

CITY OF WHIGHAM
COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 11, 2023

The Whigham City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, April 11, 2023 at the Whigham City Council Chambers with Mayor Trey Gainous presiding. Gainous called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. and Robert Porter 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, Robert Porter, Police Chief Tony Black, Utilities Director Josh Ausburn and City Clerk Rachel Jenson.

Agenda Adoption

A motion was made by Robert Porter 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 March meeting. Robert Porter seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Public Participation

Pinewood Nursing Home: Representation from Pinewood Nursing Home did not show up for the meeting.

Reports

Utilities: Ausburn reported they had been cutting right of way and he had been doing basic maintenance on equipment.

PD: Chief Black reported that the new officer would graduate from the academy April 21st.

City Hall: City Clerk Jenson reported that after consulting with Mayor Gainous, they felt it would be best to have a "back-up" for billing since they were having frequent communication issues with HyperWeb. Jenson told the Council she and the Assistant Clerk had completed and checked calculations for residential, commercial, industrial and water only customers using an Excel created spreadsheet. The spreadsheet would take longer for billing, but the Mayor told the Council the Clerks were already manually entering readings into the current system so majority of the work was being done in house already.

Unfinished Business

Museum Lease: A written proposal was received from Mrs. Farrell by City Hall, which was provided to each Councilman. Mayor Gainous stated the business would give the City a more "busy" feel and it was a risk he felt would be good for the City. Farrell had stated she would pay the amount of \$5,400 in full upon signing the lease. Sellers asked if the \$5,400 should have a portion designated for a security deposit and also said he felt like the City should pro rate the amount if Farrell decides that the business isn't working out. Porter agreed that the City should offer to pro rate and in the event of Farrell canceling, pro rate the remaining amount and keep the last month's rent from the amount remaining. **Sellers made a motion to accept the offer from Rachel Farrell for leasing 114 W. Broad Ave for 18 months and accepting the amount of \$5,400, to be paid up front, for the monthly lease amount.**

Robert Porter seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

New Business

Misc. Cutoff Fees: Ausburn and Jenson told the Council how they had several calls for shutting off the water by customers that was becoming a frequent habit for some. Jenson stated that per the ordinance, there was supposed to be a shutoff valve that the customer was to be responsible for installing to shut off on their side. Ausburn stated that most customers did not have this. Mayor Gainous stated he would look into options for handling this situation.

MEAG Year End Settlement: Mayor Gainous informed the Council it was time to determine what would be done with the year-end settlement from MEAG. Jenson reported the amount would be just over \$7,000 and that the City usually deposits into the Flex-Intermediate Portfolio account. **Jim Sellers made a motion to deposit the YES into the Flex-Intermediate Portfolio account as done in prior years. Jimmie Laing seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.**

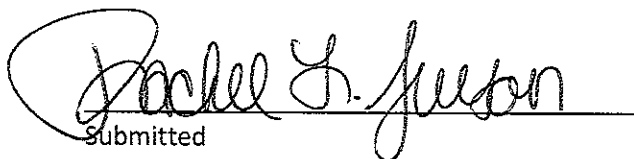
Utilities Director Ausburn told the Mayor and Council that he was interested in purchasing some equipment with SPLOST funds and he had been looking but was not sure what amount the Council would let him spend. Ausburn stated he had seen some deals but usually the used equipment goes quickly and he had not been okayed to spend funds. He stated they were interested in purchasing a hydrovac, which is beneficial for all utility departments but especially helpful for leaks and installing poles, a new mower, a small excavator, and a small tractor. Ausburn stated a bucket truck would be needed eventually as the current one is a 90s model and he would have to budget that as a line item more than likely. Mayor Gainous told the Council he wanted them to give an amount that Ausburn could use as a threshold figure for the equipment purchases. Porter asked if Ausburn thought he could get what he needed for \$125,000, to which Ausburn stated "Yes". Sellers said if the money is available, he trusts Ausburn and thought \$125,000 would be a good threshold figure. There were no objections.

Council Matters of Interest

Mayor Gainous informed the Council that he had reached out to Charlie in regard to the City purchasing the bank building and he is looking into a way to purchase the building.

Robert Porter stated he wanted to comment on grass cutting because he had received several complaints. He had been trying to explain to the residents the situation of the Utility Department taking back over the grass cutting and the "grass cutting season" was just starting up.

With no other matters to tend to, a motion to adjourn was made by Robert Porter. Joel Singletary seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:02 PM.


Submitted


Approved