



MINUTES

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

February 11, 2020, 6:30 PM

REGULAR MEETING:

Call to Order: The February 11, 2020 Regular Council Meeting was called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Keith Turman at 6:32 PM. A moment of silence was observed for the fallen officer, Police Chief John Thomas of Franklin Springs Police Department.

Attendance: Mayor David L. Jordan arrived at 6:41 after attending BOE meeting in Carnesville, Mayor Pro Tem Keith Turman, Larry Bowen, Kenneth Roach, Matt Fields, Wayne Braswell, City Attorney Andrea Grant, City Manager Ed Andrews, and City Clerk Sharleen Ayers.

Approval of All Outstanding Minutes: Larry Bowen made a motion to approve the January 14, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes. Kenneth Roach seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.

Additions or Deletions to Agenda: Item F: Jared Hightower from Ga Rec and Park Association. Item G: FireWise Community Presentation by Susan Russell, DDA Chair. Move the Item B to post Executive Session.

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

Main Street Update – Michael Crump: New Event Calendar has been set by DDA. Public Safety BBQ Smoke Out & Spring Festival Event scheduled for April 25th. Car Show May 16th. Small Business Saturday Nov 28th. Christmas in Royston Monday Nov 30th. Last Thursday we received re-accreditation from DCA as a Main Street City.

New Business:

- A. Arbor Day/Tree City USA: Ed Andrews:** The City of Royston received its designation from the Arbor Day Foundation as a Tree City for 2019. City Manager thanked Susan Russell as a certified Arborist for aiding Royston in maintaining that designation. Mayor David Jordan read the Arbor Day Proclamation to proclaim February 21, 2020 as Arbor Day in the City of Royston. Keith Turman made a motion of Resolution to Proclaim 02-21-20 as Arbor Day, Kenneth Roach seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.
- B. Recommendation for Interim Gas Superintendent: Ed Andrews:** After returning from Executive Session, Keith Turman made a motion to promote Travis Quarles to Interim Gas Superintendent on February 17, 2020. This motion is based on the retirement of current Gas Superintendent David Pressley. Kenneth Roach seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

- C. **Request to Appoint Kendall Stovall to DDA Board: Michael Crump:** Upon notification by Ryan Swails of intention to step down from the Board, DDA Board recommends appointment of Kendall Stovall a Pinnacle Bank Employee who is moving from the Lavonia branch to the Royston Branch. Mr. Stovall already has all the certifications to be on the DDA as he was a DDA member in Lavonia. Larry Bowen made a motion to appoint Kendall Stovall to replace Ryan Swails. Kenneth Roach seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.
- D. **Street Dept: Bucket Truck: Ed Andrews:** City Manager is not recommending a purchase at this time but is passing on the information from the Street Supervisor of the need of a replacement bucket truck. Street Department is looking for a used replacement not a new vehicle. Street Supervisor Patrick O'Brian relayed to council how the equipment is needed not just for Tree maintenance, but also for light maintenance, and for putting up Christmas Decorations. Currently, Franklin Springs has been allowing us to borrow their equipment. City Manager emphasized the prior year sale of the old equipment was necessary, and it was an 80's model and well past usable state. City will look for a piece of equipment that has plenty of good years left and will be assessed by the City's mechanic to approve. Looking around the \$20 thousand dollar range and not the \$90 thousand plus for a new one. Keith Turman wanted consideration to get new enough equipment that it would prevent the need of replacement within a few years. After discussion, council recommended waiting to find a good piece of equipment even if it would be a longer time period rather than purchasing a cheaper model to have immediately.
- E. **Storm Damage Assessment: Ed Andrews:** City is still in assessment phase. Pine Valley and Tanglewood need street attention. Preliminary assessment reports have been submitted to Franklin County and Hart County. City is still actively reviewing gas, sewer, and water lines to assess any damage. City Manager estimates it will take several months to fully assess the damage and plan for needed repairs. Pine Valley will require some engineering to prevent future failures. Ditch clean out is in process, it is a constant battle with the continuing rains. Water Plant is treating rainwater, which means higher costs and hours in the Water Plant. River Intake has some damage to flood gates. Keith Turman mentioned Putnam St. needs an assessment for Storm Water as it floods every hard rain. Keith Turman also commended the City Staff on their attempts to mitigate any damage as the rain occurred. He saw many employees out and about in the rain, especially the street department, doing all they could.
- F. **Jared Hightower: Ga Recreation and Parks Association:** Mr. Hightower presented information to council about the GRPA and benefits to the City if the Parks and Rec Department were to join the Association. Benefits would include education and certifications, networking with advocates at State and Federal Levels, buying groups for reduced costs, GA Safe Sidewalks is a corporate member and offers education, grant and funding possibilities, among other opportunities. Council will review given information and discuss with Parks & Recreation department the possibility of membership. City Manager related the membership fee was \$500 and the City would like to move forward on joining.
- G. **Firewise Community Presentation: Susan Russell:** City of Royston is working toward being recognized as a FireWise Community. This is a partnership between the Ga Forestry Commission, the local Fire Department, and the City itself. Informs homeowners and business owners steps they can take to make their property safe and prevent wildfires. A wildfire is any uncontained fire. Suggestions such as adding pea gravel around the foundation of homes, types of flora that helps control fire or reduce flammability, etc. The group will look at where fires have occurred and what can be done to prevent them. There is no cost to the City to do this. Must have a yearly event and give out information. Opens the city up for Grants, often non-matching grants, that can be used for equipment. When you become a FireWise community, you have access to Grants immediately. Training for municipal employees is involved at no cost to the City. Any questions can be directed to Susan Russell.

Old Business: Franklin County Board of Education has made an oral agreement tonight, February 11, 2020 to start an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Royston to plan for building a new Royston Elementary school on the land proposed to the Franklin Co BOE.

Executive Session: Personnel & Real Estate Wayne Braswell made a motion to enter executive session for discussion of Personnel and Real Estate; Matt Fields seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0. Executive session entered at 7:17 pm. Motion was made by Keith Turman to re-enter regular session. Motion was seconded by Wayne Braswell. Motion carried 6-0. Regular session was re-entered at 8:52 PM.

Adjourn: Keith Turman made a motion to adjourn; Wayne Braswell seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:54 pm.

Sharleen Ayers, City Clerk

Mayor David L. Jordan

(SEAL)

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