

PUBLIC HEARING CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MONDAY, MAY 18, 2009 6:45 P.M.

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

The first public hearing was held for the purpose of receiving public input into the FY 2010 proposed budget.

There were about nineteen citizens in attendance. Some public input was received.

The public hearing was closed at approximately 6:55 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS MONDAY, MAY 18, 2009 7:00 P.M.

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

The invocation was given by Reverend Albert Clinton.

SPEAKER APPEARANCES

Ira Moore, Shipp Senior Center Director, questioned the Council about the furniture and other details at the center and the time frame on repair.

AGENDA

Upon motion by Hill and seconded by Snipes it was voted to approve the consent agenda. Unanimous.

1. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

- a) Approval of Minutes

- i) Regular Meeting – April 20, 2009
- ii) Town Hall Meeting & Work Session – May 4, 2009

Hollie Jones, Sylvester-Worth County Chamber of Commerce Director, addressed the Council about annual city support for the next budget year and contract renewal on the tourism account.

Julie Garwood, spokesperson for the Morningside Subdivision Neighborhood Watch Committee, spoke to the Council about the crime problems they are having in their neighborhood and asked that the Police Department help them and increase the patrol in the area.

Upon motion by Snipes and seconded by Hill it was voted to approve the 2008 year-end settlement refund of \$1,847.21 from Municipal Electric Authority of Georgia Marketing Services, applicable to the Sylvester Water, Light, Electric and Gas, to all be returned in the form of a check. Unanimous.

Upon motion by Johnson and seconded by Snipes it was voted to approve the 2008 year-end settlement refund of \$164,113, from Municipal Electric Authority of Georgia, be 100% deposited in Flexible Operating Account-Short Term Portfolio permanently, until we notify them in writing. Unanimous.

Upon motion by Hill and seconded by Powell it was voted to approve refund of \$199,666.85 from Municipal Electric Authority of Georgia Power Vogtle Development contract be returned and used to fund Lowe Engineering portion of the Corp of Engineering study at \$125,000. Unanimous.

Upon motion by Powell and seconded by Snipes it was voted to approve Resolution 2009-10 to support a 21 County Broadband project in Southwest Georgia and provide internet access to the un-served and underserved citizens within it's boundaries in cooperation with the Broadband project of the South Georgia Governmental Services Agency (SGGSA), South Georgia Regional Information Technology Authority (SGRITA), and Southwest Georgia Regional Technology Authority (SWGTA). Unanimous.

RESOLUTION 2009-10

Advanced Broadband Infrastructure Deployment

Whereas; City of Sylvester has been asked to support a 21 County Broadband project in Southwest Georgia; and

Whereas; 20 of 21 of the counties have been identified through studies as “Persistent Poverty” counties as a result of poor educational attainment, lower health status and higher unemployment; and **Whereas;** advanced broadband deployment is virtually non-existent in much of rural Southwest Georgia, impeding access to educational opportunities, healthcare, public safety and general economic development; and

Whereas; the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 is providing funding through the National Telecommunications and Information Administration of the U.S. Department of Commerce for the propagation of Broadband; and

Whereas; advanced broadband infrastructure construction in southwest Georgia capable of acceptable bandwidth will never be enabled without the aforementioned assistance; and

Whereas; City of Sylvester desires to deploy an advanced broadband system to provide broadband internet access to the un-served and underserved citizens within its’ boundaries in cooperation with the Broadband project of the South Georgia Governmental Services Agency (SGGSA), South Georgia Regional Information Technology Authority (SGRITA), and Southwest Georgia Regional Technology Authority (SWGTA).

Now, therefore be it resolved that the City of Sylvester supports the grant application by the South Georgia Governmental Services Authority to jointly provide advanced broadband services to City of Sylvester and commits to entering into appropriate intergovernmental agreements to facilitate that end.

SO RESOLVED, this 18th day of May, 2009.

CITY OF SYLVESTER

By: _____

Mayor, William Yearata

(SEAL)

Attest: _____

City Clerk, Kathy Wise

Upon motion by Yearata and seconded by Snipes it was voted to adopt Ordinance 2009-07 amending Chapter 2 of the City Code of the City of Sylvester to provide a code of ethics for the governing authority, including ten members on the Board of Ethics and recommendations on Section 2-441 (a) and (b), and dispense with the second reading upon unanimous consent. Councilman Powell was opposed. Motion passed, but not unanimous. There will be a second reading.

Upon motion by Powell and seconded by Hill it was voted to approve CDBG07 Change Order No. 3 from Hancock and Sons in the amount of \$29,939.40. Unanimous.

Upon motion by Yearata and seconded by Snipes it was voted to accept the recommendation of Tommy Bozeman, Assistant City Manager, for Stratton Construction to complete the restoration of Mary Alice Shipp Senior Center at a total cost of \$6,178.20 and for Mr. Bozeman to have the discretion to decide upon one of the other bidders is work cannot be completed in a timely manner. Unanimous. The other bids received were from TLS Construction at a cost of \$6,338.00 and Howe Construction at \$8,664.00 to restore Shipp Senior Center to its’ pre-flood condition.

CITY MANAGER REPORT:

1. Mrs. Bridges received a request from Advanced Disposal to change the City of Sylvester garbage pickup. Upon motion by Johnson and seconded by Snipes it was voted to change garbage pickup to three days per week and Advanced give thirty days notice to residents. Unanimous.
2. City Manager has talked to Mr. McMickin, Worth County School Superintendent, about their request for traffic control. We will discuss the letter at our June 1 work session.
3. Mrs. Bridges asked Tommy Bozeman to give an update on FEMA. He has had a meeting with Ms. Tang, project director, and we are working on our numbers.
4. We will have a budget meeting on Tuesday, May 26, 2009 at 6:30p.m.

MAYOR:

Mayor Yearta commended the Fire Department and staff for their hard work and our Class IV ISO rating.

COUNCILMAN HILL:

Trash carts are need at the Henry Hall Woolard Center practice field.

Also, water settles at the corner of Highway 82 and Monroe Street. Mrs. Bridges will contact Larry Thomas at the Department of Transportation.

COUNCILMAN POWELL:

Councilman Powell said the blue building on MLK is in bad shape and cannot be used by Open Door Recovery. Upon motion by Powell and seconded by Yearta it was voted to sign a six month contract for Open Door Recovery to use the old police department. Unanimous.

Councilman Powell discussed four driveway pipes that are stopped up on West Street. Upon motion by Powell and seconded by Hill it was voted to put in larger drain pipes from Ayers Street to 710 West Street. Unanimous.

COUNCILMAN JOHNSON:

Councilman Johnson wants to make sure that the driveway has been repaired on Mr. Jones property on Main Street where the City crossed his driveway.

COUNCILMAN SNIPES:

Councilman Snipes is concerned about the crime situation in the Morningside Subdivision and the response from the Police Department.

The Council is in agreement that something has to be done about crime. Mrs. Bridges, City Manager, is to express the Council's concerns to the police chief and have him develop a plan to address these issues.

The Mayor duly adjourned the meeting about 8:33 pm.

William Yearta, Mayor

Kathy E. Wise, City Clerk

BUDGET WORK SESSION CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MONDAY, JUNE 1, 2009 6:00 P.M.

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

The meeting was held for the purpose of discussing the proposed 2009/2010 budget.

Deborah Bridges, City Manager, discussed line item changes for each department. The insurance proposals came in Thursday, so the number on the budget will be \$80,000 to \$100,000 less.

The meeting was duly adjourned about 6:40 p.m.

WORK SESSION CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MONDAY, JUNE 1, 2009 7:00 P.M.

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

SPEAKER APPEARANCE:

Mamie Henry addressed the Council about the survey work in the West Street area. She also expressed concern about speeding on West Street and that there needs to be more policing or speed bumps be put on the street.

AGENDA:

Ginny Pike, Worth County Family Connection, spoke to the Council about their assets to the community, their future plans and budget, and asked the Council for help financially.

Sandy Almand, Sylvester Planning Commission Administrator, talked to the Council about the flood map update we must do for FEMA. To be put on the next agenda.

Resolution 2009-11 was discussed to amend the drug testing and awareness program for the City of Sylvester personnel policy. Mrs. Bridges, City Manager, is to check on random drug testing for all employees and bring back to the next work session.

A request from the Worth County Board of Education to re-route the bus pick-up schedule to better control the flow of traffic was discussed. This will be tabled until Fire Chief Yarbrough and Police Chief Anderson look at the route and report back to the City Manager.

Shipp Park and Jeffords Park guidelines were discussed. The facility request form will be changed and include reference to the City Code on noise and park conduct. Copies of the codes will also be included in the information given to the person responsible for park rental.

The Georgia Department of Transportation Memorandum of Understanding for their utility pole safety program was discussed. This safety program will translate appropriate research findings and best practices into a set of policies to reduce the potential for pole crashes and assist in targeting the most hazardous poles for removal/relocation/ mitigation. The City Attorney and Light Department will review and report back to the City Manager; Mrs. Bridges will make a recommendation at the next meeting.

Resolution 2009-12 MEAG voting delegate was discussed. Councilman Powell is to serve as the City of Sylvester voting delegate on the Municipal Electric Authority of Georgia's Elections Committee and Councilman Randy Hill to be appointed as alternate voting delegate. To be put on the next agenda.

Shipp Shape Lawn Service LLC proposal for mowing and edging on Pope Street was discussed. Mrs. Bridges is to meet with Public Works and see if the City has the equipment and manpower to handle this.

A request from Unity Baptist Church to use Gervaise Lawhorne Park on Saturday, October 31, 2009 to have a Block Party to provide a fun, safe environment in a

centralized location for families in the entire Sylvester/Worth County area to have Halloween related activities was discussed. To be put on the next agenda.

The Mayor would like to reappoint Paul Woody to serve a four-year term on the Sylvester Planning Commission At Large ending in June 2013.

The Worth County Board of Elections was discussed. We would have to change the superintendent for our election to coincide with their change to the election board.

CITY MANAGER REPORT:

1. Mrs. Bridges and the Water, Light and Gas Department participated in Sylvester Elementary School career day; both departments received letters of appreciation.
2. Mrs. Bridges talked to Scott North from Lowe Engineering today. He is sending out documentation and as soon as we receive it, we will pass it to the Corps of Engineers.
3. Harvey Keifer, Department of Transportation, called about our transit intermodal facility. He is ready to send us the planning assistance contract and we will have to revise our work scope.

COUNCILMAN POWELL

Councilman Powell wants to know where we are on the Isabella Water Project. The paint contractor will start on June 8. The project is progressing without issue.

Councilman Powell would also like more information on the Worth County Board of Elections and to know if we have the option to have our own election.

COUNCILMAN JOHNSON

The citizens on Wenona Street are concerned about the pond behind them and the need for it to be cleaned out.

The meeting was duly adjourned at approximately 7:54 p.m.

William J. Yearta, Mayor

Kathy E. Wise, City Clerk