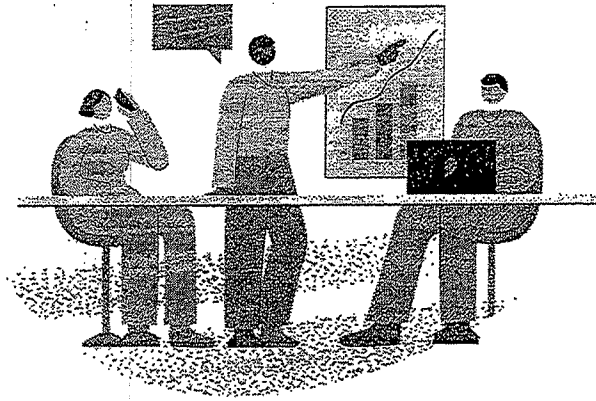


MEETING MINUTES REGULAR SESSION



DATE

10/14/2024

TIME

4:30pm

FACILITATOR

Vickie Nail

IN ATTENDANCE

Vickie Nail-Mayor, Donald Prestage (Mayor Pro Tem), Carolyn Blackshear, Verdie Williams, Lindsay Bennett (ABSENT), Gina Sheridan, Duann Davis, and Nivea Jackson

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The mayor asks for a motion from the Council if there are no corrections needed for the minutes from September.

Motion by: Carolyn Blackshear

2nd by: Verdie Williams

Motion: Carries unanimously

ZOOM CALL DAVENPORT AND ASSOCIATES 4:30PM

The Mayor and Council met with Davenport and Associates who are the City's financial advisors via Zoom call. The team is explaining to the Mayor and Council the requirements for securing interim financing for the USDA loan application process to be complete. Loan is not set to begin until after 2026 completions are complete. An RFP will be submitted to banks to help complete interim financing. RFP is a financial explanation of terms, amounts, and application of securing the interim financing. The RFP will close on October 18th. Further updates on submissions, bond resolutions and any adoptions will occur at the scheduled meeting on October 24th at 5:00pm.

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

The scheduled Regular City council meeting was called to order at 5:00pm. The same members of Council aforementioned are in attendance. The Prayer was offered by Mayor Nail and the pledge was done in unison. The mayor welcomed everyone and spoke to the presiding audience concerning the recent Hurricane Helene aftermath. Nail noted that citizens were helping citizens, neighbors were coming together, and agencies such as the County, Forestry, Red Cross, and FEMA were all working together to help the citizens.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Police Dept-Acting Chief J. Snell, Asst Chief Snell is appointed as acting Chief Snell after the resignation of Chief Neesmith. Cadets are in the academy (Rozier and Chandler) and are both due to be complete by January 2025,

Fire Dept.-Stats provided by Donald Prestage

Rec Dept-Carolyn Blackshear named new members, and the park received \$5k from a Cannoochee EMC grant.

Water/Sewer/Street/Lanes-Rodney Deloach- Stats Provided. Special thanks given for the hard work.

NEW BUSINESS

2024 Lighted Christmas Parade-Christmas Parade will be December 14th, lineup will be at 4pm, step off at 6pm. Dusty West from the Jr. Board is in charge of the parade activities. Donald Prestage makes a motion to approve the lighted Christmas Parade.

Motion by: Donald Prestage

2nd by: Verdie Williams

Motion: Carries unanimously

November Tax Sale- The tax sale has been postponed due to Hurricane Helene. The city was closed and unable to receive payments for 5 days. The mayor wants citizens to be able to concentrate on cleaning up from the storms. Sale is postponed until January.

November meeting Schedule- The date for the next month's regular meeting will be Monday November 11, 2024 (Veteran's Day). The council has agreed to move the meeting to **Tuesday November 12, 2024**, to have the regularly scheduled meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Water Rates- The Mayor and Council have received advisement from the financial advisement team and USDA. Rates will need to increase to sustain the life of the loan. The rate increase will affect customers on October 29th and is due to an increase in sewage bills by \$3.97 and will increase yearly in October. Carolyn Blackshear makes motion to increase the rates.

Motion by: C. Blackshear

2nd by: Donald Prestage

Motion: Carries unanimously

The mayor announced that two upcoming businesses have sufficed the application process and will receive alcohol permits respective to the application.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Donald Prestage makes a motion to go to the Executive Session to discuss Real Estate and Personnel at 6:01pm

2nd by: Carolyn Blackshear

The Council returns from Executive Session at 6:19pm The Mayor announces that the city intends to sell 0.09 of an acre on Church St to Carmen Collins.

No Personnel action taken.

Meeting is adjourned at 6:21pm

OLD BUSINESS

The Mayor is informing the attendees and Council that the Nov. 5th tax sale was postponed until March 2025. Collections have been aggressive and are working. New tax bills are out and will also be delinquent in January.

Don Powell gave the Council updates on the dilapidation list. Three homes were demolished at the recommendation of the City. Powell is continuing efforts with respect to storm damage cleanup. The list of homes that will be receiving notice of different violations is growing. The biggest concern is unnumbered homes and debris ridden homes.

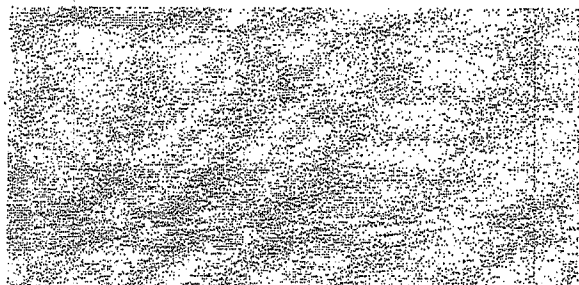
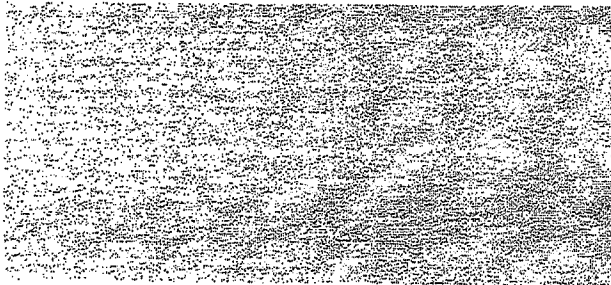
The Mayor is reconsidering initiating the Blight Tax. Attorney Davis was able to shed light on how this works. The initiation is to encourage homeowners to clean up, rent, or sell property. If fined, property owners could endure a 25% tax (on total cost of property) for a property left empty. Owners with rental space would be forced to keep the property in good working condition for rental income. This is in hopes of bringing viable businesses to the City.

Councilman Prestage suggests that a letter be drafted by the City Attorney warning citizens they are in violation. He also requests citizens be notified by local newspaper that an impending fine would be pending for residences that were cited for not having proper address markings on them. Prestage reminds Council that citizens were reminded in the Spring to mark homes. Council had discussion about the importance of numbering homes and ways to enforce the ordinance. **Donald Prestage makes a motion to go forward the Attorney letter and have the building inspector enforce the ordinance. The motion dies on the floor for lack of second.** It was printed on water bills. During the storm, and monthly to offer water/sewer services, homes were difficult to recognize because they were not properly marked. Duann Davis will draft letters and notifications will be put at City Hall for citizens to get properly notified. If residents do not comply with lettering/ numbering their homes, a fine will ensue. Councilwoman Blackshear makes a motion to curate the doorhangers and ensure compliance of the ordinance.

Motion by: Carolyn Blackshear

2nd by: Verdie Williams

Motion: Carries, Donald Prestage opposes



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- Fire Dept-Jimmy Brown gives the report. Handout available. Councilwoman V. Williams asks the Fire Chief to get estimates to provide fire extinguishers in all of the City's building.
- Police Dept-Asst Chief Snell gave the report and a handout is available.
- Donald Prestage gave the report for Water/Sewer. Handout is available.
- Carolyn Blackshear- Gave report for Surrency and Recreation Dept.
- Don Powell gave a report for the Building Inspector.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Meeting adjourns at 6:23p

NEXT MEETING

December 2nd -Planning

December 9th Regular Session

Viki Nail
2/10/25