

CITY OF WHIGHAM  
COUNCIL MEETING  
NOVEMBER 15, 2022

The Whigham City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, November 15, 2022 at the Whigham City Council Chambers with Mayor Trey Gainous presiding. Gainous called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. and Jim Sellers opened the meeting with a prayer and led the Pledge to the Flag.

Those present were: Mayor Trey Gainous, Mayor Pro Tem Jim Sellers, Jimmie Laing, Joel Singletary, Andrew Walden, Keith Chason, Utilities Director Josh Ausburn, Police Chief Tony Black, and City Clerk Rachel Jensen.

***Agenda Adoption***

**A motion was made by Jimmie Laing to adopt the agenda. Andrew Walden seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.**

***Minutes Adoption***

**A motion was made by Jim Sellers to adopt the minutes from the October meeting. Jimmie Laing seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.**

***Public Participation***

Keith Chason: Mr. Chason approached the Mayor and Council with concerns on the sidewalks in Whigham, specifically the sidewalk in front of Bonds. He stated he is unable to maneuver his wheelchair on the ramp due to rotting and missing boards. A mail truck, owned by the Bonds, is usually parked in the parallel parking spot right at the ramp, causing Mr. Chason to have to bypass both the sidewalk and mail truck in the highway. Mayor Gainous stated he had talked to Mrs. Bond and they are interested in repairing the ramp but they do not want to repair it if the sidewalk underneath will be fixed afterwards. Utilities Director Ausburn stated that usually each business is responsible for their own entryway. Gainous said he would talk to the Bonds to fix or remove the ramp due to safety issues.

***Reports***

*Police Dept:* Chief Black informed the Council that the new motor for the Ram 1500 would hopefully be ready by the end of the month still. He stated there had been some thefts in the area recently but the criminals had been arrested. All of the property was recovered with the exception of one firearm.

*Utilities Dept:* Utilities Director Josh Ausburn informed the Council the grapple truck had to have some work done to it that he was able to repair. There had also been a water leak and a new water meter has been installed for Bonds. The Woods well on Davis Ave had also had the whole electric service repaired. Ausburn also asked if cemetery rates would or needed to be discussed because the lots were selling quickly and mainly to non-residents. The City Clerk stated the lots ranged from \$300 and up in Cairo.

*City Hall:* City Clerk Jensen informed the Council about the voting results, including the very low numbers of voters due to nobody knowing they would have to vote in 2 polling locations. The Clerk stated that she had reached out to the Superintendent in Cairo to see if they would allow a sample ballot posted or to have the workers direct voters in the City to the Police Department, but she never got a response. Jensen also stated that everything had not been calculated in, but roughly \$3,683.39

was what it had cost the City, between supplies and poll worker pay. Jenson told the Council if they would allow it, she would like to reach out to see if the County would consider potentially contracting with the City to take over Elections. The Council agreed it would be a good idea to at least get a estimate so that people would not be as confused. The Clerk informed the Council that the annual Christmas party would be held December 12 at 6:00 at the Whigham Community Club. She also stated that City Hall would need to be closed December 6 and 7 due to training on the new meter system for Rachel and Taylor.

#### ***New Business***

**Meag Off System Sales/ECG Year End Settlement:** Mayor Gainous told the Council that it was time to decide what the City would do for the reimbursement of the Meag Off System Sales and ECG Year End Settlement reimbursements. **Jim Sellers made a motion to deposit the Meag O.S.S amount to the short term portfolio, as we usually do. Andrew Walden seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried. Jim Sellers made a motion to receive a reimbursement check from the ECG Y.E.S. to deposit into the City account. Andrew Walden seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.**

#### ***Council Matters of Interest***

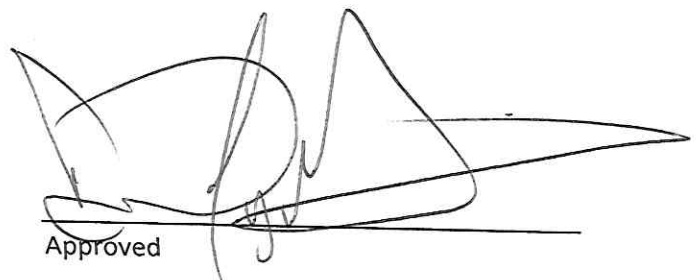
Mayor Gainous and Utilities Director Ausburn informed the Council they had been looking at buildings downtown again and wanted to see what the Council thought on adding a restroom to the old museum building and potentially renting the building out. A bakery business has shown interest in the building, but if the Council approved the rental, the space would be open for bids, per law. Ausburn stated he could finish out the bathroom and upgrade the electric service for \$1500 or less he thought. Police Chief Black stated he had been thinking that the City could also reach out to Capital City Bank to see if they might be interested in doing a long term lease and potentially moving City Hall to that building. Mayor Gainous stated he would get the City Clerk contact information from the bank to see who we could talk to about our idea.

**A motion was made by Jimmie Laing to go into executive session at 6:31 PM to discuss personnel. Joel Singletary seconded the motion, Andrew Walden made a third motion. All members present voted in favor.**

**A motion was made by Jim Sellers to exit executive session and return to open meeting at 6:43 PM. Joel Singletary seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor.**

**With no other matters to tend to, a motion to adjourn was made by Jim Sellers. Joel Singletary seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:44 PM.**

  
Submitted

  
Approved

## RESOLUTION OF THE WHIGHAM CITY COUNCIL

BE IT RESOLVED by the Whigham City Council as follows: At the meeting held on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2022, the Council entered into closed session for the purpose of discussing Personnel. At the close of the discussions upon this subject, the Council did vote to re-enter into open session and herewith takes the following action in open session:

- (1) The actions of the Council and the discussions of the same regarding the matter set forth for closed session purposes are hereby ratified.
- (2) Each member of this body does hereby confirm that to the best of his or her knowledge, based upon the advice of the City Attorney, the said subject matter of the meeting and of the closed session portion was devoted to matters within the specific relevant exception(s) as set forth above.
- (3) The Mayor, or the presiding officer, is hereby authorized and directed to execute an affidavit, with full support of the members of this Council, in order to comply with O.C.G.A. 50-14-4(b).
- (4) The affidavit shall be included and filed with the official minutes of the meeting and shall be in a form as required by the statute, which shall be substantially as follows:

Approved this 15<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2022

Attest Rachael L. Jensen  
City Clerk

[Signature]  
Mayor

MOTION TO ENTER INTO A CLOSED MEETING OF THE CITY OF  
WHIGHAM COUNCIL

Council member Jimmie Laing makes the following motion:

- (1) That this Mayor and Council now enter into closed session as allowed by O.C.G.A. 50-14-4 and pursuant to advice by the City Attorney, for the purpose of discussing the following:

Personnel

- (2) That this body, in open session, adopt a resolution authorizing and directing the \_\_\_\_\_ to execute an affidavit in compliance with O.C.G.A. 50-14-4, and that this body ratify the actions of the council taken in closed session and confirm that the subject matters of the closed session were within exceptions permitted by the open meeting law, said resolution to be in the form as attached hereto.

**Motion Approved**

Those voting in favor of the motion for closure: Council Members

Jimmie, Joel, and Andrew.

Those voting against the motion for closure: Council Members \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.



Personally appeared before the undersigned attesting officer, duly authorized to administer oaths, Ivey GARNOUS, who, after being duly sworn, deposes and on oath states the following:

(1) I was the presiding officer of a meeting of the Whigham City Council held on the 15th day of November, 2022.

(2) That it is my understanding that O.C.G.A. 50-14-4(b) provides as follows:  
When any meeting of an agency is closed to the public pursuant to subsection (a) of this Code section, the chairperson or other person presiding over such meeting shall execute and file with the official minutes of the meeting a notarized affidavit stating under oath that the subject matter of the meeting or the closed portion thereof was devoted to matters within the exceptions provided by law and identifying the specific relevant exception.

(3) The subject matter of the closed meeting or closed portion of the meeting held on the 15th of November 2022 which was closed for the purpose(s) of Personnel as allowed by O.C.G.A., Title 50, Chapter 14, was devoted to matters within those exceptions and as provided by law.

(4) This affidavit is being executed for the purpose of complying with the mandate of O.C.G.A. 50-14-4(b) that such an affidavit be executed

This 15th day of November, 2022.

[Signature]  
Mayor/Presiding Officer

Sworn to and subscribed before me

This 15th day of Nov., 2022.

Rachelle L. Rogers  
Notary Public

