



MINUTES

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

July 14, 2020, 6:30 PM

REGULAR MEETING:

Call to Order: The July 14, 2020 Regular Council Meeting was called to order by Mayor David Jordan at 6:29 PM.

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

Approval of All Outstanding Minutes: Matt Fields made a motion to approve the June 09, 2020 Public Hearing & Regular Meeting Minutes. Larry Bowen seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.

Additions or Deletions to Agenda: None

Approval of Agenda: Motion was made by Wayne Braswell to approve the agenda. Motion was seconded by Kenneth Roach. Motion passed 6-0.

Superintendent of Franklin County Schools Chris Forrer Presented Council with Superintendent's Spirit Award in appreciation of Franklin County Graduate Parade involvement.

Main Street Update – Michael Crump: DDA Received 2020 National Mainstreet Accreditation. Artisan Walk on June 25 had good turnout and good response from Vendors. They requested we do another one in August- tentatively set for August 20th. Bojangles building has had interest but no takers. Farmer's Market continues Saturday Mornings. DDA meeting scheduled for Aug 5th. DDA needs to be making Fall Festival Decisions.

New Business:

- A. **GEFA Deferral Loan Modifications; Ed Andrews:** The City of Royston received notice from GEFA of available loan modifications for the Water Loans currently held. GEFA has offered a 6-month deferral of loan payments and interest. City Manager recommended deferring the Sewer Loan and using the budgeted funds to pay off the Water Meter Debt more quickly. \$9,000 monthly budget for Sewer Loan, that will give us an additional \$54,000 to reduce the principal on the Water Meter Debt. Matt Fields made a motion to defer the Sewer Plant debt and use those funds to pay towards the Water Meter Debt but not touch Hart Co SPLOST money. Wayne Braswell seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

- B. First Reading: GDOT Approved 2020 Speed Ordinance: Mayor Jordan:** Mayor Jordan read the speed ordinance as provided by City Attorney Andrea Grant. Wayne Braswell made a motion to accept the Ordinance as read. Keith Turman seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0. Second Reading on August 11, 2020 is required before Ordinance will be in effect.
- C. Gym Lease: COVID-19: Mayor Jordan** Lease payments are in forbearance until July 2020 in a prior meeting. Mr. Gillespie has requested several times the re-opening of wrestling venue. City Manager related that Governor's Order needs to be followed as far as spacing guidelines and contact sports. He requests Council's input. Keith Turman believes engaging an activity like that with the contact in the sport would not be wise and the city needs to do as much as possible to protect the public and so he does not believe we need to open the gym at this time for a contact sport. Mayor stated it is not a burden to us for him to keep his equipment in storage there at the gym and continuing the forbearance on the payments. For the general benefit of the community that is a revenue the City can forgo. Does Council want to make the recommendation whether we should cancel the lease or continue forbearance at this time. Matt Fields hated to cancel the lease and wanted to wait and see how things are for a few more months. Wayne Braswell commented the City is following and asking that Mr. Gillespie follow the state guidelines and we can do nothing else. Motion made by Keith Turman to continue forbearance of Lease Payments for the foreseeable future. Kenneth Roach seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.
- D. Additional Funding for the Royston Library: Mayor Jordan:** After hearing from Rita Shoemaker about Franklin County School System no longer providing funding and the County offering to cover one-third of the shortfall if Lavonia and Royston cover the other two-thirds, That shortfall is \$21,276 in total so an additional \$7,092 from Royston. If funding is not received the Library will have to cut hours and employees. Library has not currently laid off any employees, they are doing online and curbside services currently. Lee Strickland asked if this would be a continuing additional amount or a one time. Mrs. Shoemaker stated this would be continuing. Royston currently is providing \$20,000 a year; this would be an additional \$7,092. Keith Turman asked if the Committee could get together and discuss the options. If Library does not get funds the county will have to rearrange hours and employees for both library branches. Kenneth Roach made a motion Ed & Finance Committee to get together and discuss this and bring ideas back to the next council meeting. Mayor recommended we table the discussion instead and re-visit at the next meeting.

Old Business: None

City Manager Discussion:

- a. Pine Valley Project has been started. Patrick will be working with Ed to facilitate the repairs.
- b. Wellness Park: Playground Area has been opened but Pavilions and facilities are not yet opened.
- c. Amphitheatre: Updated renderings are back so Committee needs to re-convene to review.
- d. DOT LMIG 2020 funds still have not been released.
- e. Blighted Properties: Ryan is working on some locations currently.
- f. Gas: Engineering Survey being performed. Potential Industry coming, so gas department is looking at improving and upgrading costs to allow for growth in some areas. Gas Committee needs to get together to plan once we hear from the Industrial Building Authority.

Executive Session: None

Adjourn: Keith Turman made a motion to adjourn; Wayne Braswell seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.
Meeting adjourned at 7:07 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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