

CITY OF WHIGHAM
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 11, 2022

The Whigham City Council met on Tuesday, January 11, 2022 at the Whigham City Council Chambers with Mayor George Trulock presiding. Mayor Trulock called the meeting to order at 6:02 P.M. and opened the meeting with a prayer and led the Pledge to the Flag.

Council members present were: Dusty Brown, Trey Gainous, Joel Singletary and Jimmie Laing
Others present were: Demetrius Cox, Sheli Ladner, Kay Hash, Nick Farrell (and his daughter), Doris Poppell, Utilities Director Josh Ausburn and City Clerk Rachel Rogers.

Agenda Adoption – A motion was made by Dusty Brown to adopt the agenda. Joel Singletary seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Minutes Adoption – A motion was made by Trey Gainous to adopt the minutes from the December meeting. Joel Singletary seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Public Participation

Whigham Volunteer Community Council

Demetrius Cox: Mrs. Cox addressed the Mayor and Council with some concerns from the WVCC that they would like to speak out on. The group is very interested in trying to get some grants that will allow them to do larger projects than what they have been doing. Cox provided copies of a letter sent to Senator Dean Burke showing a list of issues (sidewalks, water runoff from Hwy 84) and projects that they would like to fund. The group has reached out to people such as Bob Roberson, Stacey Watkins, the Department of Community Affairs and the Department of Transportation and has been told the money is out there to apply for, but a plan needs to be put in place before they should apply. Cox asked on behalf of the WVCC for the Mayor and Council's help on making plans and will need the City's assistance with some funds.

Sheli Ladner, owner of "This is Home For Us" addressed the Council next as not only a member of the WVCC, but as a business owner. Ladner stated there were septic/lack of sewer concerns that could potentially threaten businesses being open downtown. Her and the group are willing to do work, they just need to know what the City is willing to help them with.

Nick Farrell, resident of Whigham, addressed the Council as well. He stated he has helped write several grants that have been approved. He would like to see sidewalks, more businesses in buildings instead of them sitting vacant, a sewer system and any minor improvements that would help draw people to Whigham to fill any "empty spaces". His wife, Rachel Farrell, is also a writer and would be willing to help because they both want to see Whigham grow and to help grow it.

Mayor Trulock thanked each person for speaking on their concerns. He stated that TSPLOST was voted in by the Council with the intention to work on sidewalks and streetlights downtown. Trulock stated the sidewalks and all the effects from 84 would be the responsibility of the DOT because they are state owned. Trulock asked the group to give them some time to think and start with possibly 1 project at a time since it would be a lengthy process. Cox stated that Stacey Watkins told them surveying would be the first step that needs to be taken. Utilities Director Josh Ausburn said that Joey Brock is who the City has used before.

Mayor Trulock stated the City owns property and we could look into possibly designing a system for a drain field, like the one already in place behind City Hall, the utilities office and Josh Bell's office. It would be feasible solution.

Cox then asked the Mayor and Council about the likeliness of running line for the Tired Creek Lake water. Trulock stated it would be a huge cost to the City, roughly \$250,000. If there was a chance we could get the power run there it would be beneficial to the City, but we are limited with electric boundaries. Mayor Trulock said he would try to set up a meeting with our new Representative to look into more options since Darlene Taylor is no longer our State Rep. Trulock thanked all representatives of the WVCC for attending.

Reports

Mayor Trulock: The paving project is still on, we are just waiting for the City of Bainbridge to let us know dates. Josh has been looking at a skid steer that can do multiple jobs instead of being limited to only one. Trulock asked the Council if they would be okay with Ausburn and Councilmember Joel Singletary to go check out an auction nearby to see if there was any equipment that could benefit the City. **Trey Gainous made a motion to approve Ausburn and Singletary to have a budgeted range of up to \$40,000. Dusty Brown seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor. Motion carried.**

Trulock also stated a new resolution had to be approved with dates for an election to be held in November since we cannot hold a special election in March, in regards to the Sunday alcohol sales that was previously approved. **Trey Gainous made a motion to approve a November election for the question of Sunday alcohol sales in Whigham. Joel Singletary seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.**

Trulock wrapped up his reports with informing the Council that City Hall would be closed February 8 due to required training for City Clerk Rachel Rogers for City Clerk training and required court training for Assistant City Clerk Taylor Lambert. He explained it was unavoidable and the State required both. City Clerk Rogers stated that it would just be that one day overlapping and notices would be posted and printed on the utility bills. Normal hours will resume on February 9.

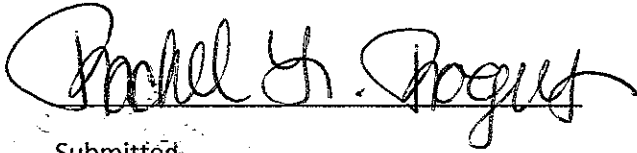
City Clerk Rachel Rogers informed the Council that they would begin some initial training for the new billing system but they were still working out some issues.

Council Matters of Interest

Due to Mr. Jim Sellers being absent, Mayor Trulock informed the Council that they would need to make a vote on which candidate out of James Cox and Clara Roberts they would like to nominate for renaming the Whigham Post Office after. **Joel Singletary made a motion to submit James Cox as the nominee to rename the post office. Trey Gainous seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.**

Councilman Trey Gainous asked Utilities Director Ausburn if he could get numbers for the cost for Whigham to convert to electronic reading meters. Ausburn stated he had a meeting set up with a company on the following Thursday and any members were welcome to attend. He stated that it would benefit the City because there would be less loss of revenue and the meters would pay for themselves quickly since they would be more up to date and accurate.

Adjournment- Motion to adjourn at 6:54 PM by Trey Gainous, seconded by Joel Singletary. All present voted in favor. Motion carried.



Submitted



Approved