



MINUTES

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

August 11, 2020, 6:30 PM

PUBLIC LIBRARY MEETING ROOM

REGULAR MEETING:

Call to Order: The August 11, 2020 Regular Council Meeting was called to order by Mayor David L. Jordan at 6:30 PM.

Attendance: Mayor David L. Jordan, Mayor Pro-Tem Keith Turman, Larry Bowen, Kenneth Roach, Matt Fields, Wayne Braswell, City Manager Ed Andrews, City Attorney Andrea Grant, and City Clerk Sharleen Ayers.

Approval of All Outstanding Minutes: Keith Turman made a motion to approve the July 14, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes. Wayne Braswell seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.

Additions or Deletions to Agenda: Mayor Jordan asked to move the Library to after Mainstreet to accommodate conflict with another meeting for Ms. Shoemaker.

Approval of Agenda: Motion was made by Wayne Braswell to approve the agenda with changes. Motion was seconded by Larry Bowen. Motion passed 6-0.

Main Street Update – Susan Russell: Strategic Planning session with DDA during August meeting. DCA offering Sept 1 a DDA 101 class if anyone would like to log in to the web class. Artisan Walk next Thursday. DDA Board decided not to go forward with the Fall Festival. Replace with smaller events to bring public into our downtown. 3rd Thursday event like the Artisan Walk will be planned. Farmers Market still going. Census Challenge going on. We have sent out emails, along with posting flyers and other promotional materials at local businesses and during events.

Old Business:

A. Royston Library Additional Funding: Ed Andrews: After discussion with committee and Lavonia Mayor it was decided the current increase of \$2,000 that has already included in the budget for this year would be all we would act on at this time. City Manager was informed the Board of Ed is looking to offset some of the costs to replace the funding they had to remove. Considering the City is bearing the expense of the upkeep and maintenance and utility costs, we will look into the next budget year at any other increase. The City will work with the Library into some possible grants to provide more funding.

City Manager requested the Library work on reducing their expenses and come back to us if they end up in a major shortfall. Mayor asked Ms. Shoemaker what the reduction in funding was going to result in as far as Library operations. Ms. Shoemaker stated she did not know as the Library was waiting to see what funding they would get up front before examining their own budget to see what could be cut. City Manager reiterated that was what the City of Royston had asked them to do at the start. Re-evaluate their budget and see where they end up before asking for any more funding. Mayor asked when the Library would know how their budget amendments would fall out. The response was in about a week. The Mayor asked that the City of Royston be updated with the new outlook.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Tony Jones Park and Daniel Street Community Safety: Bridgette Swilling: Mrs. Swilling 484 Daniel Street addressed Council with comments about the recent shooting incident at the Tony Jones Park and Daniel Street area. She wanted to rectify the issues with what has been going on in Tony Jones Park. She expressed alarm and concern over the incident. She is concerned with the loitering at the park after park hours and how the people in the park at those late hours were not children and were up to no good and selling drugs. She relayed there are cars going through the park at midnight and later regularly. She wanted to know what the City could do to give the Citizens of that neighborhood a better safe environment to live. It is always adults having issues at the park, never the children. Keith Turman stated he knew the area and the concerns. He had talked with the Police Department about increasing their presence. They were going to cut back some trees and increase the lighting to make the area more visible. The Council is aware, and it is unfortunate the situation had escalated to the point of gunshots. Police Chief Bolman confirmed all but one person involved in the incident had been arrested. Larry Bowen stated he would really like to see the City move to a Camera System and not hide it but let everyone know we were recording. Chief Boleman is talking with someone about a system, investigating the possibility of covering multiple locations in the City. The trees will be cut back or removed to clear out the dark areas. The PD was going to work on keeping loitering down, but the citizens also used the park as a parking lot area and there always seemed to be vehicles there. Mayor asked about a gate on the park, but again the concern is parking for residents. Chief Boleman stated they would continue to work with the community to improve the environment for all the residents.

New Business:

- A. **Resolution to Authorize Mayor Jordan to execute CARES Grant Agreement: Mayor Jordan:** The State of Georgia as allocated funds for local governments, and the City has the potential of receiving \$134,585.90 in a Grant Format. The City received their 30% advance of \$40,375.77. We have submitted through the Grant Portal receipts to support that 30% advance. City Manager Ed Andrews emphasized the City does not want to expend funds that will not be reimbursed. A resolution must be passed by the City Council to approve the Grant Agreement and acceptance of Grant Payments. Wayne Braswell made a motion to Approve the Resolution and Authorize the Finance Committee to approve any purchases over \$10,000.00. Kenneth Roach seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.
- B. **2nd Reading Speed Zone Ordinance: Mayor Jordan:** Keith Turman made a motion to Approve the Ordinance as Read. Larry Bowen seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.
- C. **Clarification of GEFA Loan Deferral and Modification from July Meeting: Ed Andrews:** Due to some conflicting language in the recording from July meeting, City Manager Ed Andrews Clarified the intent of the Council is to continue to pay the GEFA Water Meter Debt Loan from Hart County SPLOST V as budgeted and to utilize budget funds for the GEFA WWTP Loan that has been deferred for 6 months to apply to the GEFA Water Meter Debt in January of 2021 to shorten the payoff of that loan.

D. Downtown Parking Lot: Matt Fields: Matt Fields introduced Jerry “Scoot” Rice and Lamar Williams who had approached Councilman Fields about working with the City to Purchase or Lease Land located at 30 Mill Street to create a City Parking Lot. They stated they noticed a problem with availability of downtown parking. Councilman Fields stated the City had discussed in the past a need for parking areas. City Manager asked if they were intending to make the area a parking lot. Mayor stated he did not think the City would lease it, that the City would buy the lots and then develop the parking area. Mr. Rice thought maybe 50-60 spaces would be possible. Mayor thought at one time a discussion had been making a seating area back behind those buildings where the Alley is located. DDA Chair Susan Russell said they had discussed using bricks from the Ty Cobb patio and building a patio garden. DDA would still like to volunteer to maintain and landscape that area. Kelly from Old Corner Hardware Store and DDA Chair Susan Russell are in support of this Parking Lot saying it would be a natural flow from the lot through the Alley to shops downtown for both employees and customers. They propose looking into improving the Alley, possibly with Grant Funds, to create an area for visitors to travel, and possibly have benches or seating in that area. Susan also mentioned we needed to be aware of stormwater runoff created by asphaltting the lot and options could be reviewed to reduce that runoff. City Manager Ed Andrews recommending getting the Street Committee together with Mr. Rice & Mr. Williams to discuss the options and look at cost and funding for this potential lot. Keith Turman told the gentlemen he appreciated their investing in the City with the improvements to businesses and giving the City the opportunity to possibly put some parking downtown. Lee Strickland recommended calling the committee together and see if there could be some defraying of the costs to see what the price would be for the City to do the work versus the cost of it being done and then leased. Lee Strickland, Matt Fields, and Kenneth Roach all were fine with the options of purchase or lease. Council members all were emphasizing the need to move quickly on this project to provide the parking for businesses and customers. City Manager recommended getting the committee together on Thursday at 1PM.

E. Gov Deals Asset Sales: Restriction of Funds Received for Future Asset Purchases: Ed Andrews: Vehicles have been sold on Gov Deals for a total of \$10,346.00 City Manager Ed Andrews recommended restricting the funds received from Vehicle sales to be used for purchase of like vehicles or large equipment to alleviate some budget constraints in the future. The proceeds could be retained by the fund it sold from or be shared among the funds to make capital purchases. This would more effectively match the received funds to the similar expenditures. Mr. Andrews would prefer the funds only be restricted to the type of asset and not the funds or department. Wayne Braswell wanted it to be restricted for similar purchase rather than be used for any general purchase or expenditure in the general fund. Mayor listed it would be restricted for either Vehicle or Construction Equipment Capital Expenditure. Keith Turman made a motion to restrict the funds for use to purchase Capital Equipment either Vehicle or Construction Equipment. Kenneth Roach seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0. City Manager also mentioned the HumVees and Motor Grader have been pulled from service. The City has one title and is pursuing the other titles. Motion made by Larry Bowen to liquidate those assets and restrict them for Vehicle or Construction Equipment purposes. Wayne Braswell seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

F. Discussion for Use or Restriction of MetLife Stock Sales Proceeds of \$4,038.79: Sharleen Ayers: The City received notice of more shares of MetLife Stock remaining in the City’s name. Finance Officer Sharleen Ayers submitted to sell those shares and the proceeds of \$4,038.79 have been received. Prior funds from similar stock sale was so small it was just absorbed into miscellaneous revenue for the General Fund. Since this is a larger amount, Ms. Ayers asked if Council would like to restrict these funds for a particular purpose. Lee Strickland made a motion to use the funds for the purchase of the parking lot. Larry Bowen seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Other Business – City Manager Update:

1. Need to add an amendment to the Revenue: Gas Settlement was received from Transco resulting from an overcharge in 2018 & 2019 on pipeline charges. Requesting amendment in amount of \$46,238.58 to the Gas Fund Revenues and Fund Balance. Keith Turman made a motion to accept the Budget Amendment. Lee Strickland seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.
2. Jan Pearson wanted the Council to be aware the GMA who holds our Health Insurance has not increased our premiums again this year. This is a reflection of our employees making an effort to stay healthy. There is also a Safety Co-Ordinator appointed by the Department Heads. Patrick O’Brian is our first appointment. This will open the City up to Grants from the Workers’ Comp insurance through GMA.

Adjourn: Wayne Braswell made a motion to adjourn; Matt Fields seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:34PM.

Sharleen Ayers, City Clerk

Mayor David L. Jordan

(SEAL)

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

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