

# City of White, GA

## City Council Meeting

### July 1, 2019

Present at the meeting were Mayor Kim Billue, Councilmember Dennis Huskins, Councilmember Tina Wilhite, 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 of June 3 were read. Councilmember Huskins made the motion to approve the minutes and Councilmember Wilhite seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 4-0-0 vote.

Reports were given by Jimmy Nichols, Chief Barnes, Robin Deal, and Billy Baker.

Jimmy Nichols spoke on behalf of the water department. Jimmy stated the summer leak season was upon us and Andrew and the guys had fixed 2.5 leaks today. He said they were in the middle of one leak. Nichols stated there are probably 2 more popping up right now. Jimmy stated that Andrew had replaced 10 meters just last week and we are still working on that. The bush hogging is still going on. Nichols stated they took a sample on the new water line that had been installed and working just today. Jimmy stated you do a bacteria test and send to the lab to have it checked before you hook a meter up to it. The results of the test should be in tomorrow by 3. Nichols stated they will be able to hook up the water meters to the new water line on Barry Drive. This line will be out of the way and they can go on with the power poles for the Cass White Rd project. Nichols stated that y'all are disappointed after that and that's all I got.

Chief Barnes spoke on behalf of the police department. The department pulled 92 cases in June and wrote 24 citations. Barnes reported that the new car was finally here. Chief Barnes stated we had hired a new officer, Blake Davidson, stating he has about 5 years of experience and came from Adairsville Police Department. Chief stated there has been an issue lately with a lot of burglaries with a lot of people out in the evening. Make sure when folks are talking to you about these things make sure they report it to the police. Chief stated calling two or three weeks after the fact there's not a lot they can do but take the information. The sooner they call the sooner they can get to working on it. Chief stated he hopes they have a couple of arrests this week with a couple of cases we have been dealing with. Barnes gave a big thank you to Veronica Mingo, she's Robin's assistant, this month she has put in a lot of work trying to get us grants and stuff. Our K-9, Nero, she's contacted Vested Interest and he will be getting a vest for him in the next few weeks. Chief stated they had been looking at a power type carrier trying to get some of the equipment off our hips and putting on their vests. She reached out to TOYO Tire and they are actually donating I believe around \$5000 for all our officers to have

new vests and all the equipment. Chief stated that takes a load off of us. He further explained that most of the equipment will come off their belts and be more on their vests. It will help with lower back problems and hip problems and issues like that.

Robin Deal spoke on behalf of City Hall. She reminded the Mayor and Council about qualifying for the election. Deal stated it's the third week of August, you get the forms from her office, Mayor fee is \$144 and Council fee is \$36 and that is check or cash. Deal stated the Mayor wanted her to speak tonight about L&L making a handrail to be put up on the grass hill from the pavilion to the ballfield so when we have events here folks can get up and down. Deal said that it will come in handy during our festival. L&L has agreed to fabricate and install the handrail for \$2490. Councilmember Huskins asked if it would be cemented into the ground? Deal replied yes. Councilmember Huskins asked if we would be working on the ballfield and stated this would be a great first step in getting things going. Mayor Billue reminded the council the festival was August 10<sup>th</sup>. Councilmember Huskins asked how long would it take them? Deal responded by saying that it should not take them long. Councilmember Huskins made the motion to approve the installation of the handrail at the pavilion. Councilmember Willhite seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 4-0-0 vote.

Deal continued by presenting a Resolution from the Bartow County Grant Division, Grant Writer, Brielle Shinall. She stated we needed this to show we are in compliance with the regulations to be considered for grants. The grant office would like to have this on file for future use. The Resolution states the City Council of White sitting for City Purposes including acknowledging the City of White's community affairs community development block grant program DCA/CDBG initiatives. Councilmember Willhite made a motion to accept the resolution. Councilmember Evans seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 4-0-0 vote.

Councilmember Buttrum asked the Mayor Billue whose term was coming up in the election. Mayor Billue responded you, Ryan and myself.

Billy Baker reported on the Richards Rd project. Baker stated that the Richards Rd is going to be a long drawn out issue we will be working on for months. Last meeting, we got down to the point where we talked about the survey so, we have something to work with. Baker got with the engineering people and they had sent something back which included the costs to cover the survey. Baker said this is more than a house and lot survey. This is for the drainage system on both sides of the road, all the utilities underground where they are located and possibly the depth. Baker said the pipes under Richards Rd (east and west side) and will cover the drainage system all the way up to the back of this building and on the east side it comes all the way back to the basketball courts over to the property that the city has. Baker said part of the east side does not have a drainage ditch. Baker stated the proposal came back to do this survey so that we can get it on paper and something we can look at to say this is where everything is at. The survey will be in two-foot increments. The cost of the survey will be \$5900. Baker continued by saying we can let the engineering firm continue do the work for the survey. If they do they will add 15% to the costs. Baker said if we act as the contractor and do the work we will save that money. Baker stated that we could handle that part of it. It

is going to be in a confined area with a lot of research to be done. We will have to deal with the railroad and all the adjacent property. Baker said that's where we are on the Richards Rd. We need to get that done. Baker stated from the minutes that he understood that the council had already approved for the survey to be done. Baker ended by saying when the survey is complete we will hand that over to the engineer and get started. Baker stated we need to do what's needed and not do anything we don't need to do. Councilmember Buttrum asked would this be like a design of the existing area. Will it show the existing system the way it is now? Baker stated it would show it as it is now. Buttrum continued by asking it's not going to show the repair? Will the survey show the upgrades? Baker responded by saying no this is just to show the existing how it is now. Baker said then we will take that and say where here's where we got to adjust. Everyone tells us that the invert is higher than the effluent. So, the water has to back up before it goes through. Baker said we need to know what's in the ground right now.

Baker continued with another item he wanted to bring up he said the Mayor recently went to the GMA conference. She met a vendor, Bob Weatherford, with Aqua Guard Foundation Solution. He came by last week to talk about our road project. Baker stated Weatherford looked at the Richards Rd to see if he could help us. Their company has a government division that handles projects like elevating sidewalks. Right now, they just finished up a project in Cobb County where a three-lane road had a dip in it. So; they went in and raised the road and pipe back up. They inject a liquid compound in the soil under the road that can lift it back up. Weatherford is coming back next week and take another look at this. Baker said he can't do anything about the pipe under Richards Rd as it is a terracotta pipe. The pipe is old and brittle. Baker said that he may give us a proposal for adjusting the road. We will take this proposal and after we get the survey done; then get with the engineering staff to see how to tie this all together. Baker said a few things have come together. One other thing Baker mentioned is the city has bought a work platform. This piece of equipment will attach to the tractor on the forklifts. It is a protective cage work platform. Baker said anything we have overhead at a reasonable height we are going to do some trimming. Baker said that he had to be careful on Richards Rd and Old Tennessee when driving the trash truck not to hit the guys all with the low hanging limbs. So if you have some bushes you don't want trimmed you best get them flagged. Councilmember Huskins asked if there was a timeline on the survey? Baker replied it won't take long. It's all digital and satellite work. There's also some field work but it should go pretty quick.

Councilmember Ryan Evans presented the council with an update on the signage for the club house. Evans told the council he had reached out to the people who had done our seal and they agreed to do a sign for the club house. Evans stated the costs of the sign would not exceed \$250. Evans asked council to approve the purchase. Councilmember Buttrum made a motion to approve the purchase. Councilmember Huskins seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 4-0-0 vote.

Councilmember Huskins made a motion to adjourn the meeting but Mayor Billue recognized citizen, Terry Cornwell, who had something to say. Mr. Cornwell stated them barricades and things he heard the firetruck wouldn't go around them. Mayor Billue asked the ones on Richards Rd? Cornwell replied any of them. Citizen Gary Crisp

says anytime you close a road the ambulance is not allowed to go around the barricades. Them or a fire truck he added. Crisp says we need to look into that situation a lot of people's homes and buildings. He continued by saying that the ambulance couldn't get out there to people. Mayor Billue stated they would not go over the railroad anyway. Crisp continued by stating that the barricades no emergency vehicle would go around. Mayor Billue stated she thinks they know it's closed to through traffic. Billue continued by saying that people that live out there have to get through there. Crisp and Cornwell continued by saying they are not allowed to go by the barricades. Mayor Billue asked Chief Barnes if he knew anything about that. Chief stated it was set up with and before he could finish answering Crisp interrupted. Crisp repeated I am saying they will not let them go through the barricades. Crisp stated he spoke with them today and if a road is closed they are not allowed to risk it. Chief stated they would go around but not over the railroad. Crisp stated that a new guy on the ambulance would not go around the barricades; he would stop. Chief stated that all the computer systems were all linked together and their equipment in the vehicle tells them the route. Crisp stated again he spoke with someone from EMS today and they would not go around a barricade.

Crisp went on to speak about Richards Rd. stating he spoke with a county supervisor of the county roads. Crisp stated that the supervisor said all we had to do was fix the drainage at the railroad and we could open the road back up. Mayor Billue said unuh. At this point there were so many folks asking questions and giving their opinions; and Mayor Billue took control by saying it is a city road and she has had the county look at it. The Mayor continued by saying she had the insurance company take a look at it. Crisp interrupted again by asking the Mayor who from the county came out and looked at it. Mayor Billue replied his name is Tom Sills. Robin Deal added that Mr. Sills was the one that looked at it and stated it needed to be closed. Citizen Terry Cornwell said we ain't never had no issue with it being closed. Mayor Billue stated that the approach to the railroad is eroding. Cornwell spoke up and said he had seen a spot about that big around. That's not much of the road Cornwell continued. Crisp stated again he's in charge of the county roads and he told me he looked at it. The only thing you need to do to open the road back up was put the new drainage in if that was the issue. Mayor Billue asked Crisp what's his name, what's his name? Crisp asked Councilmember Charles Buttrum, Charles what's his name? You got his card. Mayor Billue replied again that's a city road. Crisp interjected again it's a county road but it runs through the city. Mayor Billue added that makes us responsible for it. That part is a city road. Buttrum announced the name Joe Sutton. Joe Sutton was repeated by Councilmember Huskins. Buttrum stated that's what's on the card right here. Mayor Billue stated he doesn't have anything to do with that road in our city limits. Crisp repeats it's still a county road. Mayor Billue said I tell you that the county won't pay for it. Crisp says I understand. He further stated he (Joe Sutton) was willing to come up there and bring his contractors. Mayor Billue asked well why didn't he call us? Crisp stated he only talked with him today and he said if you would call him they would come up there and make suggestions of how to go about that. Mayor Billue stated she would have Tom Sills with the county transportation department come with him and explain it to him. Crisp said I don't know who this other gentlemen is; but Joe is over county roads. Mayor Billue stated Tom Sills is over transportation. Huskins asked if Joe Sutton was an engineer. Mayor Billue replied no. Huskins said and the guy we had look at it was an engineer? Mayor Billue

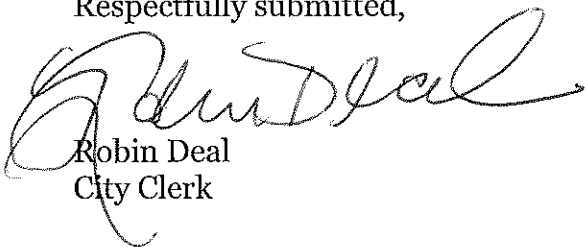
replied yes. Huskins asked so who overrules who? Crisp said it would be better to use the county the resources there to help get this done. They wouldn't have to do the work for you. Huskins said I think we've reached out to them and didn't get much of a response. Mayor Billue said yeah tell them what happened to the paving as she recognized Billy Baker. Baker started to explain and was promptly interrupted by Crisp who stated back in the spring the issue was you needed to get up there and work on the approach ramps and do the paving and get into all this stuff. If you just fix that drainage ditch you don't get involved in all of that. Mayor Billue stated you still gotta fix the erosion. Baker stated the erosion is the bigger problem. Cornwell and Crisp both uttered something about the not seeing any erosion in the area and were quickly interrupted by Jimmy Nichols who asked; have y'all looked at lately. Cornwell stated I've walked it and I don't care what you say. Nichols continued by saying on the other side of the road on your side (addressing Cornwell) there's a dip in the road and that when he was walking, he almost tripped on account of the dip. Nichols said it was on the west bound side in the west bound lane. If you can make it out there walk out there. Cornwell stated he could make it out there. Nichols asked would you want your wife or your kids running off something like that? Cornwell replied if they wanted to go I wouldn't stop them. Nichols said go out there and look at it. I can't believe y'all are even arguing about it. Cornwell and Crisp continued arguing stating that road had been there for years and Nichols replied y'all walk down there. Crisp stated that the guy he talked to at the county he said it could be fixed for a lot less than money than this \$500,000. Mayor Billue stated that's why I talked to Bob Weatherford, he can do it for a fraction of the cost. Baker said when we first brought before the council we had a contractor look at that ditch and the main pipe under the railroad on both sides. Baker said to bore that road and level that pipe in the elevation it should be we were talking \$75,000 per side. Crisp said well that's not \$400,000. Baker continued by saying you would have to stabilize walls of that road because that road has eroded away. Crisp said that's nothing, but rip rap he had done a considerable amount of work in that area. Baker stated anyway it's going to be an issue that's going to be gradually taken care of. Cornwell stated its going to have to be more than a pipe on his side. Baker stated he thinks we are moving in the right direction.

Councilmember Huskins asked if everybody was done. 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 7:47 p.m.



Respectfully submitted,



Robin Deal  
City Clerk