

CITY OF WHIGHAM
COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 15, 2021

The Whigham City Council met in session Tuesday, June 15, 2021 at 6:00 PM in the Whigham City Council Chambers with Mayor George Trulock presiding. Mayor Trulock opened the meeting with a prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Members of the Council present were: Jimmie Laing, Trey Gainous, Dusty Brown, Jim Sellers and Joel Singletary. Others attending were: Cheryl Black, CPA Perry Henry, U S House of Representatives Field Representative Paul Fryer, Utility Director Joshua Ausburn, Police Chief Tony Black, Asst. City Clerk Rachel Rogers, and City Clerk Lisa Calhoun.

Agenda Adoption – Motion by Trey Gainous, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion received a second from Jimmie Laing. All members present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes – A motion was made by Dusty Brown to approve the May 11, 2021 Council Meeting Minutes. Motion received a second from Trey Gainous. All members voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Public Participation

Paul Fryer, Field Representative, U S House of Representatives – Paul Fryer, of Rep. Sanford Bishop's office, gave the Council an update on the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The ARPA law provides relief to States, Counties, Cities, and Board of Educations, to help offset impacts of COVID-19. Mr. Fryer told the Council this includes loss revenue and premium pay for essential workers. Funds may also be used for Water, Sewer, and Broadband. He said the City of Whigham's estimated share of ARPA is \$146,190.

Perry Henry – Perry L. Henry, LLC presented the City Council with the City's 2019/2020 Audit report. Mr. Henry issued a clean opinion on the August 31, 2020 statements. One internal control item was repeated, the lack of segregation of duties. Henry stated this internal control item is common in most every small government and it is very unlikely the city would find it financially feasible to hire enough staff to properly segregate duties.


Reports – Mayor Trulock presented the Council with a tentative budget for fiscal year 2021/2022. He asked the Council to look over it and get back to him with any questions.


City Clerk Calhoun asked the Council to appoint Asst. City Clerk Rachel Rogers as Election Superintendent/Qualifying Officer. Ms. Calhoun explained the State is initiating a new Qualifying Officer portal which has to be set up by July 1st. Calhoun stated she did not see any point in setting it up herself when she is retiring August 3rd. **A motion was made by Joel Singletary to appoint Asst. City Clerk Rachel Rogers as Election Superintendent. Motion received a second from Trey Gainous. Joel Singletary, Trey Gainous, Dusty Brown, Jimmie Laing, and Jim Sellers voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.**

The Mayor and City Council set a date of July 26, 2021 at 6:00 PM for the public hearing on the 2021/2022 Budget.

New Business – **Police Officer Age Qualification** – Police Chief Black asked the Council to consider changing the ordinance which requires police officers to be 21 years of age. He explained that the Georgia State Patrol has a minimum age of 18. City Clerk Calhoun explained that the ordinance allows the Council to waive the minimum age. **A motion was made by Dusty Brown to waive the minimum age requirement of 21 and allow the Chief to hire an officer at 18 years of age. Motion was seconded by Jimmie Laing. Dusty Brown, Jimmie Laing, Trey Gainous, and Joel Singletary voted in favor. Jim Sellers voted against. Motion carried.**

Adjournment – Motion to adjourn was made at 7:07 PM by Joel Singletary. Seconded by Jim Sellers. All members voted in favor.


Submitted


Approved