



## MINUTES

**PUBLIC HEARING (Alcohol Ordinance Amendment)**  
February 12, 2019, 6:15 pm

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**  
February 12, 2019, 6:30 pm

### **PUBLIC HEARING:**

**Call to order: Mayor Jordan**

#### **Ordinance:**

A. **Amendment to the Alcohol Ordinance: Distilled Spirits for consumption by the drink**

**Invitation of Public Comment:** No Public Comment was made.

**Response by Council:** No response by Council was made.

**Close Public Hearing:** A motion was made by Keith Turman to Close the Public Hearing. Larry Bowen seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0. Public Hearing closed at 6:30 PM.

### **REGULAR MEETING:**

**Call to Order: Mayor David L. Jordan**

***NOTE: PLEASE EITHER TURN-OFF CELL PHONES OR PLACE THEM ON SILENT***

***Invocation and Pledge:***

**Approval of All Outstanding Minutes:** January 8, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes; February 04, 2019 Work Session; February 05, 2019 Called Meeting. Kenneth Roach made a motion to approve the Outstanding Minutes. Wayne Braswell seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

#### **Additions or Deletions to Agenda:**

- A. **Royston Explorers Competition Results: Police Chief Donnie Boleman moved to Item A**
- B. **Roger Hart: Public Comment: Julia Lunn to Item B**
- C. **Change to Item G- from Support Letter to Resolution showing support**

**Approval of Agenda:** Keith Turman made a motion to approve the additions to the Agenda. Matt Fields seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

**Main Street Update – Michael Crump:** DDA Board set the Calendar of Events for the Year. Expand Car Show to a Full Day Spring Festival 10-4. Summer concert June 8 expanded with a Cruise In and Concert later. March Addition for Hometown Neighbors Magazine will include an Ad for the Depot being available for rent.

**New Business:**

- A. Royston Explorers shared Winterfest National Competition Results:** Police Chief Boleman presented the Police Explorers and shared their National Winterfest in Gatlinburg Competition Results. He stated the program is expanding and how proud he is of his members and their accomplishments after which he listed who had won 5 awards in the varied competitions this year. The presentation was followed by a Picture of the Explorers with Council and Chief Boleman for the County Paper.
- B. Public Comment by Julia Lunn speaking for Roger Hart 1592 Wildcat Bridge Road Royston, GA:** Mayor Jordan stated this was a Public Comment period only not a question and answer session. Miss Lunn asked for Clarification of the Zoning Amendment Request and Ordinance Variance process to help them to speed up the process of the Re-Zoning and Variance request. She stated in had been in excess of 60 days, and that they had submitted paperwork on Dec 12, 2018. Mayor Jordan emphasized it was a process and would take time. He asked when the last communication had been made and was the application completed. Andrea Grant stated the last communication was on January 29<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Jordan referred the matter to the Zoning Administrator Andrea Grant. Ms. Grant stated there were problems with the Deed and Tax Assessors records which required an appeal to the Franklin Co Tax Assessors to update the property records to the correct acreage and the 911 address needed to be changed. Ms. Grant emphasized they needed to be aware that any Zoning Matter, request, or variance on any one piece of property could not exceed one request in any 12 month period. She was recommending they work with someone to be sure they could submit the Zoning and Variance at the same time to prevent the 12 month time lapse. They also had to advertise completely before a Planning & Zoning Commission hearing and complete the hearing before advertising 2 weeks prior to a Public Hearing for the Royston City Council. Once the Planning and Zoning Commission made a decision it would be presented to Royston City Council during the next council meeting. The Mayor suggested that an attorney be consulted for advice as to what needed to be submitted. City Manager Ed Andrews relayed a Zoning Amendment needed to be requested and at the same time a Variance to whatever Ordinance they would need to be waived to accommodate the use Mr. Hart was requesting. Ms. Lunn then asked to whom the completed paperwork needed to be submitted. Mr. Andrews responded that Ms. Grant was the correct person as she was the Zoning Administrator.
- C. Franklin Co Commission Chair & Poultry Growers request City of Royston to consider expansion of Gas Supply to Red Hill Community: Chairman Thomas Bridges:** A number of Farmers from the Red Hill area in Franklin County were in attendance along with Franklin Co Board of Commissioner Chairman Thomas Bridges. Commissioner Bridges came to reemphasize the need for Poultry Growers and Home Owners for Natural Gas in the Red Hill Community. He raised the issues of the difference in cost between Propane and Natural Gas especially for the Poultry Growers. He expressed his desire to bring back to the forefront the desire for expansion of the Royston Natural Gas System in the Red Hill Community. Mayor Jordan mentioned the debt that the City would have to assume to fund the expansion was around a 15 year payoff. So the City previously chose to expand in an area where the debt assumption was around 6 years. City Manager Ed Andrews stated that looking at the venture of expanding in Red Hill previously, the number of Poultry Growers and homes would be higher than previously and perhaps a new study needed to be completed. One of the

growers mentioned to his understanding the lines currently run to Baty Road. The growers had gotten together and figured from Echo Restaurant to just before the Stephens Co line (Tracy Evanson Farm) there are 115 chicken houses who would be desiring the Natural Gas Service. Mayor Jordan stated the City has to take into consideration that the pressures on the lines must be maintained and may require new lines and high pressure lines which can increase costs. The growers asked about the possibility of giving the territory over to Stephens Co and allowing them to expand to Red Hill instead. Mayor Jordan assured the group that Royston would love to sell gas to the area, and he recommended that the Gas Committee look at the possibility of an engineering study to look at the feasibility of expanding into that area and what that venture would cost and require. Councilman Lee Strickland stated that Franklin County did not help Royston with the prior expansions, and the Citizens of Royston were shouldering the burden of the debt associated with the expansion. Larry Bowen mentioned that they had to look out for the taxpayers of Royston just as the County had to look out for its taxpayers. Mayor Jordan reiterated Royston had not given up on the expansion, it just wasn't fiscally responsible when reviewed previously. Royston needed to pay its debts for previous expansions before venturing into more debt. He also mentioned Royston had asked to help from the Industrial Building Authority in regards to Boll Springs Expansion, requesting \$100,000, and only received \$25,000. Mayor Jordan also stated perhaps Franklin County could a lot more SPLOST dollars to help get this expansion started. Mayor Jordan encouraged the growers to contact their commissioners and emphasize the issue with them to open communications on the issue between Franklin County and Royston. The growers asked about timing of a new engineering study. City Manager Ed Andrews stated that an engineering study would have to be made and Transco would have to approve the Natural Gas Line Expansions. He also mentioned the Gas Service would already be needing to increase pressure to continue needed service to the Boll Springs area. Mr. Andrews also mentioned that even relinquishing an area, such as Red Hill to Toccoa, would require the Ga Public Safety Commission to be involved. He told the growers that there was no possibility that this would happen by next year. Mayor Jordan asked the growers to get a list together of all growers and homes that would be interested and would commit to buying the gas from Royston Natural Gas. The growers said they had been waiting for the expansion to happen with no movement toward that goal. Mayor Jordan mentioned it would help if the growers were willing to pay a portion to help expand the gas lines to their farms. City Manager Ed Andrews mentioned that growers had to commit to the gas service for it to be profitable. The councilmen wanted the Gas Committee to confer with the Gas Department Supervisor David Pressley, ride the proposed area, and review the old study, see what current conditions are, and look at the possibility of moving forward with a feasibility study. Councilman Keith Turman stated it was in excess of 3 million to finance the expansion in the prior study. It was not that Royston did not want to, it was simply they could not burden the citizens of Royston unreasonably. He would also recommend that the Gas Committee look at the expansion again as an increase in industry in Franklin County. He stated the county needed to look at Poultry Growers as an Industry, and encouraged the growers to contact their Industrial Building Authority to see if they could get help from that group to involve Franklin County in the discussion. Commissioner Bridged thanked the Council for their time and they just wanted to be sure everyone was on the same page in regards to providing Natural Gas where there was a need.

**D. Second Reading of the Amendment to the Alcohol Ordinance: City Manager Ed Andrews:** City Attorney Andrea Grant offered to read the Ordinance to Amend Chapter 6 called Alcoholic Beverages to replace in its entirety the previous Ordinance. The previous Ordinance was repealed in its entirety and the new Ordinance would go in to effect at Midnight on March 12, 2019. An Enabling Clause was provided to the Mayor and City Council. A motion was made by Keith Turman to adopt the Ordinance. Matt Fields seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0. The Clause was signed and turned over to the City Clerk.

- E. Resolution for GEFA Loan Amendment: City Manager Ed Andrews:** Mr. Andrews reminded the Mayor and Council that a cost analysis had been performed and an adaptation to costs by Sol Construction and the portion of costs the City had assumed had increased due to timing and cost increases. The Budget would fall short and a revision of the GEFA Loan was requested. The increase was approved by GEFA, the length of the note, the interest rate, and the debt forgiveness portion would remain unchanged. A motion was made by Keith Turman to approve the resolution to adopt the new loan terms. Larry Bowen seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.
- F. Approve Policy for Rental of Civic Center at the Depot: City Manager Ed Andrews:** Mr. Andrews presented the new Policy the City of Royston would put in place, upon approval, to regulate the renting of the Royston Depot. Mayor asked if he read correctly that the Lions Club would have preference for their events at no charge, and any DDA sponsored events would be held with no charge to the DDA. City Manager Ed Andrews confirmed that those facts were correct. A motion was made by Wayne Braswell to approve the Rental Policy for the new Civic Center at the Depot. Matt Fields seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.
- G. Presentation of Bids for Police Cruiser: City Manager Ed Andrews:** Four bids were requested, 2 were received. City Manager recommended accepting the bid from Brannen Ford for a cruiser with graphics and cages, only needing the additions of Radio & Radar, at the price of \$30,521. Police Committee had agreed this was the best price with the most equipment. Lee Strickland made a motion to accept the Bid of Brannen Ford. Kenneth Roach seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.
- H. Mission SCADA System proposal: City Manager Ed Andrews:** Mr. Andrews stated he met with the Water Committee, and the Water Supervisor about installing a SCADA system to give the City monitoring capability for monitoring pressures and tank levels. After experiencing Main Breaks over the last few years, the Water Supervisor was concerned with coming in to work to find the tanks empty. He mentioned there was an add-on feature to be able to turn on & off wells, give more range of operational capability and records of usage as far as what we are manufacturing and what we are pulling from ground water. It would help with reports to the EPD & EPA in regards to Permit renewals. Supervisor Jammie Cawthon mentioned for him the best thing was if there was a drop in the middle of the night, there would be a call or text to alert the department so action can be taken before levels drop so low as to cause a water boil advisory to be in effect. This bid came in \$3,000 less than other monitoring systems. Cost would be \$7,816.80. A yearly subscription would be necessary to have the live monitoring. Mayor Jordan asked if this would be paid with SPLOST money. Mr. Andrews confirmed that it would. Larry Bowen made a motion to purchase the Mission SCADA system with SPLOST funds. The motion was seconded by Matt Fields. Motion passed 6-0.
- I. Resolution regarding Franklin Springs Engineering Study: Mayor David Jordan:** Mayor Jordan stated the City of Royston had been in discussions with Franklin Springs to request an engineering study a transfer of sewage from their basin to our basin and it would be metered and we would charge them by the thousand gallons of sewage. We would treat them as an industrial customer and treat their sewage for them at a fee. It is expensive to pump that over here, but it may be more beneficial to Franklin Springs to do that and Royston would make a profit from transaction. The purpose would be consolidating services with us through a governmental contract. Franklin Springs asked that we pass a resolution of support stating we would not provide any monetary support for the study but we would cooperate and make an effort to look at negotiating a contract with them if it is feasible. A motion was made by Lee Strickland to make a resolution to support Franklin Springs in their efforts. The motion was seconded by Larry Bowen. Discussion was brought up that this did not bind us to an agreement, it was only supporting a study. The resolution was being brought to help Franklin Springs obtain grant money to support the study. Motion passed 6-0.

**J. Gym Lease Renewal: City Manager Ed Andrews:** Mr. Andrews stated it was time for renewal for the Gym. Mr. Andrews wanted it known at some point and time the City had to consider looking at expansion in the area for a new school and the feasibility of keeping the structure and the condition it is in. Maintenance and safety will be an issue. He recommended the lease be approved for 9 months to December 2019 in deference to a need to review the conditions of the gym and what the School Board is discussing at that time. The City of Royston is not making any money on this venture it is a wash due to insurance costs. Matt Fields stated that he thought it was a benefit to the youth of the community and he would like to see it continue even if the City was not making any money from the lease. Mayor Jordan asked if there was an early termination clause if it was needed. Wayne Braswell asked if any studies had been done as to needed maintenance. Mr. Gillespie stated there was leaking around the skylights and the bathrooms were looking a little rough but he was trying to keep it up as well as he could. He understood that if the school was looking to rebuilding or expanding it may not be available any longer. Mr. Andrews stated the city would try to help him find other suitable property at such time the gym would need to be taken down. Mayor Jordan requested a new lease be drawn up for one year with an early termination clause, available to either party, so the city could terminate the lease at any time it is needed for expansion, demolition for safety reasons, or other as determined by Council. Mr. Gillespie only asked that he be given enough time to remove all his equipment, such as a 90 day notice. He also requested that the deposit be used as the last month's rent. Mr. Andrews agreed that was acceptable as long as there was not a balance due on Utilities. The City agreed that would be acceptable. City Attorney Andrea Grant agreed to come up with a new lease and provide it to the City Clerk next week. Kenneth Roach made a motion to renew the Gym Lease for 12 months ended in February 2020. Matt Fields seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

**K. Public Safety Spring Festival April 13: Chief of Police Donnie Boleman:** Chief Boleman requested permission to shut down the streets downtown for a Public Safety Spring Festival to be jointly hosted by the Police Department and Fire Department to promote their departments to the city and increase local support. He is proposing a BBQ contest and vendors to benefit the Public Safety Departments to be used for purchase of safety equipment needed by both departments. Chief Boleman said they would offer vendor spaces to Churches and Non-Profits at no charge to help them raise money for their causes also. Mainly reaching out to the public for education in Public Safety, getting to know our staff, and demonstrations would be performed. Mayor suggested including Gas Safety in this event. City Manager Ed Andrews said it would be an opportunity to have training and information, even free safety items, passed out to the local citizenry. Chief Boleman said they had reached out to Walmart to provide car seats for a Seat Exchange program. A motion was made by Larry Bowen to authorize closing the city streets for the purpose of a Public Safety Festival on April 13 from 9AM to 3PM. Motion was seconded by Wayne Braswell. Motion passed 6-0.

### **Unfinished Business:**

### **Other Business – City Manager Update:**

#### **A. Paving:**

- a. **Cherry Street:** City Manager stated traffic had been released on the Cherry Street Loop. It has relieved the majority of the congestion in the area for school release times. The paving has not been started, but the weather has caused significant delays to the process. Ga Power is to set a pole in the next week to light up the area. Keith Turman mentioned how much difference there could have been if they had been contacted before school started. He also asked about cars sitting in traffic waiting excessive times for school release. Chief Boleman stated his officers were working to fix that problem and hoped to have it taken care of in the next couple weeks.

- b. **Highway 17: DOT project:** Highway 17 Bypass through Royston was scheduled to be repaved by the DOT in the next 6 weeks weather permitting. He mentioned using the paper needed to get information out to the public about milling and paving being done on the stretch of road from 7pm to 6am nightly. That would help with downtown business hours and traffic flow during the day with the detours and delays. City will be pulling aprons back 15-20 feet off of Hwy 17 and adjusting man holes for the repaving.
- B. **Baker Street Property:** Contractor has been lined up to demo the property for \$1,500. The City will take care of the debris portion of it. Next Council meeting the Mr. Andrews will have options to present as to what to do with the property after clean up.
- C. **Sewer Plant Progress:** Jammie Cawthon has been in contact with Sol Construction. Some good progress has been made, about 40-50% of the equipment has been obtained and some concrete has been poured. Sludge removal has been started with Bionomics. Weather continues to be an issue and is causing delays, but the contractor still thinks he can be done by August.
- D. **Tree City USA:** Susan Randall mentioned the DDA would like to go out to a Heartland Tree Farm in Hartwell to plant near the Depot to be used as the Annual Christmas Tree. They would also replace 2 trees at the library with Weeping Yaupons. The plan is to get the Boy Scouts and other groups involved in the planting. Mayor would like to replace trees at the park that have been diseased also.

**Executive Session:**

**Adjourn: Lee Strickland made a motion to adjourn. Larry Bowen seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 8:06PM**

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**Sharleen Ayers, City Clerk**

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**Mayor David L. Jordan**

**(SEAL)**

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