



## MINUTES

### WORK SESSION

December 8, 2022, 5:30 PM

### WORK SESSION

**Call to Order:** The December 8, 2022, Work Session 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, Wayne Braswell, Matt Fields, City Manager Sharleen Ayers, City Attorney Doug Ashworth, and City Clerk Tonya Allen.

**Additions or Deletions to Work Session:** None

### Discussions:

- A. Water System 2022 Master Plan** – Chris Quigley made a presentation of the Water System 2022 Master Plan. He discussed three things: Water Rates, Master plan of the water system, and an Update on where we are on the master plan for the sewer. We are in the red right now, collecting less money than our expenses. (Proposed rate increase by Peoples & Quigley are attached) A comprehensive study of the water system was done; the city replaced a lot of the bad pipes over the years which were good. Most of the facilities are old and worn out, and many of the components are past their useful life. We have the water plant, and two wells. It appears significant improvements are needed. One of the things he wants to do is high rate the plant so it can produce more water faster and increase sales. Recommends replacing valves and some hydrants that are passed their dates. Tentative schedule: Item 1 has been done and the report submitted for review; public hearing on December 20<sup>th</sup>; the funding application is due at the end of February. By the end of the first quarter, you will know the funding offer from GEFA. Pat Goran with Hart County Water Authority addressed council and expressed interest in buying water from Royston depending on the price. Chris said the sewer system has pipes installed before 1910 that were made of clay and are way past useful life. When it rains water seeps into those pipes and ends up at the sewer plant. Another issue is we have some pump stations that still need to be renovated. The other big issue with the sewer plant is that we have a copper problem and need to address the copper issue. Looking at three options: One is to install tertiary filters; second is to move the discharge location; third is Land Application. Looking at a big price just to address the copper issue. Mayor Turman stated we must have a plan to get this funded.
- B. GMRC Strategic Plan Discussion** – Patrick Larson discussed the GMRC Strategic Plan. A couple months ago he met with Sharleen and Michael Crump, and they talked about a grant program called Appalachian Regional Commission - ARC for short. It's an economic development partnership between the Federal Government and 13 states including Georgia. They have different grants which you are eligible to apply for. There is a strategic plan that the ARC releases every five years 2022-2026. Any projects that you go for and pursue have to comply with the strategic plan and the state plan. A strategic plan through ARC will allow you to have a guiding document to lead you through public input and to allow you to get money, to hold public input sessions, how to prioritize those projects that you need to do and identify those other areas and needs that were not on your radar. This allows you to plan in other areas from water and sewer to downtown development, to really everything under the sun. It gives you the document that you can refer to when you go after those implementation projects. It doesn't matter if you are going after a loan like through GEFA or if you're going after an ARC grant. They are going to want to

know that you have a plan. It shows that you've taken the time and invested the time to work with the public and get their input on what this plan would look like. The ARC program will allow you to apply for money up to 70% of the total project cost. There is a match requirement of 30% in Franklin County and the city is eligible for up to 70% grant. That is for the fiscal year of 2023. A strategic plan allows you to have a direction on where you want to go. For this type of project there will not be a charge from GMRC to help prepare the application.

- C. **Amphitheater Discussion** – Michael Crump stated that he met with Sharleen, Patrick, and Donnie to plan the use of the Amphitheater. More lighting for the seating area is needed. Looking at some type of temporary fencing to close off area. Lee Strickland noticed that the sound was better at the top of the hill than at the bottom. Thinks we need to address alcohol and food vendors. Michael stated maybe having a permitting process. Lee stated that the ordinance needs to be changed to allow it. Jason Phillips stated that if you are going to lease it you will have to close the entire park. Michael said if they want to shut the park down, we will have to look at a different fee. Mayor Turman stated that the amphitheater will be used by everyone.
  
- D. **Update on 26 Carroll Street** – Doug Ashworth stated that 26 Carroll Street now has a new owner and that all transactions were closed. He presented the city with a check in the amount of \$4,099 which satisfied the city's lien on the property.

**Adjourn:** Meeting was adjourned at 6:26PM

---

**Tonya Allen, City Clerk**

---

**Mayor Keith Turman**

**(SEAL)**