



## MINUTES

**PUBLIC HEARING (Alcohol Licensee Change – Smile Mart)**  
**September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022, 5:15 PM**

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**  
**September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022, 5:30 PM**

### **PUBLIC HEARING:**

**Call to order:** Mayor Keith Turman opened the Public Hearing at 5:15 PM.

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

### **Issue:**

- A. **Alcohol Licensee Change – Royston Shell Mart LLC D.B.A Smile Mart:** Business located at 585 Franklin Springs Street. Owner Shoukat Hajiyani was available for any questions.

**Invitation of Public Comment:** None made.

**Response by Council:** None made.

**Close Public Hearing:** Kenneth Roach made a motion to close public hearing; Matt Fields seconded the motion; motion carried 5-0. Public hearing closed at 5:30 PM.

### **REGULAR MEETING:**

**Call to Order:** The September 13<sup>th</sup> Regular Council Meeting was called to order by Mayor Keith Turman at 5:30 PM.

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

**Approval of All Outstanding Minutes:** Jason Phillips made a motion to approve the August 9, 2022, Regular Meeting Minutes; Matt Fields seconded the motion; motion carried 5-0.

**Additions or Deletions to Agenda:** None

**Approval of Agenda:** Jason Phillips made a motion to approve the agenda; Matt Fields seconded the motion; motion carried 5-0.

**Main Street Update – Michael Crump:** Property at 963 Church Street sold. 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday will be September 19<sup>th</sup> from 5-7PM. Farmers market will possibly continue to early November. Kim Oglesby will host a pop-up shop at the Royston Depot to raise funds for Edna Mae Scholarship Fund on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022. Fall Festival is October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Laura Smith & Local Honey will perform from 6-8PM. Shelley Phillips with REMAX is doing renovation for office space in her building located downtown. Will look into purchasing directional signage for downtown.

**Unfinished Business: 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading Amended 18-26 Adoption of Technical Codes**

City Attorney Doug Ashworth read the second reading of the proposed ordinance to amend 18-26 for Adoption of Technical Codes. Kenneth Roach made a motion to adopt the ordinance of Technical Codes; Matt Fields seconded the motion; motion carried 5-0.

**New Business:**

- A. **Alcohol Licensee Change to Shoukat Hajiyani (owner) – Royston Shell Mart LLC D.B.A Smile Mart:** Kenneth Roach made a motion to approve the Alcohol Licensee Change to Shoukat Hajiyani owner of Royston Shell Mart LLC D.B.A Smile Mart; Jason Phillips seconded the motion; motion carried 5-0.
- B. **Ratify Gym Lease Renewal:** City Manager Sharleen Ayers stated that Jeremey Gillespie approached her regarding the gym lease for his wrestling for another year. The term will be the same as last year \$6,000 annually with a \$500 ACH withdrawal monthly. This will run September 1, 2022, through August 31, 2023. David Pressley made a motion to ratify gym release; Jason Phillips seconded the motion; motion carried 5-0.
- C. **LMIG Bid review:** City Manager Sharleen Ayers stated that we had advertised for the 2020 and 2022 LMIG Asphalt Resurfacing this is for Cook Street from Hwy 17 to Hwy 29 at .68 miles of milling, resurfacing, and striping. The only bid we received after a 30-day advertisement on Georgia Procurement site and the newspaper ad was from Jerry Stratton, Stratton Construction in the amount of \$141,502.80. We had budgeted \$143,000 in the budget to cover this. The LMIG for 2020 was \$47,833, the LMIG for 2022 was \$43,529 and that left us with a little over \$50,539 as our match. Bid agreement specified that the contractor would need to complete within 30 days of receiving the order to proceed. Patrick O Brian was going to discuss with him if he received the contract exactly what timing, but he did tell Jerry before he put in the bid that we would need it completed by January because of our LMIG funding. But once he receives that order to proceed, he has 30 days to complete. If he does not begin, he will be fined or if he does not complete at all we have a bid and a procurement bond. Lee Strickland made a motion to accept the bid from Jerry Stratton, Stratton Construction; Matt Fields seconded the motion; motion carried 5-0.
- D. **Demonstration of website cemetery map link:** City Manager Sharleen Ayers gave a demonstration of the website cemetery map link. She stated that Jared Hightower worked with GA Mountain Regional Commission to help get this setup and we are the first ones. There are a few things that are not finished with the process but thought it was worth showing to the Mayor and Council. This is available on our website, go to [cityofroyston.com](http://cityofroyston.com), departments, parks, and cemetery, and at the very bottom of the page there is a Rose Hill cemetery link. This is based on Google Earth map, currently the new section is available. We still have some mapping to do to put the old section on there. In the next six months we are hoping to have the search option available.

**Final Council Actions and Comments:** Mayor Keith Turman brought up the situation regarding the ruptured pipe last week at the ByPass tank. He messaged everyone in the council group and he and the City Manager were in contact throughout the day. He said it was unfortunate that we had a situation like that, but it brought awareness that we need a better way to communicate with the public in times of situations like that. He spoke with Sharleen and, at some point before, a discussion was made about some type of app system that you can have download to your phone that will give you correspondence about events and things that happen in the city. He said it was obvious last week that we needed a system to communicate with everyone. We tried to use the basic platforms such as social media, newspapers, radio, city website, but some might not have access to the internet. Need to move forward and look at some communication alerts in a time of emergency so that we can get the information out as quickly as possible.

City Manager Sharleen Ayers mentioned that we had discussed the closing of Hall Street, after discussing with the attorney we need to decide if we want to have a public hearing for the possibility of closing it or send out letters to the people who have property that is adjacent to the property we are talking about. Council agreed to do both, have a public hearing, and send letters out to the people.

City Manager Sharleen Ayers said she had been asked by a couple council members to look into a company that could possibly contract for water services in case we have any issues finding employees for the water department. After searching online, she found a company called ESG that contracts water services. Wanted to know if council was interested in her reaching out to them if we ever got into a situation and needed some help. Mayor Turman asked if we were primarily looking for licensed personnel, he is not in favor for contracting out the entire department. Lee Strickland said we need to do some recruiting. Mayor Turman said that there was another program with the Georgia Municipal Association, he served on the workforce advisory, and the board tries to work with the local school system, technical colleges and try to introduce to get an interest in local government. They have information on the website that we can use to recruit students.

The city has hired Lapascha Teasley as finance officer, she will start on September 26, 2022.

**Executive Session:** Real Estate and Potential Litigation

Lee Strickland made a motion to enter executive session for discussion of Real Estate and Potential Litigation; Matt Fields seconded the motion; motion carried 5-0. Executive session entered at 6:06 PM. Motion was made by Lee Strickland to re-enter regular session; Kenneth Roach seconded motion; motion carried 5-0. Regular session was re-entered at 6:38 PM.

**Adjourn:** Lee Strickland made a motion to adjourn; Matt Fields seconded the motion; motion carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 6:39 PM.

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**Tonya Allen, City Clerk**

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**Mayor Keith Turman**

(SEAL)

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