



MINUTES

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

August 17, 2021, 6:30 PM

REGULAR MEETING:

Call to Order: The August 17, 2021 Regular Council Meeting was called to order by Mayor David Jordan at 6:30 PM.

Attendance: Mayor David L. Jordan, 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: Wayne Braswell made a motion to approve the July 13, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes. Kenneth Roach seconded the motion; motion passed 6-0.

Additions or Deletions to Agenda: Keith Turman wanted to be added as Item B to make a comment.

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

Main Street Update – Dropbox: City Manager stated Mr. Crump was out of town at the Georgia Downtown Conference and would be back Thursday and the Update had been uploaded to the Council Dropbox and could be reviewed from there. Any questions could be answered by Mr. Crump when he returned to Royston.

Proclamation: Mayor Jordan: Recognize Royston Rainbow Food Pantry and volunteers: Mayor Jordan pointed out this proclamation was long overdue to recognize Rainbow Pantry and their contribution to our community. Mayor Jordan read the Proclamation and a picture was taken with volunteers that attended the meeting.

New Business:

- A. **Recognition of Funds received from American Rescue Plan Act: Ed Andrews:** City Manager Andrews informed Council of the amount of funds to be received by the City of Royston from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. Royston is to receive a total of \$960,105.00 with the first portion already received in the amount of \$480,052.50. The City Manager and Finance Officer will get together with the Finance Committee to discuss the available uses of the funds and make some decisions about what our city will use those funds to accomplish. Although similar to the CARES funding, this funding is a little different as to what money can be spent on. As soon as management can get together with the Finance Committee, we will bring that discussion back

to council with a recommendation and a proposed budget amendment. The plan is to do this as early as next month or earlier and a called session if necessary. An interim report is due to the State by October 31, 2021. City Attorney Andrea Grant stated that she would review the legal aspect of the ruling and help the city to be sure all compliance is met. Possibly a resolution will be drawn up, but it is not prepared for today. No questions were asked by Council.

- B. **Comment by Keith Turman, Mayor Pro-Tem:** Mr. Turman wanted to let everyone it has been a privilege to serve with them. He has served the citizens for 22 years, and tried to serve faithfully and do what he thought was best for Royston. He served 16 or 17 years as Mayor Pro-Tem but tonight he is effectively resigning his position as Councilman and tomorrow will file his papers to qualify as a candidate for Mayor. He pointed out there was no ill will between himself and the present Mayor. He would have had to drop out in order to run for Mayor at any time since he was elected on an odd year. Mr. Turman had contemplated this before and had been asked many times. He decided it was time to do so and he was grateful for the 22 years he had served the city and is okay with outcome win or lose. City Attorney Andrea Grant pointed out with the resignation of Mr. Turman the Council will need to appoint someone to fill the vacancy. City Manager Andrews concurred and stated the Council had 15 days to make an appointment to fill the term until the Special Election can be held. He had consulted with the Election Superintendent to lay out the process if this were to happen. City Attorney confirmed that what would happen is that the council would need to have a meeting within 15 days. Councilman Strickland asked if the ballot would be on the regular ballot. City Clerk Ayers confirmed that it will be on the same ballot as the regular election. City Attorney asked if current qualification was over? City Clerk answered the qualification for the regular election would end Wednesday at 4:30. Qualification for the Special Election for the vacant council seat would be in September but the vote would be on the November ballot. Councilman Strickland asked if someone could withdraw and then re-qualify. City Clerk responded that anyone could withdraw before 4:30 and receive their fee back. If they withdraw after close of qualifying, they would forfeit the fee, but could still qualify for the newly vacant seat. They can withdraw at any time before the election. Council asked for a date, and City Clerk responded the Election Superintendent was tentatively looking at September 13, 14, & 15 for Special Election qualifying.

Adjourn: Wayne Braswell made a motion to adjourn; Kenneth Roach seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0. Meeting adjourned at 6:45PM.

Sharleen Ayers, City Clerk

Mayor David L. Jordan

(SEAL)

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