

REGULAR MEETING CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS MONDAY,
DECEMBER 21, 2009 7:00 P.M.

Those present were Mayor William Yeara, Councilmembers Melvin Powell, Tommy Snipes, Randy Hill 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.

Mayor William Yeara presented a plaque to Councilman Thomas R. Snipes for thirteen years of dedicated service to the City of Sylvester.

NO SPEAKER APPEARANCES

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

a) Approval of Minutes

i) Public Hearings & Regular Meeting – November 16, 2009

ii) Work Session – December 7, 2009

iii) To consider approval of Gold Sponsorship for the Sylvester-Worth County Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner at a cost of \$1000.

iv) To consider approval of applying for 2010 Community HOME Investment Program (CHIP) Grant.

v) To consider approval of letter to Mary Jackson, MEAG Power, authorizing a voluntary deposit to the Municipal Competitive Trust (MCT) Generation Funding Portfolio and the Flexible Trust Portfolio for the period January 2010 thru December 2018 to be effective until further notice from the City of Sylvester.

vi) To consider approval of 2009 employee Christmas bonuses at a cost of \$11,034.13, including social security.

vii) To consider approval of the 2010 City of Sylvester Holiday List.

viii) To consider approval Electric Cities of Georgia funding for the Research and Development Project to replace the Benchmarking for one year at approximately \$1,624

annually, assuming that all 43 participants ‘opt-in’ for this project. Sylvester’s additional cost with \$1,245 Benchmarking credit for 2010 will be \$379.

Hollie Jones, Worth County-Sylvester Chamber of Commerce, and Butch Jenkins spoke to the Council about expenses at Possum Poke in Poulan, Georgia being paid from the Tourism Account to pay City of Poulan and the Boys Scouts for maintenance to the grounds to update it and bring in tourist drawing events to Possum Poke and to Sylvester.

Upon motion by Johnson and seconded by Hill it was voted to approve the discussed improvements at Shipp Park. There will be new security lights installed off of Pecan Street. Unanimous.

Upon motion by Powell and seconded by Hill it was voted to approve the 2010 Mayor and Council appointments. Unanimous.

2010 MAYOR AND COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS

MAYOR PRO-TEM-----	RANDY V. HILL
CITY MANAGER-----	DEBORAH G. BRIDGES
RC REPRESENTATIVE – CITY-----	MAYOR
CITY CLERK-----	KATHY E. WISE
ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER-----	TOMMY BOZEMAN
AIRPORT-----	YEARTA, CITY MANAGER
CITY ATTORNEY-----	TOMMY COLEMAN
CITY RECORDER-----	WILLIE WEAVER
LIBRARY BOARD-----	HILL
MEAG COMMITTEE DELEGATE-----	YEARTA, POWELL
RECREATIONAL BOARD-----	POWELL, HILL
DELEGATE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AS DIRECTOR--	YEARTA, CM-PROXY
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY-----	JONES
CITY SOLICITOR-----	FLIN COLEMAN
INDIGENT DEFENSE ATTORNEY-----	BARBARA WILLIS

Upon motion by Powell and seconded by Hill it was voted to approve the 2010 Beer and Wine license renewals.

2010 BEER AND WINE RENEWALS			
NAME	ADDRESS	BUSINESS	MAILING ADDRESS
LEO WILLIAMS	205 S MAIN STREET	THIS & THAT LOUNGE	108 Maplewood Lane
CASANDRA ROBERSON	615 E FRANKLIN ST	PIZZA HUT #621140	720 West 20 th St. Pittsburg, KS 66762
CATHY LYNN SAXTON	404 E. FRANKLIN ST.	FLASH FOODS #287	P O Box 2149 Waycross, Ga. 31501 Attn: Jackie Cunningham
BOBBY CRAIG LAWSON	631 E. FRANKLIN ST	SNIPES PIGGLY WIGGLY	P O Box 969
FAY PENDLEY MOORE	107 E FRANKLIN ST	HANDY ANDY	P O Box 28
ASHOKKUMAR J. PATEL	501 N. MAIN STREET	A. J.'S SHELL	P.O. BOX 60 SYLVESTER, GA 31791
SANTIAGO R. SOLORIO	107 N. ISABELLA ST	OLD MEXICO	P. O. Box 484 Moultrie, GA
ROSCO BYRD	212 S. MAIN STREET	CLUB CELEBRITIES	101 Hudson Street
JANETTE B. MANUAL	211 S MAIN STREET	EASTSIDE GAME ROOM	1119 Carter Road
HARSHAD PATEL	504 W. FRANKLIN ST	SUSAN INVESTMENT E-Z CORNER #22	P. O. Box 930
HARSHAD AMBALAL PATEL	301 S MAIN STREET	HARRY'S FOOD MART	P. O. Box 105
HARSHAD A. PATEL	506 E. MLK JR DRIVE	J & J GROCERY	506 E. MLK JR DR
HARSHAD PATEL	1004 E. FRANKLIN ST	VATAN, INC. E-Z CORNER #33	P. O. Box 930
HARSHAD PATEL	923 W. FRANKLIN ST	GAGAN INC E-Z CORNER #11	P. O. Box 930
NATHAN H. OOTEN	502 ASHBURN HWY	J H HARVEY CO	P. O. Box 646 Nashville, GA 31639
CHRISTOPHER REGINALD HOBBY	104 W. FRANKLIN ST	CVS PHARMACY #5606	ONE CVS DRIVE MAIL DROP #23062A WOONSOCKET, RI 02895
MICHAEL W. LITTLETON	509-C N. MAIN STREET	FAT BOYS BBQ	509-C N. Main Street

Upon motion by Johnson and seconded by Hill it was voted to approve the new 2010 beer and wine licenses.

NEW 2010 BEER AND WINE LICENSE

JACQUELINE RUTH DAVIS	102 E FRANKLIN ST	EXPRESS LANE, INC	P O Box 59825 Panama City, FL 32412-0825 and 102 E. Franklin Street
DONALD WAYNE ROGERS	901 E FRANKLIN ST	VFW POST 4825	901 E. Franklin Street

Upon motion by Snipes and seconded by Hill it was voted to adopt changes to the City of Sylvester drug testing policy.

Upon motion by Hill and seconded by Johnson it was voted to accept proposal of \$12,879.00 from Albany Communications, Inc. to upgrade radio equipment at the Police Department.

Upon motion by Snipes and seconded by Hill it was voted to accept the election for off-system energy sales margins for the Power Supply Year 2010 with 100 percent of the funds going into the Municipal Competitive Trust Flexible Operating Account, Short Term Portfolio permanently, until we otherwise notify in writing.

Mrs. Deborah Bridges, City Manager, reported that we are still waiting on quotes on the employee health insurance. Aetna will renew on January 1, 2010. She will report back.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT: NONE

Upon motion by Johnson and seconded by Hill it was voted to go into executive session for discussion of litigation. Unanimous.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

CITY MANAGER REPORT:

1. Notice about 911 calls was put on the utility bills and Chief Anderson is working with our phone consultant to make sure these calls are being handled properly.
2. I received a letter from Carter and Sloope on the waterline extension project. GEFA has agreed and they are already doing some of the surveying.

3. One water tank leak was repaired but we still have a small one that Utility Services will have to address.
4. Upon motion by Powell and seconded by Johnson it was voted to authorize the City Manager to order new garbage cans for Pope Park, downtown and Shipp Park.
5. The Public Works department is working on treating and cleaning up the weeds around Pope Park.
6. The MLK project is moving along without issues and the Airport Project is moving along also.
7. The swearing in ceremony will be on January 4, 2010 at 6:45 at the Work Session.

Upon motion by Johnson and seconded by Powell it was voted to accept the amended Open Door Recovery agreement to provide \$10,500 for assistance to flood victims. Motion carries.

COUNCILMAN HILL:

Councilman Hill would like summer recreation to be put on the agenda for the retreat.

COUNCILMAN JOHNSON:

Councilman Johnson hopes we continue to utilize grants to keep up our trend of projects.

COUNCILMAN SNIPES:

Councilman Snipes expressed that he has enjoyed serving on the City Council.

The Mayor duly adjourned the meeting about 7:55pm.

William Yearta, Mayor

Kathy E. Wise, City Clerk

WORK SESSION CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 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 Oath's of Office were given by City Manager Deborah Bridges to Mayor William J. Yearata, and Councilmember Larry Johnson and Charles E. Jones.

"I, WILLIAM J. YEARTA , do solemnly swear or affirm that I will properly perform the duties of the office of Mayor in and for the City of Sylvester to the best of my knowledge, skill, and ability; that I am not the holder of any unaccounted for public money due to the State of Georgia or any political subdivision or authority thereto; that I am not the holder of any office of trust under the government of the United States, any other state, or any foreign state, which I am by the laws of the State of Georgia prohibited from holding; that I am qualified to hold the office which I am about to enter according to the Constitution and laws of Georgia; that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the State of Georgia; that I have been a resident of the ward from which elected and the City of Sylvester for the time required by the Constitution and laws of the State of Georgia and the Charter of the City of Sylvester, so help me God."

"I, CHARLES EDWARD JONES and LARRY JOHNSON, do solemnly swear or affirm that I will properly perform the duties of the office of City Council in and for the City of Sylvester to the best of my knowledge, skill, and ability; that I am not the holder of any unaccounted for public money due to the State of Georgia or any political subdivision or authority thereto; that I am not the holder of any office of trust under the government of the United States, any other state, or any foreign state, which I am by the laws of the State of Georgia prohibited from holding; that I am qualified to hold the office which I am about to enter according to the Constitution and laws of Georgia; that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the State of Georgia; that I have been a resident of the ward from which elected and the City of Sylvester for the time required by the Constitution and laws of the State of Georgia and the Charter of the City of Sylvester, so help me God."

SPEAKER APPEARANCE: NONE

Martha Snipes-Jefferson addressed the Council about sending care packages to troops from Worth County who are serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. The City will try to find out who all the troops from Worth County are and see if we can coordinate the effort.

The amended Open Door Recovery Network Agreement was discussed. Mr. Coleman, City Attorney, said we need to do a new agreement since they are requesting the check be made out to Georgia Clients Council. All are in agreement to add "one-time payment" to Section 1. To be put on agenda.

The letter from the Georgia Municipal Association Ethics Certification Committee determining that the City of Sylvester meets the qualifications to be designated as a GEORGIA CERTIFIED CITY OF ETHICS was discussed. A plaque will be presented to the City at the Awards Luncheon to be held during GMA's Mayor's Day Conference at 12:30 p.m. on January 24, 2010 in Atlanta, Georgia.

CITY MANAGER REPORT:

1. We are waiting to receive a quote from another insurance company on our health insurance. Aetna renewed on January 1, 2010 with a 9 percent increase.
2. Utility Services will be here next week about repairing the water tank leak.
3. Shipp Park work is in progress and the garbage containers have been ordered.
4. The contractor on the Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive project should be completed in approximately three weeks provided there are no more rain days.
5. We are still waiting to hear from DOT on the Intermodal transit project at the depot.
6. The next meeting will need to be changed because of a holiday.
7. MEAG is working on proposals for the new school parking, area and playfield lighting.
8. We have submitted a letter to GEFA on our waterline extension project.
9. Mr. Greene has finished the surveys on the Airport and the Phase I Environmental has been started. When that's finished then the acquisition agent will be in making appointments with the partial owners.
10. The Worth County Schools has filed Form 470 and it's time to do our proposal for the telecom and internet.

MAYOR:

Mayor Yearta wanted to know when we need to check with Bob Roberson about the CDBG projects. Mrs. Bridges said it would be now so she will be working with the department heads on possible projects.

COUNCILMAN JOHNSON:

Councilman Johnson wanted to know how we are doing on getting the information out about the ISO insurance rating. Mrs. Bridges said we have put a notice on our website and notice will go out on the utility bills starting tomorrow. We can also send a copy of the ISO letter to our local agents.

COUNCILMAN POWELL:

Councilman Powell wanted to know if we authorized the road closing for the schools. We will do that before they open next year on the agreed upon plan.

Councilman Powell also wanted to know the status on the Census Count Committee. The County has approached us about working with them and Mrs. Bridges will see if we can coordinate with them.

The meeting was duly adjourned at approximately 7:38 p.m.

William J. Yearta, Mayor

Kathy E. Wise, City Clerk