

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
March 14, 2022

Edward B. Pope Conference Center
6:00 PM

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Washington, Georgia, held their regular monthly meeting on Monday February 14, 2022, at 6:00 P.M. at the Edward B. Pope Conference Center. The following members were present: Larry Hill, Charles Wagner, Maceo Mahoney, Matthew Denard, Andy Anderson, Nathaniel Cullars. Others present were City Attorney Adam Nelson and City Clerk Catrina Cofer

Mayor William DeGolian presided.

Pledge of Allegiance by Councilman Andy Anderson

Invocation by Councilman Larry Hill

Approval of minutes were not approved due to the new City Clerk Catrina Cofer is having to transcribe the minutes of January and February.

Approval of Agenda unanimously approved.

Mayor Introduced new City Clerk Catrina Cofer

Mayor and council approved to go into executive session for discussion of the TASC building.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- A. Myra Blackmon chair of the Downtown Development Authority distributed map of adding in a dog park to help bridge the community together. Fundraising will help to build the dog park. Basic need of \$5900 and Double D Maintenance contributed for the cost of the \$2000 fence.
- B. Delila Wilburn wanted clarification on how the RFP monies would be used to help the youth with mental health resources and with the development of the 28.3 acres given to the city. She wanted to know would the money with the RFP be used for low-income housing for the community.
- C. Dr. Alicia Finnell stated to council that she was against the name change of Lexington Avenue to MLK. She stated that streets named with MLK are associated in neighborhoods with crime and businesses would not invest.
- D. Adriene Williams was concerned about the living situations for individuals in the city with high electric rates and something needs to be done to help the citizens of Washington.
- E. Angela Booker gave council a handout on solutions for utility reduction options.
- F. Latasha Johnson wanted to know was Chapter 66 code order number 66.8 conducted using a survey of the citizens which states 75% of residents must participate in survey and if that has not taken place then the code sections are not being followed.

ADMINISTRATOR TOPICS

- A. Water & Sewer replacement of old equipment.
 - a. Marty Boyd of Carter & Sloope gave an overview of the water treatment the dichlorination process was not working. The water treatment plant is currently using

the water. The EPD of Georgia could possibly give a fine up to \$1,000 per day. Marty Boyd stated that a new chemical feed system would cost \$478,000 with a payback period of 7-10 years for the water treatment on Skull Shoals. The Aonia plant is 45 years old, and all equipment and valves need to be replaced. The cost to replace the pump at the Aonia plant is \$500,000. The cost to replace both pumps would cost \$1.9 million for the critical components needed for water. City Administrator recommended that council vote on water & sewer to comply with the federal and state regulations for water treatment. Councilman Wagner motioned to install the 2 new systems at Aonia and Skull Shoals; Councilman Matt Denard seconded the motion was put to vote; 5 in favor were Councilman Hill, Mahoney, Wagner, Anderson, Denard and 1 opposed Councilman Cullars. The vote was passed to use the ARP money for the Skull Shoals plant of \$484,000 and \$500,000 for the Aonia plant.

- b. Set amount of giving a rebate more data is needed from ECG for utility rebate for citizens.
- c. Discussed in work session and City Attorney addressed that council has the template for council and stated that the document was robust and could be trimmed down. Mayor appointed Councilman Hill and Wagner to review the proposal document and bring back recommendations of what could be taken out. RFP was discussed in work session and will be tabled based on the Mayor's subcommittee in which he appointed Councilman Hill and Wagner best way to get developers and would come back at a later time to get bid for proposals.

MAYORS TOPICS

- A. Change the way that elected officials are elected in District 1 and 2 by having two members of each District 1 & 2 and have 1 member at large. Councilman Cullars stated that back in 1992 Reverend Avery had a lawsuit that passed that Districts 1 & 2 must have representation of 3 black and 3 whites. The City Attorney agreed that in 1992 the lawsuit had passed, and it would take a lot of work with the Civil Acts right to get that passed with the districts.
- B. 240th anniversary celebration for Washington GA appointed members by the mayor are Councilman Andy Anderson, Ruth Rogers, Skeet Willingham, and the mayor.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION TOPICS

- A. Councilman Mahoney
 - a. Was discussed during work session for Cyber Security training for employees, maintaining, and updating of city files.
- B. Councilman Hill
 - a. Motioned for budgeted funds of \$60,000 to be released to the Four E teen program. Councilman Hill stated the city would be invoiced for services used on a monthly basis. The motion was not seconded.
- C. Councilman Anderson discussed during work session for having black history programs and historical tours to show the black history of the city.

COUNCIL ACTION TOPICS

- A. Councilman Cullars withdrew his action topics until next meeting in April.

- B. Councilman Denard motioned to have the agenda more detailed to explain what council would be voting on. The motion was seconded by Councilman Anderson and Councilman Hill wanted a discussion. The motion was put to vote 3 in favor Wagner, Anderson, Denard; 3 opposed Mahoney, Hill, and Cullars tie was broken by Mayor in favor of. Passed by 4 to have agenda more detailed on what council would be voting on.
- C. Councilman Mahoney
 - a. Discussion of having a committee for broadband band money for citizens to have internet accessibility. The city could be a broadband internet provider. Councilman Wagner and Mahoney would research to see if this would be viable for the city.
 - b. Code enforcement fines between \$25-\$75 a day should temporarily be lifted based on cost of gas and materials. Councilman Mahoney motioned the 30-day moratorium of collecting fines would be suspended and was seconded by Councilman Hill. Councilman Denard wanted a discussion on making clarity that all fines would be suspended for 30 days. City Attorney explained that based on code enforcement council would have to abide by chapter 38 in ordinances based on the upkeep of property. 4 in favor Denard, Cullars, Hill, and Mahoney; 1 opposed Wagner; 1 abstain Anderson. The 30-day moratorium passed and would be addressed again at the April council meeting.

Mayor asked for a motion to adjourn and go to executive session. Councilman Hill motioned to go into executive session was seconded by Councilman Mahoney was approved by the rest of council to go into executive session for a real estate matter.

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor and council returned from executive session and motion to adjourn was presented by Councilman Cullars and seconded by Councilman Hill. All agreed unanimous at 9:15pm

_____ Mayor

_____ Clerk