

City of Reidsville

City Council Meeting

Monday February 8, 2021

Draft Copy- Not yet approved by Council until March 8th, 2021

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Reidsville City Council was held on Monday, February 8th 2019 at 5:00 pm. Members of Council present:

Carolyn Crume- Blackshear

Bruce Conner

Verdie Williams

City Attorney, DuAnn Cowart-Davis, was also present.

City Clerk, Nivea Jackson, prepared the minutes.

The meeting was brought to order by Mayor Pro Tem Carolyn Crume-Blackshear at 5:09 pm. The prayer was given by Council Member Bruce Conner, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

It was announced that there are not enough members of the Council attending to have a quorum to vote at this time. At this time, the meeting was opened for public comments. There were no public comments.

Mrs. Blackshear advised the meeting minutes from last month's meeting were provided to the Council for review. No motions or voting would take place because the lack of Council. The meeting would be informational.

The Department Supervisors were asked to present their monthly activity/statistics to the Council. Chief of Police, Stacey Wilds, presented the monthly reports of the police department. Fire Chief, Jimbo Brown, presented the monthly reports of the fire department. Public Works Director, Rodney DeLoach, presented the monthly reports for the water and sewer department and streets and lanes.

Food Lion was the first item under the new business. The current grocery store was shut down as Harvey's for the new Food Lion remodel. The manager was in attendance in the audience and advised that the store would be reopening under the new Food Lion name by the 15th of February.

The next agenda item was Surrency Park. Councilwoman V. Williams is proposing that the Council set aside funds for Surrency Park because the current allocation under the Parks and Recreation budget was not being used at all on the park. She advised that she would go through the appropriate channels to make sure the park's needs don't go unmet any longer. The topic was tabled until enough members would be available to secure a vote.

Spot On was next on the agenda to be discussed. This is the second month it has been on the agenda. Spot on is a POS merchant that assists businesses with online commerce. Becoming a customer with Spot on would allow the City to give customers credit and debit card payment access. The vendor also has software that online payments and bill reminders for customers can be set up for use. This is a convenience that the City has been discussing because of customer's requests to use cards and pay online. The City Council agreed that in these times it is very important to not only keep up with the times, but keep staff and public safe. Payments can be made with a click of the smartphone or computer and not warrant a trip to City Hall. Josh Cazares from Spot on was present for comments and questions.

Next item on the agenda was the Development Authority. It was announced that the committee was up and running for the 2021 year. They have already had a meeting and were active.

Additionally, under New Business, the upcoming budget and charter updates were discussed. The City of Reidsville's fiscal year ends in June. The Council was advised that plans would need to start in March, by City clerk Nivea Jackson, in order to be on time to vote in the new budget during the June meeting. Members were also charged to review the charter to correct discrepancies and the many identified contradictions. The City attorney advised that she was asked to update our charter during the election process by a GMA official as some parts of the charter contradicted the election process.

The last item under new business was the announcement of the intent to sale the Crown Victoria that is parked at the City Hall. Stacey Wilds would list the sale of the car on all suitable platforms. The car is currently not being used at all for City business.

Under Old Business, Burn's property clean up was the first item. City Attorney and Police Chief Stacey Wilds briefed the Council that citations had been issued to the owner of the property. The owner has a scheduled court date of March 16th, 2021 to bring in proof as to why he could not clean the property or receipts of the property being cleaned. The owner, if found guilty, could be fined daily until the property was cleaned of the dilapidated burn ruins. It was noted that the citation did not cover the old Auto Parts store. The Attorney and Chief would also issue a citation to cover both dwellings. It was reminded that this property had been in question and discussed for well over a year and the City has felt results were needed. Other citizens had done their due diligence to clean up and this property would be no different as the complaints from the public had been pouring in about the state of the fallen in property on one of the busiest main streets within the City. It was also noted that cleaning was already underway at the time of the meeting.

The Alexander Hotel was listed again under the old business. The City Attorney advised that she had been in contact with the last living heir to the old deed. She was drafting a quit claim deed for that old deed. This would allow for a new deed to be drafted and suffice our insurance clause on the property before our July deadline. There would be nothing further to be done after a legal lease is constructed.

The next item on the agenda is the sprayfield lease. The Mayor urged the Attorney and the Council to finalize the lease and to have it listed in the paper for bid soon, as hay season was approaching. It has yet to be decided how long the lease will run for. The Council will need to discuss and vote on this to have it ready to post out for bid after the next meeting. Duann Davis, attorney, states she has done her due diligence in letting the current lessees know about the expiration of their current lease. She has not gotten an acknowledgement response from them.

The last item on the agenda for discussion, fire hydrants. Three bids had been secured. A company to replace and repair the hydrants had been found. The City finance committee was able to identify funding for the project. 10-15 days notice would be given to the contractor to come and do the work on the hydrants. Coordination would be made with the Public works/Fire depts for the work needed.

Meeting was adjourned with a motion given by Bruce Conner and 2nd by Verdie Williams.