

## REGULAR MEETING

June 10, 2024

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Washington, Georgia, held their regular monthly meeting on Monday, June 10, 2024, 6 PM at the Pope Conference Center. Mayor Bruce Bailey presided.

Present were Mayor Bailey, council members, Cullars, Fisher, Gunter, Hill, and Mahoney. Council member Anderson attended via telephone. City Administrator, Jerry deBin was not present.

Eight (8) signed the attendance sheet. Please see attached signature sheet.

Pastor Hill led the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance by Dan Wright.

### MINUTES APPROVED

Council unanimously approved the minutes from the last meeting with a motion from Councilman Cullars, a second from Councilman Hill.

### AGENDA APPROVED

A motion was made by Gunter with a second by Mahoney to approve the agenda. After a brief discussion wherein Cullars noted that his agenda item should have read "Boxing Club" instead of "Boys and Girls Club," the agenda was unanimously approved.

### PUBLIC FORUM

The mayor read the rules of decorum.

Mr. Harris was heard regarding his request to use the Pope Center parking lot for an event. Mr. Harris originally estimated 1000 to attend but reduced that number to 500. The stipulations by the Mayor and Council were as follows: no alcohol, Mr. Harris would provide his own security and he would follow up at City Hall the next day regarding the request. Mr. Harris also mentioned having an after-hours event at another location unrelated to the city or its property.

### MAYOR DISCUSSIONS TOPICS

- Approval of Boards including adding Doug Taylor to the URA board to replace Barbara Fulbright; and adding Eric Luke to replace Casey Jackson on the Downtown Development Authority.

Cullars made a motion to approve, with a second from Hill with a unanimous vote of approval.

- The council agreed to table the Housing Authority Board until the next meeting.
- LWDA: Mayor Bailey brought the council up to date regarding the hiring of an attorney by LWDA and its request for \$1,000 to go towards the cost.
- Park Shade Awnings: currently obtaining quotes and reviewing designs as well as cost.
- Pool: the pool is being utilized and going well.

## **COUNCIL DISCUSSION TOPICS**

Cullars:

Grass Cutting - involves personnel and will be discussed later.

Crosswalk Signs: Mayor stated that he had talked with deBin and that the signs are a DOT issue but that it will be revisited.

Requested documentation on bids received and costs associated with the renovations of the inside of City Hall as well as when it was approved.

Requested a roster of local participants in the Boxing Club.

Refunding Utility Penalties: Cullars suggested a full refund to customers without any type of "earning back" of the funds; Cullars and Mahoney agreed that the electric committee should review. Since there is typically no council meeting in the month of July, the Mayor suggested that the electric committee hold a meeting even if by phone, to get a vote and get the refunds completed as soon as possible. A motion was made by Cullars with a second by Fisher and the council agreed unanimously.

Mahoney: The summer youth program has 17 kids participating and Mahoney suggested giving a financial literacy workshop for youth community wide.

## **CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S TOPICS**

Jerry deBin was absent. The approval of the Charter was addressed by attorney Tom Watkins stating that since the ad had been published in the paper, the matter could be presented for a second vote in August.

Discussion was held with Hill stating that travel expenses for the council as well as employees should be paid in advance as in previous years.

The mayor recommended an executive session with a motion by Cullars and a second by Mahoney.

Executive Session ended at approximately 8:12 p.m. with Councilman Hill making a motion to do so. A second motion was made by Cullars, and the council meeting was called back to order.

Attorney Watkins recommended that the mayor be authorized by the council to sign an affidavit regarding the executive session, in which three official matters were discussed with no action being taken. A motion was made by Cullars with a second by Hill and all five council members that were present agreed.

The mayor then presented the three motions from the council as follows:

1. That any employee being hired with a \$40,000 annual salary or higher have at least one council member from district one, one council member from district two or their

representatives and/or the mayor and his representative present during all interviews and able to see all qualified applicants.

1 Mahoney by 2<sup>nd</sup> by Cullars all approved.

2. Increase Greg Wilkinson's pay to \$22.00 per hour retroactive. Mahoney 1 Cullars 2
3. Resignation of City Administrator in lieu of termination due to personnel matters. In the event the City Administrator chooses not to resign then he will be terminated effective immediately. 1 Hill 2 Cullars.

The vote was 5-1 with David Fisher voting yes; Larry Hill voting yes; Newton Gunter voting yes, Nathaniel Cullars voting yes, Maceo Mahoney voting yes and Edwin (Andy) Anderson voting no via telephone.

Mahoney made a motion to adjourn with a second from Hill. The vote was unanimous to adjourn.

  
Bruce Bailey, Mayor

  
Debbie Bazemore, City Clerk



STATE OF GEORGIA  
CITY OF WASHINGTON

EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES

June 10, 2024

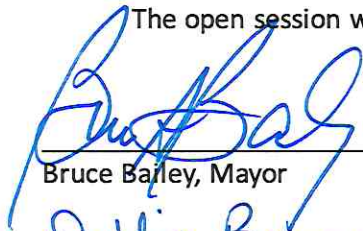
The City Council of Washington, Georgia met on June 10, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at the Pope Center in Washington, Georgia.


The following council members were present: Mayor Bruce Bailey, Newton Gunter, David Fisher, Jr., Larry Hill, Nathaniel Cullars, Sr., Maceo Mahoney and Andy Anderson. Attorney Tom Watkins was also present.

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Bruce Bailey, who presided over the meeting.

The closed portion of the meeting was devoted to three (3) personnel matters with no action taken, and the Executive Session ended at approximately 8:18 p.m.

The open session was reconvened at 8:18 p.m.

  
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Bruce Bailey, Mayor

  
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Debbie Bazemore, City Clerk

