

City of Reidsville
City Council Meeting
Monday May 11, 2020

Draft Copy- Not approved by Council until June 8th, 2020

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Reidsville City Council was held on Monday, May 11th, 2020 at 5:00 pm. Members of Council present:

Verdie Williams

Carolyn Crume- Blackshear

Bruce Conner

Donald Prestage

Jim Waters

City Attorney DuAnn Cowart-Davis was present.

The meeting was brought to order by Mayor Sydney Clifton at 5:04 pm. The prayer was given by Council Member Bruce Conner, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

There were no public comments requested in writing prior to the Council Meeting. The City Attorney stated that neither the Mayor nor herself received an inquiry.

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

Motion made by: Jim Waters
2nd by: Verdie Williams
Vote: Approved - Unanimous

Each Department Supervisor turned in their monthly reports to the Clerk. Recreation Department's Darien Renfroe stated that the Recreation Department had no organized activities going on. Daily upkeep of the park is ongoing. Mr. Renfroe stated that bleacher covers had been purchased for \$26,000 using SPLOST Funds and would be installed in the coming weeks by the Georgia Department of Corrections Mobile Detail. Council Member Verdie Williams asked Mr. Renfroe is there were any plans to upgrade Surrency Park. Mr. Renfroe stated that they are financially unable and do not have the manpower at this time to maintain the Park. Council Member Williams stated that the equipment is outdated and of concern. She advised that she would like to look in to perhaps obtaining grant funding for new equipment and

improvements. At this time, Mayor Clifton shared the Fire, Police, Water-Sewer and Street and Lane Departments monthly reports. There were no comments or discussion at this time.

Under Old Business, the dilapidated buildings were the next item on the agenda. Mayor Clifton advised the Council that he and City Attorney DuAnn Cowart Davis had attempted to visit Mr. Tommy Butler's property on three occasions without success due to scheduling conflicts. Attorney Davis advised that while progress has been made on the Burn's property that they are nearing the additional thirty-day mark. Attorney Davis also advised that the Fields property owners advised that the insurance had refused to pay their fire claim; that while they have attempted to clean up the property, they are also approaching the final thirty days to get the property up to standard. Attorney Davis advised that the loud dog problem in the Kelly Street area had been somewhat addressed, with the owners bringing the dogs inside at night. Attorney Davis said the situation would continue to be monitored and further action taken as deemed necessary. Mayor Clifton then advised Council that there was a "Streets to Be Paved Packet" in their folders. Mayor Clifton stated that there were a couple roads in the packet that had already been paved. Council Member Jim Waters asked why the County had stopped paving Anderson Street at the City Limits sign. Mayor Clifton advised that he did not know why the County stopped but that he intended to request being added to the Commissioner's Agenda for discussion at the next County meeting.

With no further Old Business to discuss at this time the Mayor addressed New Business with the Council. The first item under New Business was the area of Chandler Avenue, Pine Street and Delores Street with Mr. Edgar Johnson and Ms. Jones in attendance to discuss the drainage, as well as access to this area. Mr. Johnson stated that he had put up a No Trespassing sign on Pine Street due to the fact that he has bees and to protect the public, not to stop vehicles from traveling down the road. Mr. Johnson advised that while a bigger truck could not drive by the sign that a smaller truck is able. There was concern from Attorney Davis with regard to a drainage ditch along the Tattnall County Board of Education property and Mr. Johnson's property. Mr. Johnson advised that to help drainage and prevent flooding in other areas that he was not opposed to drainage pipes being used but had concerns over a dam being used. Mayor Clifton advised that the area in question is not Mr. Johnson's property. Attorney Davis asked Mr. Johnson if he would object to the City getting Engineers to research the issue and assist with the problem. Mr. Johnson advised he did not have a problem with nonbiased engineering advisors to advise and possibly assist with the issues. At this time Ms. Jacquelyn Jones who owns property on Delores Street addressed the Council. Ms. Jones advised that she moved to the property in 2018 and has had issues with her yard flooding since that time. Ms. Jones advised that she had spoken with Hayden Blayze with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources in regard to Flood Plain Administration. After discussion the Council, Mayor, Mr. Johnson, Ms. Jones and Attorney Davis agreed that they need to speak with the Tattnall County Board of Education, Attorney Joe McGovern, as well as the Engineers to address the issues and concerns of all involved parties. A Motion was made to allow all parties to schedule and meet to address the issues with Pine Street and Delores Street affecting drainage in the area.

Motion made by: Carolyn Crume - Blackshear

2nd by: Donald Prestage
Vote: Approved - Unanimous

The next item on the Agenda was the HVAC System for the Police Department Court Room. Mayor Clifton asked to continue the vote until the Council Meeting on June 8, 2020. Motion was made to table until next Meeting.

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

At 6:10pm the Council was called into Executive Session regarding personnel issue and litigation.

Motion made by: Verdie Williams
2nd by: Bruce Conner
Vote: Approved – Unanimous

At 6:52pm, a motion was made to come out of Executive Session.

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

The Council was called back into Regular Session at 6:53pm.

At this time Mayor Clifton addressed the Council Members and asked if they had any additional items to share or address. Council Member Bruce Conner stated how hard the grass cutters had been working to keep the grass cut. He also asked when regular Planning and Council Meetings might resume. Mayor Clifton advised that most likely June's Meetings would be conducted in the same manner. Mayor Clifton also advised that once Rick's Glass had installed the new glass with speaker and pass-thru in City Hall that it would reopen. The remaining Council had no questions or concerns at this time.

Mayor Clifton advised that the City would be advertising for an Assistant Public Works Director. The Mayor said he had a job description for this position for review. Mayor Clifton said Budgets for the upcoming year would be reviewed in May. He thanked Council Members Donald Prestage and Jim Waters for their work in obtaining Pivot Quotes. Mayor Clifton also stated that he had lunch with Billy Hickman last week who is running for the late Senator Jack Hill's seat. Mayor Clifton further stated that the CDBG Project kicks off May 18th. Mayor Clifton stated that he is aware of a problem with cats in the City and the City is going to address the problem with Animal Control. Clerk Britney Fountain advised the Council that a family had lost their home and belongings in a house fire and donations of clothes were needed.

With no further business to discuss a motion was made to adjourn this meeting at 7:04pm.

Motion made by: Jim Waters

2nd by: Donald Prestage

Vote: Approved- Unanimous