

CITY OF WHIGHAM
COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 14, 2023

The Whigham City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, November 14, 2023, at the Whigham City Hall 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.

Members present were: Mayor Trey Gainous, Mayor Pro Tem Jim Sellers, Jimmie Laing, Joel Singletary, Andrew Walden and Robert Porter. Employees present were Chief Tony Black, Utilities Director Josh Ausburn and City Clerk Rachel Jenson

Agenda Adoption

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

Public Hearing

Alcohol License Application-A&S Grady, LLC

City Clerk Jenson informed the Council that the applicant for A&S Grady met the criteria determined by the law to be eligible for holding an alcohol license. Mayor Gainous inquired if the store too close to the school to which the Clerk responded no. With no further questions, **Jim Sellers made a motion to approve the alcohol license. Joel Singletary seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.**

Bank Building Lease

Mayor Gainous read the resolution sent to the City on behalf of the GMA Brick and Mortar program that was to be voted on. Gainous told the Council he had compared the options of participating in the B&M program compared to going through the process of the public vote option and he felt that the program would benefit the City more in the long run and it would not be considered a "debt" since it was technically a lease to own purchase. **Jim Sellers made a motion to go with the GMA Brick and Mortar program and approve the resolution as presented. Andrew Walden seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.**

Public Participation

Ruth and Denton Walker were on the agenda as requested and did not show for the meeting.

New Business

FY 21/22 Budget Amendment

Mayor Gainous told the Council there was a budget amendment that needed to be done per the CPA, Perry Henry, for the overage in the Street Department on the audit. Gainous stated the overage was due to the slight increase in pay to Callaway Lawn Care for the mowing contract, per the vote to do so by the Council when costs increased for parts, fuel, etc. **Jim Sellers made a motion to approve the amended**

budget as presented this evening. Andrew Walden seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

FY 22/23 Budget Amendment

Mayor Gainous told the Council CPA Perry Henry recommended we show in the budget the ARPA profit and expenditures in order to be in compliance with audit guidelines. **Robert Porter made a motion to approve the amended budget as presented this evening. Jimmie Laing seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.**

MEAG Off System Sales/ECG Year End Settlement

City Clerk Jenson told the Council the prior years refunds for the MEAG OSS refund were deposited into the short term flex portfolio. Mayor Gainous called for a motion. **Jimmie Laing made a motion to have MEAG deposit the refund into the short term flex portfolio as we have done in the past. Robert Porter seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.** Jenson told the Council the prior years refunds for the ECG YES had been refunded via check. **Robert Porter made a motion to take the ECG refund via check. Andrew Walden seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.**

Reports

Mayor Pro Tem Sellers reported that he had “attended” a downtown development course virtually hosted by GMA. Sellers reported that there are two types of DDAs, statutory, which is resolution activated, or constitutional. A DDA is made up of 9 board members and handles the business of buying and selling real estate for the City. An authority must be “activated” and if there ever was one before in the history of the City, it just has to be reactivated. A statutory authority goes by the states preset bylaws and a constitutional authority allows the Council to set who can be on the board. Sellers also reported that Brown and Parka and Advantage Steel Erectors were contacted about providing quotes to build the bell tower in the park. Brown and Parka responded with a quote of \$1600 to construct the tower. Advantage Steel did not respond with a quote.

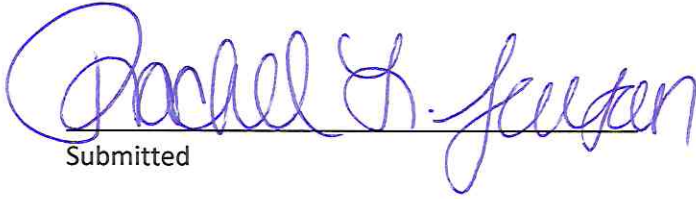
Mayor Gainous told the Council a mandatory workshop for Council and Department Heads would be hosted by ECG on January 18th at 2:00 PM in the Masonic Lodge downstairs room. The DCA and USDA will be attending as well to provide resources. It will be an open meeting if the public wants to attend. Gainous also reported that Jeff Brinson talked to him about gifting the property between the Police Department and the Masonic Lodge to the City in exchange for not filing the claim with the insurance company. Gainous reported that the insurance company was only going to approve right under \$30,000 to repair the Police Department building, after the \$2500 deductible was paid. Gainous asked the Council if there was any objection to not filing the claim, to which no one objected.

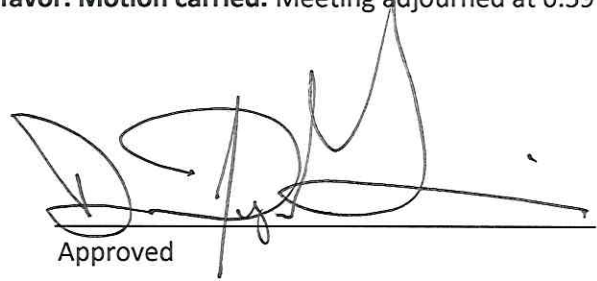
Gainous also reported that the Volunteer Community Council discussed the old jail building behind the PD and they believe there is historical value in the building. The group wants to salvage the bricks that need replaced and put public restrooms there.

Gainous was contacted by Jerry Pritchett on Christopher about his across the street neighbor’s property being unclean. City Clerk Jenson stated they had gone around and updated their files on each original property that received a letter and Chief Black stated the citations for the unclean lots would be issued for January 22, 2024 court session.

Gainous and Jenson informed the Council that the City Christmas party would be held December 21, 6:30 PM, at the Masonic Lodge.

With no other matters to tend to, a motion to adjourn was made by Joel Singletary. Robert Porter seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:59 PM.


Submitted


Approved