**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

**April 11, 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 April 11, 2022, at 6:00 P.M. at the Edward B. Pope Conference Center.

Mayor William DeGolian presided.

Pledge of Allegiance by Roxanne Cobb

Invocation by Councilman Larry Hill

Councilman Mahoney requested a moment of silence for deceased employee Robert Grant.

Approval of minutes for January, February, March unanimously approved.

Approval of Agenda- Councilman Cullars added a personnel matter for executive session to discuss city employee. City Administrator added real estate matter of TASC building section B be moved to executive session. Councilman Denard stated that Councilman Mahoney’s action items were not detailed based on policy passed from previous minutes in March. City Attorney stated that in Section 2.12 the mayor and council can add to the agenda up two business days before scheduled meeting giving detailed descriptions to administrator. Mayor stated that him and the Administrator would be developing a template for agenda in order to have topics detailed. Wagner motion to remove Mahoney action items 1-4; Denard seconded the motion; Anderson discussed moving the action items to discussion topics.

For record of meeting minutes Councilman Mahoney wanted it stated for the record removal of the action items consisted of the following: city solicitor position, reconnection fees, debris and items behind city barn and behind Gordon St. School. Mayor called for a vote to remove the action items 1-4; 3 in favor Anderson, Wagner, Denard; 3 opposed Mahoney, Hill, Cullars; Mayor broke tie to remove action items. Mayor called for another vote to move the removed action items 1-4 to discussion items; Mahoney motioned and Cullars seconded; Discussion by Anderson to limit discussion items to 3 minutes; unanimously approved to move the action items to discussion. Agenda was then approved based on modifications mentioned.

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

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

1. Roxanne Cobb founder and CEO of “FOUR E” youth organization requested city support of $30,000. She presented council with a proposed budget for the teen travel camp June 6, 2022-July 15, 2022, for funding. Councilman Cullars asked was she requesting council to vote today, and she stated yes. Councilman Cullars motioned that city give requested amount of $30,000 for the teen travel camp. Mayor stated he would not allow motion because it was not on agenda. Councilman Mahoney stated that anyone requesting funds before the council body that council would act. Councilman Mahoney seconded Councilman Cullars motion. Councilman Anderson requested that Roxanne make the budget more detailed for clarity with a breakdown of expenses. Mayor called for vote; 4 in favor Denard, Hill, Cullars, Mahoney; 2 opposed Anderson, Wagner. City Attorney stated that the best process would be in the form of a contract between FOUR E and the city to outline items listed in the proposed budget. Mayor asked Roxanne to get with city attorney.
2. Angela Booker asked council to rescind their votes on the usage of the ARP funds due to the following:
   1. It is not known if the city administrator received the necessary bids
   2. Council was not presented with funding options
   3. ARP money needs to be used for direct aid for citizens such as utilities
   4. DaVita Dialysis Center leaving placing a health emergency to help patients in the community

**ADMINISTRATOR TOPICS**

1. RFP 27-acre residential site development. Motion by Cullars to approve the RFP proposal for the 27-acre residential site development seconded by Wagner; 5 in favor Hill, Wagner, Anderson, Denard, Cullars; 1 opposed Councilman Mahoney. Mahoney stated that he wants the RFP funds used for the citizens and having a housing committee established for minority housing.
2. Next steps for the TASC building moved to Executive Session because it was a real estate matter.
3. 10-year contract expansion will allow WHA to increase power consumption by 5 times. WHA currently buys the power now of 25 Walmart’s this new contract would allow them to scale up. WHA has requested that the city have 70% carbon neutral that they purchase. Cullars motioned to approve contract; Denard seconded the motion; Discussion by Hill to know if the electric committee has reviewed the information and wanted to know if the City Attorney reviewed the contract. City Attorney stated that his team reviewed the contract and approves it. Mayor called for a vote and was unanimous.
4. Approve to award too award rebates for July and January for $175,000 would be for the June and December bills and would hit the 2022 budget totaling $350,000. This would take place by basing it off kilowatt usage. Rate rollback would be built in the 2023 budget cycle with the help of ECG. Cullars motioned for the rebates and to add the rate rollback in the next 2023 budget cycle; Wagner seconded the motion; 5 in favor Hill, Cullars, Denard, Wagner, Anderson; 1 opposed Mahoney. Denard questioned whether it would include businesses and mayor stated it would. City Administrator stated 3 businesses already have a deal in place.
5. City administrator reached out to Richard Craft and Richard stated he will need time to get a dollar amount together for either live stream. Richard would have to video then convert to DVD to deliver to comcast but that would not be the best route. There would be other components needed.

**MAYORS TOPICS**

1. Acknowledged public works department during the storm during the 1st week in April on Tuesday & Wednesday
2. URA special joint meeting with council public meeting on April 25th 5pm at Pope Center to cost the rehab the site of the old high school. Tina Hutchinson from the Georgia Department of Community Affairs will discuss funding and tax incentives. A representative from the YMCA will be at the meeting. This will help get an action plan to move forward on the Gordon Street old high school. Councilman Mahoney stated needed to bring the county to the table and put money into the school.
3. Charter states 1 trip per year. Travel change would allocate $2500 budget each year per council member. Councilman stated it would be impossible to do and needs more discussion. Council would be able to set the amount needed to be budgeted. Charter needs to be changed to reflect meetings and conferences. City Attorney addressed council to let them know that the charter states that officials are to be reimbursed for only 1 trip per year. The revised version would state that expense limits be established annually through budget process. Councilman Cullars motioned to change the charter, but council would have to set the budget for each council member. Councilman Hill seconded; passed unanimously. City Attorney stated to put the charter item back on the agenda for the next meeting to do the same. City Administrator and City Clerk get with Barry about running ad in newspaper.
4. WeSolar solar power company generating power to sell to MEAG. City does not have to spend any money. Mayor stated that this would be added to next month’s agenda action topics to approve.

**COUNCIL DISCUSSION TOPICS**

1. Councilman Cullars
   1. MLK street removed by Cullars
   2. Rollback rates already been discussed
   3. Broadcasting meeting discussed
   4. Performance Appraisal on City Administrator for 6 months and 1year. Mayor stated that he would create a form and would give it to council and to get back to him. Cullars asked City Attorney if the Mayor Degolian is the City Administrator’s immediate supervisor. City Attorney stated the council can pass ordinances for the job description of the City Administrator. Mayor stated that the council is not the direct supervisor for the City Administrator. City Attorney stated that the City Administrator is given directive from the Mayor.
2. Councilman Mahoney
   1. City Solicitor position was not bid out and who negotiated the contract. Mayor stated that the city did not hire a solicitor. He is a contract employee working under Judge Kidd. Solicitor is paid on a per session basis. Mahoney asked where the money comes from to pay the solicitor. Mayor stated that money comes from court where there is a solicitor fee. City Administrator stated it was not bided out Judge Kidd stated the city had a solicitor in the past and wanted to bring back and would show how to make it pay for itself. Mahoney stated that we should not have a solicitor based on the number of traffic tickets.
   2. Reconsider reconnection fees need to reword the word for “disconnect” because the citizens are being charged a reconnect fee of $55 without being disconnected.
   3. Debris behind old barn & Gordon Street school has turned into a landfill.
   4. GICH plan status
3. Councilman Hill
   1. Hill wanted to know how the clean-up for the warehouse and barn would take place. City Administrator stated that they are in plans on working to get the old barn clean and make some renovations.
4. Councilman Denard
   1. Work interactions with city employees for direct orders of city employees should come from City Administrator.

COUNCIL ACTION TOPICS

1. Councilman Hill
   1. Rescind vote of ARPA money need to use for citizens.
2. Councilman Mahoney
   1. Rescind vote of ARPA money to use for city water plant because this has been ongoing problems need to seek other options.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion to adjourn for executive session to discuss a real estate & personnel matter by Mahoney and seconded by Cullars & Anderson was a unanimous vote. Executive session began at 8:35pm was motion by Cullars and seconded by Mahoney unanimously approved to end executive session at 9:05pm. Council returned Mayor asked for a motion which was given by Councilman Denard to end regular council meeting seconded by Hill. Unanimously approved to end meeting at 9:15pm

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MAYOR

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City Clerk Catrina Cofer