

# THE CITY OF REIDSVILLE

## REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY May 8th, 2023

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The regularly scheduled meeting of the Reidsville City Council was held Monday May 8th, 2023 at 5:00pm at the Reidsville City Hall Council Meeting Room.

Members of Council present were:

Curtis Colwell- Mayor

Carolyn Blackshear-Mayor Pro Tem

Lindsay Bennett-Councilwoman (absent)

Donald Prestage-Councilman

Douglas Williams-Councilman

Verdie Williams-Councilwoman

Duann Davis, City Attorney, Nivea Jackson, City Clerk, and Kelly McRae, Finance Clerk were all present in their respective roles. The meeting began with the Mayor, Curtis Colwell welcoming all guests and opening the meeting with a moment of prayer. The meeting attendees recited the pledge in unison.

The Mayor began by asking for a motion to adopt March 13th and 16th minutes. Donald Prestage is making a motion to adopt March 13<sup>th</sup>'s minutes, but to make corrections to the March 16<sup>th</sup> minutes and table the acceptance for next month's meeting with corrections. The Mayor is requesting the changes according to Councilman Prestage. Councilman Prestage would like the details of the purchase to be included in the minutes. Mr. Prestage is also stating that a conversation between himself, Devin Jarriel, Building Inspector and Councilwoman Blackshear had and should not be included in the minutes. Nivea Jackson says that they can pull the tape and review for the accuracy. More discussion was had on the clarity of Mr. Prestage's motion.

Motion by: Donald Prestage

2<sup>nd</sup> by: Carolyn Blackshear

Motion: Carries by majority vote

Opposes: Verdie Williams

The Mayor is asking for Department updates.

- Jimmy Brown is updating for the Fire Department
- Rodney Deloach is giving the update for the Water/Sewer Dept. 12 inch valve was installed on the Canoochee tank. The approved Serta valve was scheduled to be installed between May 4<sup>th</sup> and May 18<sup>th</sup> per the contractor. Rodney is telling the Council that he has something else to present to them to consider. He is asking Ronnie Willis, local contractor to help him explain to the Council. Willis comes forward to explain to the Council that he is representing Akbar and Son's project to build tiny homes on John O. Parker Drive. This is near the current existing tiny homes built by Lew Graham dba The Cottages. Willis and Deloach estimate that the cost to install water and sewer connections. Willis needs water/sewer service for 10 tiny homes. The cost to install the connections would be \$45-48K. Willis (Akbar and Sons) will pay \$35k and the City will absorb \$10-12k in labor costs to dig the line. Willis will purchase meter and parts and will complete some labor too. These costs include the installation of 2 fire hydrants. Councilwoman Williams asks Willis how soon would the project start? Willis answers that land clearing has began. Councilman Prestage asks where this \$10-12k of funding would come from. Councilwoman Blackshear answers that monies were available for this funding. Prestage warns that the City has taken on a large amount of debt load this year already. Councilwomen Blackshear and Williams are explaining that this spend would yield future revenue for the City. Willis says that he would hope to eventually put in up to 40 tiny homes but just wants to focus on the primary 10. These tiny homes would be short term rentals. These rentals are answering the City's needs for hotel/motel lodging.

Councilman Prestage is asking the status on the repair of the backhoe. Rodney answers telling Councilman Prestage that the mechanic is still awaiting parts and will provide an update in a week. Councilman Prestage is asking if we can look into another repair shop completing maintenance since the repair is taking months to complete. Rodney is informing Mr. Prestage that this same mechanic repaired the limb truck when it was down needing a critical part. Reidsville Baptist Church area has repair work needed in front. Mr. Prestage is encouraging Rodney to follow up behind our contractors to ensure complete projects and left clean.

- Devin Jarriel is giving this month's updates for the Building Inspector. Devin advises the Council that a lot of things are coming. One being an expansion of the City's hospital. The hospital expansion will add 15 more patient rooms and 2 surgery rooms. Devin updated the Council on other permits that he has on his desk.
- Michael Jarrell is the Assistant Police Chief and gave RPD statistics. No discrepancies.
- Councilman Williams is announcing that the Recreation Dept has all star games currently going on and is hearing great things.
- Mordena Richardson is reporting for the Ethics committee. Mrs. Richardson is reporting that all matters that have been reported to the committee have been answered.
- Kelly McRae is reporting for Administration. Kelly is working with Dept heads to finish preparing the budgets for the new year and to get the updates to the newspaper. Donald Prestage is asking for an update on the City audit. Nivea Jackson answers that a meeting would take place with the audit team and the finance committee in the next week to get a clearer picture on when the audits would be complete. The City is trying to complete 2 years of audit work
- Councilwoman Williams updates the Council for Surrency Playground. The Committee is awaiting for the installation of new fencing to define the entrance and parking at the Playground.
- No one was available for report from the DDA

The Mayor is moving the meeting into the old business. Dilapidated properties was first on the agenda under old business. The Mayor asks the

City Attorney, Davis to update the Council. Properties on Small St- 121 Small St has began cleanup by tearing down the old mobile home, cleanup currently underway; 158 Lloyd St has brought the yard into compliance with cleanup, has one building to deconstruct with a roof caving in, Apts on MLK \* (formerly Carmen Collins) has new owners. Property cleanup is complete. \*The new owners are working on the cleanout of the structures. The Tommy \*Butler estate will start cleanup soon. Devin Jarriel is asking Davis about the property (a house) next door to Sue's Rentals on South Main Street. He is asking if Davis has found the owner. Davis had not. Council Prestage is inquiring about the Church St property. Devin Jarriel says the property has been purchased by Craig Morgan. Jarrell has approved for the property to get temporary power to begin cleanup and renovations. They do not have permanent approval for services. The new owner is affiliated with a church group and will be using it for that purpose. Councilwoman Williams is asking what has been done about the Burns property. Jimmy Burns owns property across from City Hall. Mr. Burns hotel and more specifically his old parts store building is dilapidated and the roof has caved in on this Main St. property. Davis explains Mr. Burns has been paying his fines as agreed. The fines were imposed with the hopes of Mr. Burns bringing the old parts store into some sort of compliance. This one property has been on the dilapidation list for more than two years and has been paying imposed fines for a year with no changes made. Davis says his case will require court action and she would check on the next step for this process to begin.

Each Council member was asked to bring two names of possible zoning board members. Council voted and submitted the names of citizens; Dian Sharpe Sapp, Peter Patel, Brian Nerzig, Nathaniel Joyce, Gene Smith, Ray Joyce, Janice Johnson, Steven Richardson, John Sapp. 5 of these citizens will be chosen to serve on the Zoning Board. Donald Prestage makes a motion to once again table the voting until next month. Councilwoman Blackshear is asking why would they table it when they had the majority present?

Motion by: Donald Prestage

2<sup>nd</sup> by:

Motion: Dies to a lack of a second

Councilman Doug Williams makes a countermotion to proceed with the voting of the Zoning Board.

Motion by: Doug Williams

2<sup>nd</sup> by: Carolyn Blackshear

Motion: Carries by Majority vote

Opposes: Donald Prestage

Each of the Council submitted their vote for the Board. While the tally is going on, Carolyn Blackshear makes a motion to go into Executive Session for real estate and legal at 5:35pm

Motion by: Carolyn Blackshear

2<sup>nd</sup> by: Verdie Williams

Carolyn Blackshear makes a motion to come out of Executive Session at 5:44pm

Motion by: Carolyn Blackshear

2<sup>nd</sup> by: Verdie Williams

Motion: Carries

Verdie Williams makes a motion to resume the Regular meeting at 5:46pm  
Duann Davis has tallied the names for the zoning board. 3 names were eliminated, and the Council voted again from the existing names. Davis informs the Council again they have a tie between two names. It was asked that the Mayor break the tie by virtue of his role. The new zoning board members were Peter Patel, Gene Smith, Janice Johnson, Ray Joyce, and Steven Richardson. With no further business to discuss, Carolyn Blackshear makes a motion to adjourn @5:56pm.