins made a motion for the planning of a Christmas Dinner and the motion was seconded by Councilmember Buttrum. Motion carried with a 4-0-0 vote.

Mayor Billue reminded the citizens about the Spring Spruce Up which starts April 21-27 with the cookout being on the 27th.

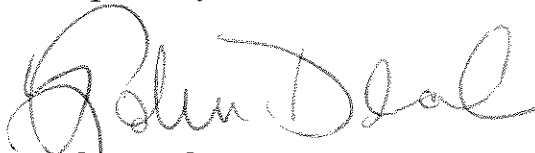
Councilmember Buttrum made a request to offer a 10% discount for senior citizens explaining that they are on a fixed budget. Mayor Billue explained that the sewer rate was set by the USDA, so we would qualify for grants/loans. She further explained that senior citizens got a discount on trash service. Buttrum then asked about a discount on

the water rates. Mayor Billue stated that the water rates had just been increased in Jan and reflected a \$.36 increase to the base rate. She reminded everyone that we have the cheapest water rates in the county. Councilmember Huskins reminded the Mayor that years ago it was stated that the city would not increase water rates on our senior citizens. All agreed it had been a while since any increases were made.

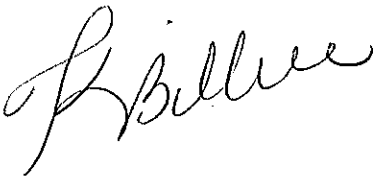
Councilmember Huskins made a motion to end the meeting. Councilmember Wilhite seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 4-0-0 vote.

The meeting ended at 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robin Deal".

Robin Deal
City Clerk

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Billue".