



MINUTES

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

August 9, 2022, 5:30 PM

REGULAR MEETING:

Call to Order: The August 9, 2022, Regular Council Meeting was called to order by Mayor Keith Turman at 5:30 PM.

Attendance: Mayor Keith Turman, Mayor Pro Tem Lee Strickland, Kenneth Roach, Matt Fields, Wayne Braswell, David Pressley, Jason Phillips, City Attorney Doug Ashworth, City Manager Sharleen Ayers, City Consultant Gary Fesperman, and City Clerk Tonya Allen.

Approval of All Outstanding Minutes: Wayne Braswell made a motion to approve the July 12, 2022, Public Hearing & Regular Meeting Minutes and July 26, 2022, Work Session Minutes Jason Phillips seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.

Additions or Deletions to Agenda: Item F SPLOST 6: Project Allocations, Move Executive Session above Item E

Approval of Agenda: Jason Phillips made a motion to approve agenda; Matt Fields seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.

Main Street Update – Michael Crump: Thanked everyone that came out for A1 Transmission ribbon cutting that was held today. Third Monday will be August 15, last month was very favorable with the vendors and better attendance with the restaurants being opened in the evening. DDA meeting going to discuss scheduling the next merchant meeting looking at possibly late September early October to discuss holiday season. The farmers market continues on Saturday mornings from 7AM to noon in the library parking lot. The applications are ready to go out for Fall Festival, quite a few phone calls for potential new vendors. Should be a good weekend in Royston, Saturday October 8. Will be out of the office the afternoon of August 22, thru August 25th for Ga Downtown Conference in Macon. Mayor stated he was grateful for the new business of A1 Transmission who moved his entire business from Flowery Branch to Royston.

Unfinished Business:

- A. **Closing of Hall Street:** City Manager Sharleen Ayers stated that there had been a discussion of the closing of Hall Street before and the council asked for time to look at Hall Street to get some opinions. The cost from the Street department in order to repair Hall Street is around \$52,000 and the

city already fixed Jordan Street which was also part of the drainage issues that was going on. This is coming back up before council to decide if you would like to begin a process for closing Hall Street or do we want to repair. Lee Strickland stated he didn't have a problem with closing Hall Street just wanted to know what the people on the street think. Asked if a survey has been done. City Manager Sharleen Ayers said if the council wants to look at closing it, we will start that process and go through all of the steps. Lee Strickland said if we close it, he doesn't want to close it right at 17, maybe drop down and have a dead-end sign at the end of the road. Council would like for the City Manager Sharleen Ayers to start the process with the citizens within that area to look at the possibility of closing it.

New Business:

- A. First Reading Ordinance: Amend 18-26 for Adoption of Technical Codes:** City Attorney Doug Ashworth read the first reading of the proposed ordinance to amend 18-26 for Adoption of Technical Codes. Mayor Turman stated that the second reading will be done before it will be adopted.
- B. Resolution to adopt Schedule of Fees:** City Attorney Doug Ashworth said that under the code of ordinances resolutions only require one reading and then a vote. This is a resolution approving the updating adoption of fees, service charges and other assessments and this completes the one and only requirement of the opposed resolution. Jason Phillips made a motion to approve; Kenneth Roach seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.
- C. Procurement Policy Update:** City Manager Sharleen Ayers stated this was discussed at the July 26, 2022, Work Session. This will just be an update to our procurement policy so that we would change the dollar amount of the purchases that would require us to get multiple quotes from \$2,000 to \$3,000. Road projects would need to be bid we would move that from \$20,000 to \$100,000 and if we get a bid the security would be 50% of the bid amount. Those are the only changes that would be put in with the new policy. Wayne Braswell made a motion to approve; Matt Fields seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0
- D. Hiring 3rd Party Contractor for Planning & Building:** Mayor Turman stated that earlier we had a discussion in our July 26th meeting and at that time we made mention that if anyone wanted to speak with Bureau Veritas, they would be more than willing to come back and speak on an individual basis, do a presentation to the council to give clarity and understanding on what their proposal is. They were here this morning at 8:30, Hal Chitwood represented Bureau Veritas. Hal Chitwood addressed council and gave a brief presentation of the company's services. The company based in Jefferson does building inspections, plan reviews, building code enforcement, erosion and sediment control and permitting, Chitwood said, with a staff of trained, certified, and expert inspectors. The company handles inspections for Franklin County, Hart County, Lavonia, Carnesville, Jackson County, and Banks County. Mayor Turman stated that the city currently has no one that is certified to issue a certificate of occupancy. Lee Strickland asked why don't we? Mayor Turman stated that we just don't. Lee Strickland stated that he thinks that no more work than the city does, it just needs to be done in house. Hal Chitwood stated that building inspectors by law are required be certified to perform building inspections, that is a process of studying the code books and taking certification test. He said that with building inspections you have to know what to look for in a building of a structure whether it's a home,

commercial or industrial structure. It takes experience and years of just doing that work. Lee Strickland stated that now is just not the time to do it, we have a code enforcement officer, we got a truck, we are paying for insurance, and we are not going to cut that out if we choose to go with your company. It will be an additional expense for the contractor or somebody and he don't see where the city is getting any benefit. Mayor Turman stated that its not code enforcement, its building, permits, and inspections which the code enforcement is not qualified to do at the current time. This will only be on a as needed basis and they will get 80% and the city will get 20% on the cost of them going out to do the inspections. City Attorney Doug Ashworth responded to a question and said that having no certified inspector leaves the city vulnerable to lawsuits. Lee Strickland asked when we started issuing certificate of occupancy. What have we been doing the past 20 years. City Manager Sharleen Ayers said the city does issue certificates. Wayne Braswell said its more benefits for hiring a third party than doing the work in house. He doesn't see the fee that will be charged to contractor being greatly increased because its not in house. The contractor's going to pay it whether its in house or third party. He thinks there's too many opportunities to issue a permit in house that can end up damaging the city. Kenneth Roach said he thinks the city need a qualified person doing it, these gentlemen know what they are doing. Wayne Braswell made a motion to approve; Kenneth Roach seconded the motion. Jason Phillips said he don't say that he disagrees, he just didn't do enough research to say this is the company the city needs to go with, and he doesn't feel it is the right time. David Pressley agreed saying that he read over everything, and that Bureau Veritas was the only company the city had heard from and that he's not prepared to make a decision based off of just one company. City Manager Sharleen Ayers stated that she asked Scott Neal the last time he was here discussing his development if he knew of any other, the only other one he knew was in Atlanta and we would get charged for them to come out here to do any, that's the reason why Bureau Veritas is out here because they are literally the only ones that's out here in this area. The council voted against the motion to hire the inspection firm Bureau Veritas by a 4-2 vote, with Phillips, Pressley, Strickland, and Fields voting against the motion. Mayor Turman told the council that we had the information on the company for two weeks and had the chance to come ask questions and get clarification from Mr. Chitwood and his company. He said regardless of who we get, the council should make an effort to ask questions.

Executive Session: Potential Litigation & Personnel: Kenneth Roach made a motion to enter executive session for discussion of pending litigation & personnel; Matt Fields seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0. Executive session entered at 6:01 PM. Motion was made by Wayne Braswell to re-enter regular session; Kenneth Roach seconded motion; motion carried 6-0. Regular session was re-entered at 6:46 PM.

- E. City Pay Plan: excluding Police Department:** David Pressley made motion to accept the salary portion of the new plan and be effective July 1, 2022; Jason Phillips seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.
- F. SPLOST 6: Project Allocations:** City Manager Sharleen Ayers stated that she talked with Derrick Turner on Monday with Franklin County, the Mayor and herself had a SPLOST negotiations meeting. New SPLOST will start April 2023, they needed to get it on a referendum in November in order for that to happen they needed the city allocation numbers. Spoke with

Derrick and he said if we can get it figured out for him to know by tomorrow, they will call a board meeting and discuss it so they can get their side done and get to the elections in time. The proposal is to stick with the same percentage as we did with the last SPLOST which is 7.35% its also what Lavonia is getting. This coming year they are predicting that this SPLOST is going to bring closer to 25,000,000 by the end of the SPLOST, so our portion at 7.35% will be 1,725,000. We are proposing if council agrees is to put about \$900,000 into Water & Sewer Stormwater Utilities. Roads, Streets, and Bridges would get \$300,000. Public Safety \$300,000. Administrative Buildings, Government Buildings \$75,000. Recreation \$110,000 and the library \$35,000. Jason Phillips made motion to approve SPLOST 6: Project Allocations; Matt Fields seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.

Adjourn: Wayne Braswell made a motion to adjourn; Kenneth Roach seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0. Meeting adjourned at 6:51 PM.

Tonya Allen, City Clerk

Mayor Keith Turman

(SEAL)

“This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.”

City of Royston 684 Franklin Springs Street, Royston, GA 30662.
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