

City of Reidsville

City Council Meeting

Dec. 14, 2020
Monday ~~October 12, 2020~~

*Incorrect date -
Should be
Dec. 14, 2020*

Draft Copy- Not approved by Council until January 11, 2021

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Reidsville City Council was held on Monday December 14th, 2020 at 5:00 pm. Members of Council present:

Carolyn Crume- Blackshear

Bruce Conner

Jim Waters

Verdie Williams

City Attorney DuAnn Cowart-Davis was present.

The meeting was brought to order by Mayor Sydney Clifton at 5:00 pm. The prayer was given by Council Member Bruce Conner, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

At this time, the meeting was opened for public comments. No comments from the audience were given. It was announced by Mayor Clifton that Britney Fountain, Clerk, had submitted her intent to resign effective December 31st after a ten year career with the City of Reidsville. Britney gave a heartfelt goodbye to the Council and staff present. In response, each Council member personally expressed well wishes and goodbye's to Britney and let her know her service would be missed.

The Mayor advised the meeting minutes from last month's meeting were provided to the Council for review. If there are no questions and/or corrections recommended, a motion is needed to accept as written. A motion was made to accept the minutes as written.

Motion made by: Carolyn Blackshear

2nd by: Verdie Williams

Vote: Approved – Unanimous

The Department Supervisors were asked to present their monthly activity/statistics to the Council. Jimmy Brown, Rodney DeLoach, and Stacey Wilds presented their monthly reports and gave updates in regards to each of their departments. Chief Brown identified fire hydrants that needed the most attention and why. Ms. Verdie Williams inquired if the fire truck had been sold yet. Chief Brown did let Mrs. Williams know that it had not been sold. Mrs. Blackshear did ask Chief Brown about any inquiries he had in regards to people looking to purchase the old fire truck. Rodney DeLoach, Public Works Director, did inform the Mayor and Council that there was a collapsed sewer line on Highway 56 Extension. He did secure bids and gained approval. There was a problem with the manhole on Hart St. which resulted in a costly repair (\$2350-\$5000). There was notation made that the limb truck made 104 stops for yard debris and results in about 3 dumpster loads a week being taken to the Toombs County Landfill as mandated by the EPD for removal. This is creating the City a cost that was outside of the current year budget estimate.

Under Old Business, the Sprayfield lease was next for discussion. City Attorney DuAnn Cowart-Davis stated there was no movement this month and stated she recommended to table this until after January. Special Elections was the next topic. March 25th is the tentative election date. We will check again after the beginning of the year. There was discussion in reference to Mr. Jimmy Burns property regarding the old store and the burnt mobile home behind the Dixie Motel. City Attorney, DuAnn Cowart-Davis did ask that the Mayor and Council to advise Chief Stacey Wilds on whether they wanted him to issue citations to Mr. Burns. Chief Wilds will follow up again with him concerning the insurance company. Two other properties were noted as potential addresses of concern. There were no further comments or questions regarding dilapidated buildings.

The next item with regard to Old Business is the approval of the June 30, 2019 audit conducted by Deal, Lanier, and Associates. This topic had been tabled to give members enough time to review the budget. Ms. Carolyn did advise that the Council's finance committee had been meeting weekly since November and the budget was being handled and the finances were in good standing at this point.

Motion made by: Jim Waters
2nd by: Carolyn Blackshear
Vote: Approved – Unanimous

Topic 5 of the agenda's old business was about the current vacancy of for City Judge. Jack Downie was the initial candidate. He sat as judge for our November City court. Chief Wilds added that he had done a great job and would love working with him going forward. No other candidates expressed interest in the position. A motion was made to retain Mr. Downie as Reidsville City judge.

Motion made by: Carolyn Crume-Blackshear
2nd by: Bruce Conner
Vote: Approved – Unanimous

The last item on the agenda under old business was the drug/alcohol policy. It was decided to look back on this further and update all policies in the future.

The first item under new business on the agenda is the rate increases for water/sewer beginning January 1st. The new rates would run in the newspaper for two consecutive weeks. It was also decided that there would be a 1% increase yearly to make up for rising inflation costs. The City of Reidsville has not endured rate increases in some time. Also, during COVID-19, no disconnections were made even when citizens did not pay their bills. Current times are causing price increases on the City's business. A motion was made to adopt the new rates to begin January with a 1% increase yearly.

Motion made by: Verdie Williams
2nd by: Carolyn Crume-Blackshear
Vote: Approved – Unanimous

The next item on the agenda was the Payroll changes. Currently, employees are paid weekly. It was advised to leave the payroll as is with all of the upcoming personnel changes. Christmas cheer and greeting were expressed to all and City hours were announced for City employees and adjusted City Hall hours for Christmas and New Years. A motion was made to adjourn

Motion made by: Bruce Conner
2nd by: Jim Waters
Vote: Approved- Unanimous