

REGULAR MEETING CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS TUESDAY,
JANUARY 19, 2010 7:00 P.M.

Those present were Mayor William Yearta, Councilmembers Melvin Powell, Randy Hill, Charles Jones and Larry Johnson; City Manager Deborah Bridges; Tommy Bozeman, Assistant City Manager; Tommy Coleman, City Attorney; and Kathy Wise, City Clerk.

The invocation was given by Rev. Albert Clinton.

NO SPEAKER APPEARANCES

Upon motion by Johnson and seconded by Hill it was voted to approve the consent agenda items. Motion carries.

- a) Approval of Minutes
 - i) Regular Meeting – December 21, 2009
 - ii) Work Session – January 4, 2010

Upon motion by Johnson and seconded by Hill it was voted to approve the agreement between The City of Sylvester and The Open Door Recovery Network Georgia Client's Council, Inc. to provide \$10,500 for the purpose of assisting residents affected by the flood. Motion carries.

An extension request letter from Family Visions Outreach, Inc. was discussed. They are asking that the payment or installments for the \$75,000 housing loan due to the City of Sylvester on December 31, 2009 be extended until March 31, 2010 or until the construction loan is closed, whichever come first. The money given monthly was also discussed. Upon motion by Yearta and seconded by Jones it was voted to suspend the monthly payments because money is not being spent under original guidelines and the note is in default. Opposed by Hill. Motion carries.

Also, upon motion by Johnson and seconded by Powell it was voted to extend the loan payment until March 31, 2010. Motion carries. Upon motion by Mayor Yearta and seconded by Powell it was voted to amend the preceding motion that this be the last time we extend on this loan. Motion carries.

The 2010 Special Purpose Local Options Sales Tax (SPLOST) proposed projects were discussed. Upon motion by Hill and seconded by Jones it was voted to submit 2010 SPLOST list to the county. Motion carries. List as follows:

1. PUBLIC SAFETY AND ASSOCIATED CAPITAL EQUIPMENT
2. WATER AND SEWER AND ASSOCIATED CAPITAL EQUIPMENT
3. PARKS AND RECREATION AND ASSOCIATED CAPITAL EQUIPMENT
4. ROADS, BRIDGES, AND SIDEWALKS AND ASSOCIATED CAPITAL EQUIPMENT
5. CITY HALL RENOVATION AND ASSOCIATED CAPITAL EQUIPMENT
6. DEPOT IMPROVEMENTS AND PARKING LOT

Upon motion by Powell and seconded by Johnson it was voted to accept the City Manager's proposal to stay with Aetna Insurance for the employee's health insurance with the changes made with a 5% increase at a cost of \$10,000 increase. Motion carries.

A request from Rev. John D. Hughes, Jr., First Baptist Church of Tifton, Georgia, asking that a street banner be displayed from January 20 through February 3, 2010 over a major road in Sylvester was discussed. The Council is not in agreement.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT: NONE

CITY MANAGER REPORT:

1. A petition for four speed bumps on Kourtney Street to be taken up because of vehicle damage was handed out and discussed. Councilman Johnson is to check on this and make a recommendation.
2. Mrs. Bridges received a request from Southwest Georgia Community Action Council, Inc. Worth County Child Development Center to advertise their registration from February through April 2010 on our utility bills. All were in agreement.
3. The Chamber Banquet Dinner is on Thursday, January 28, 2010.
4. If the Council's spouses are going to the retreat February 19-21, 2010 please let Mrs. Bridges know.
5. TTL is doing the environmental phase on the airport and Bob Roberson will start to work on our Air Georgia preapplication.
6. Mrs. Bridges will email the school proposals on the area parking lighting and on the playfield lighting.
7. Line truck bids will be opened on February 1, 2010 at 3 p.m.
8. The South Isabella Street water line extension bids will be February 24, 2010 at 3 p.m.
9. The MLK project is progressing and they expect to be finished by the end of the month.

10. Agenda items for the retreat are being worked on and a list will be sent out.
11. We are working on the Telecom proposal for the school due on January 28.
12. We have heard from DOT on the Transit project and we have to get with the engineer and make some revisions.
13. Alicia Soreno with GEMA will be coming down this week to look at the area for our Hazard Mitigation Buyout program and we can start on our applications.
14. DOT has contracted with Moreland Altibelli on the 2009 TE project. Mrs. Bridges will submit a letter to DOT on moving our city limit signs back.
15. Mrs. Bridges and Councilman Jones will be attending the Georgia Economic Outlook Luncheon on January 21 at the Albany Hilton Garden Inn.

COUNCILMAN POWELL:

Upon motion by Powell and seconded by Johnson it was voted to go into executive session for discussion of personnel and possible litigation. Motion carries.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

After discussion of personnel and litigation, no official action was proposed or taken.

REGULAR SESSION

COUNCILMAN JOHNSON:

Councilman Johnson feels we need to get a full-time animal control officer that will not be part of Public Works, but only handle animal control duties.

COUNCILMAN JONES:

Councilman Jones is concerned about advertising papers being thrown out in the neighborhoods; we will address a letter to them.

COUNCILMAN POWELL:

Councilman Powell had a complaint from a property owner who called a wrecker about a vehicle blocking his driveway and the wrecker driver said they could not move it. Mrs. Bridges is to get more information on this kind of situation and report back at the work session.

MAYOR YEARTA:

Mayor Yearta would like to talk about working with the County and EDA to attract businesses to our community and bringing more jobs. To be put on the work session.

The Mayor duly adjourned the meeting about 8:23pm.

William Yearta, Mayor

Kathy E. Wise, City Clerk

WORK SESSION CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2010 7:00 P.M.

Those present were Mayor William Yearta; Councilmembers Randy Hill, Larry Johnson, Charles Jones and Melvin Powell; Debbie Bridges, City Manager; Assistant City Manager Tommy Bozeman; and City Clerk, Kathy Wise.

The invocation was given by Rev. Albert Clinton.

SPEAKER APPEARANCE:

Judy Hall addressed the Council about Family Visions Outreach, Inc. food and shelter program; read a statement; and wants to talk to the Council about keeping the food program going.

David L. Chatman, Sr., Beverly Drayton, Judy Phillips, Webbie Hill, and Amber Charlton also addressed the Council on behalf of Judy Hall and the Family Visions Outreach, Inc. food program.

AGENDA:

Allison Elam Peugh, sister of Michael "Stick" Elam, killed in the Lifeflight helicopter, talked to the Council about doing a monument for the 10th year since the crash and making July 24 "Lifeflight Day" and putting up signs coming into town. They will come back with specifics.

The City of Sylvester has been designated a Georgia "Certified City of Ethics" and was presented a plaque by Georgia Municipal Association in Atlanta, Georgia on January 24, 2010.

Captain Margaret White and Sergeant George Hall gave an overview of state vehicle towing regulations in reference to private businesses and towing on their parking lots.

The City can make contact with businesses and make them aware of regulations they have to follow to be in compliance.

A petition for four speed bumps to be removed from Kourtney Street was discussed. Councilman Johnson recommended that the speed bumps stay for now.

Mrs. Bridges, City Manager, asked the Council about the blue house at the City Barn. We did not receive any bids for removing it, so the Council is in agreement to the City tearing it down.

Two bids were received for purchase of a 47 foot Sheave Height Hydraulic Digger Derrick line truck. Bids were opened and read at 3:00p.m. on February 1, 2010. We budgeted \$150,000 to come from reserves and both bids comply with the specifications. Mrs. Bridges will review and bring back to the next meeting.

Company	Amount of Bid
Altec	\$162,691
Beck Motor Company	\$169,324

CITY MANAGER REPORT:

1. GEFA has approved our South Isabella waterline extension. Carter and Sloope is working on the design and the soil and erosion permit. The bid will be on February 24th at 3:00p.m.
2. Rakestraw and Associates has submitted a concept report on our 09TE project to Moreland Altibelli.
3. The DOT Martin Luther King Drive project is nearing completion.
4. Mrs. Bridges is in the process of talking to an environmental firm about our DOT transit project. They want us to keep a simple concept and those funds can only be used for transit.
5. Mr. Coleman, City Attorney, spoke to DCA and Family Visions Outreach is in the process of receiving funds for their apartments.
6. Electric Cities is taking a second look at our school proposal; Mrs. Bridges will have a new report as soon as she hears back from them.
7. The Retreat agendas should be out this week.
8. The pipe has been ordered to repair the Wallace Street storm drain.
9. Utility Services was meeting today to let us know when they will repair the water leak at the new tank.
10. Alicia Soreno, GEMA, will be here tomorrow for a site visit on the Hazard Mitigation buyout plan.

MAYOR:

Mayor Yearta thanked Councilman Powell on this help in reviewing the school lighting plan.

COUNCILMAN JOHNSON:

Councilman Johnson said the grass inside the curbing has a drop-off on the Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive sidewalks.

COUNCILMAN POWELL:

Councilman Powell questioned the driveways at the store being redone but Mrs. Bridges said it was not in the plans to repave the driveways, but only to patch them if repair was needed.

COUNCILMAN HILL:

Councilman Hill would like the food situation revisited at the next work session to make sure we have someone to administer a food program in Sylvester because it is needed.

The meeting was duly adjourned at approximately 7:48 p.m.

William J. Yearta, Mayor

Kathy E. Wise, City Clerk