

**Minutes of the  
City of Washington  
March 11, 2024 City Council Meeting**

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Washington, Georgia, held their regular monthly meeting on Monday, March 11, 2024, 6 PM at the Pope Conference Center. Mayor Bruce Bailey presided.

Present were Mayor Bailey, council members Anderson, Cullars, Fisher, Gunter, Hill, and Mahoney.

Note: Councilman Hill was not present for the entire meeting, having arrived at approximately 6:40 PM.

The invocation was led by Councilman Mahoney and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Daryl Powers.

**MINUTES APPROVED**

Councilman Cullars recommended modifying the minutes format on occasion when a particularly noteworthy discussion occurs but does not require a vote. Consensus is that the City Administrator will work with the City Clerk to do so.

The February minutes were approved with a motion by Mahoney and second by Fisher to accept meeting minutes and provisions as discussed. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA APPROVED**

The March agenda was approved on motion by Cullars and second by Anderson. The motion passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC FORUM**

Mayor Bailey opened the forum by first reading the rules of decorum.

Ms. Amethyst Wynn spoke on the topic of the Gordon Street redevelopment project.

**MAYOR ACTION TOPICS:**

1. Recommendation to place signing honoring hometown celebrities such as music artists and athletes, starting with songwriter Hillary Lindsey. Motion by Cullars and second by Gunter to begin the process with GDOT. The motion passed unanimously.
2. Recommendation to rename Persimmon Parkway as Jeff Hackney Drive or Jeff Hackney Parkway, in honor of his best friend who was a paramedic and firefighter. The renaming will be a fitting memorial to Jeff's service to the community and will be a fitting street name for the new fire training facility to be built. Members agreed to begin the process for seeking approval to rename the street. Motion by Fisher and second by Hill to start the process. The motion passed unanimously.

**COUNCIL DISCUSSION TOPICS**

- Councilman Anderson gave an update on plans for referendum vote on term limits for City officials, noting that Rep. Rob Leveritt introduced legislation for the referendum on term limits to be decided by Washington voters.

## **COUNCIL ACTION TOPICS**

- Councilman Cullars:
  - Motion to disallow Council voting by phone without a doctor's excuse. Considerable discussion ensued about state law and whether the recommendation would apply to all boards, commissions, and authorities. Attorney Nelson noted that the law stipulates no voting pursuant to the open meetings act unless outside the jurisdiction and no more than two times a year and that open meeting act covers any city business. Cullars withdrew the motion. Attorney Nelson suggested that any notes from physicians be given to the clerk.
  - Motion by Cullars and second by Mahoney to suspend \$10,000 "seed money" pledged to Parks and Recreation over and above the \$105,000 already budgeted. Note: This was Councilman Hill's action item, but he had not yet arrived at the meeting. Cullars introduced the action item and Hill arrived in time to participate in discussion. Considerable discussion followed about whether or how the Council can dictate how the "seed money" funds get allocated by Parks & Rec. Mayor Bailey contended that the City should evaluate how the \$10,000 is spent this year; then determine whether to offer a "seed money" allotment next year. Agreed to table the motion.
  - Discussion regarding utility late fee policies for senior citizens. Cullars and deBin agreed to review policies to ensure fair and adequate implementation.
- Councilman Mahoney:
  - Recommendation to plan a work session. By consensus, Mayor and Council agreed to schedule one.
  - Motion by Mahoney and second by Anderson to explore "Fit Community" status. Motion passed unanimously.

## **CITY ADMINISTRATORS' TOPICS**

1. Recommendation to approve Carter & Sloope Engineering for proposed sewer line extension grant project. Motion by Cullars and second by Hill. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Hill and second by Gunter to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.