

**MINUTES**  
**WAYCROSS CITY COMMISSION PLANNING & INFORMATION SESSION**  
**MONDAY, AUGUST 1, 2022 – 5:00 P.M.**  
**WAYCROSS CITY COMMISSION CHAMBERS**  
*(417 PENDLETON STREET, WAYCROSS, GA)*

**I. CALL TO ORDER:**

The Planning and Information Session of the City of Waycross was called to order August 1, 2022, at 5:04 pm by Mayor Michael-Angelo James. The meeting was held in the Commission Chambers of City Hall. Present was Mayor James, Commissioners Norman Davis, Katrena Felder, Henry Strickland, Sheinita Bennett and Mayor Pro Tem Diane Hopkins

**A. Invocation**

Invocation was led by James Smart, Public Works Director

**B. Pledge of Allegiance**

**II. GUESTS:**

Mrs. Marla Howell, 1201 Pruitt Drive, Waycross Ga.-

Mrs. Howell, asked for a copy of the Retail Ordinance, because people have started using the downtown spaces for storage. She wanted the ordinance to see what was permitted in the downtown area as far as retail space is concerned. She also stated that banners were needed for downtown, it is looking bland. There were 72 banners purchased, do we know how many are left? She added that having lights on the trees would beautify the downtown area as well.

Mr. Larry Lockey, 818 Sergeant Street, Waycross Ga.-

Mr. Lockey, spoke on the removal of the Confederate Monument downtown. He stated that there was a vote that passed to have it removed and that it is still there. Commissioner Davis confirmed the vote took place and it was passed to have it removed. Mayor James stated that it wasn't the cities job to remove it. That responsibility fell on the Daughters of the Confederate.

**III. TRAVEL/TRAINING SCHEDULE AND REQUESTS**

**IV. PLANNING & INFORMATION SESSION**

**A. Bids:**

1. Surplus Property WAYX-23-03 – 1984 MAKO Cascade System

There was a consensus to place this on Tuesday Agenda.

**B. Discussion of Armory:**

Chief Eddins presented the information on the Armory as requested. Chief Eddins started off by informing the Commission that because he was the interim city manager when the discussion was initiated concerning the Armory, he feels that he should be the one to start off this conversation. The Chief took a moment to apologize for any confusion or incomplete information that may have been shared concerning the matter. He went on to explain that at the first of January Commission Davis brought up using the Armory to do something for the young people to do and a variety of other things. This was just a conversation piece to start the conversation about doing something with the Armory. He said, that was his understanding. During that time there were 2 other Commissioners who did not give approval for specific building, but were in agreement with doing something for our young people. He said nothing took place from that meeting because I wasn't given any direction on what to do. At the retreat the Armory was one of the items that Commissioner Davis wanted for his talking points. He then call the Mayor and Commissioners memory to the fact that he sent the request list out to all of them. He pointed out that the number one item on that list was the Armory with the dollar figure. He also pointed out there was another dollar figure down for the Police Department. This was to utilize some of the buildings there on the property to meet the needs of Chief Cox. The Chief clarified that \$15,000,000 for that complex does not exist. He stated, there was nothing ever approved by the Commission to move that forward. He said, in fact, what was done was a group was assigned to continue to review the options for the National Guard Armory. He explained, that Commissioner Davis, Chief Cox, himself and Commissioner Bennett were assigned to that group. The Chief said, in order to come up with any type of number you have to meet with somebody. The Chief explained, the conversation of the meetings as he understands it was targeted toward what Chief Cox needed. The Chief was very clear on the fact that the only drawings that had any details were the buildings being considered for the WPD. He said, the Commission never approved \$15,000,000 for the Armory. The Chief clarified the amount spent as well as the square footage being considered for the WPD. The Chief also called into question the amount being requested for the drawings by the Architect. He explained, most of what has been discussed is just that discussion. The Commission has not made a decision to do anything with the Armory at this point. Chief Eddins said, just to be clear this amount is not in the SPLOST Referendum.

**C. Discussion of Emergency Repair to Valve at the Water Plant-ESG**

Lou from ESG, explained that the valve repair is \$200.00 over the \$10,000.00 limit, and need permission to proceed with the purchase. Interim City Manager, Marc Hawkins stated that if a consensus was passed to proceed, they would have a resolution on tomorrow's agenda.

There was a consensus to place on Tuesday agenda.

**D. Discussion of Ladder Truck Repair-**

Chief Eddins, spoke on the increase change since last meeting, due to unforeseen charges. The new price is now \$114,229.00 and he needed a consensus to move forward with the repair.

There was a consensus to place on Tuesday agenda.

**E.** Discussion of Appointments to the Waycross Convention and Visitors Bureau

Interim City Manager, Marc Hawkins, spoke on the need to appoint two members to that board. Mayor Pro Tem Diane Hopkins nominated Rena Vining, Commissioner Strickland nominated William Clark.

There was a consensus to place on Tuesday agenda.

**F.** Privilege License Renewals: n/a

**G.** Privilege Licenses: n/a

**H.** Proposed Ordinances:

1. An Ordinance to Amend the Code of the City of Waycross, Georgia; To Amend Chapter 28- Offenses, by adding a New Article IV-Street Gang Terrorism and Prevention; To Repeal Conflicting Ordinances; To Provide for Severability; To Provide for an Effective Date; To Provide for Codification, Renumbering or Relettering; and for Other Purposes.

There was a consensus to place this on the agenda for Tuesday.

2. An Ordinance To Abandon and Close a Portion of Colquitt Street Right-of-Way Between South Georgia Parkway and Mary Street as a City Street; To Reserve the right to Authorize Quit Claim Deeds at a Future Date to Adjoining Property Owners with City Retaining Ownership and Access to Storm Drainage Portion of Right of Way; To Establish an Effective Date; To Repeal Conflicting Ordinances; and for Other Purposes.

There was a consensus to place this on the agenda for Tuesday.

**I.** Proposed Resolutions:

1. A Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia, to authorize execution of a Managed Security Change Order to contract with VC3. For Cloud-Based Backup Service; and for Other Purposes.

There was a consensus to place this on the agenda for Tuesday.

2. A Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia, to approve First Amendment to Restated Agreement for Operations, Maintenance and Management Services between the City of Waycross, Georgia and ESG Operations, Inc.; and for Other Purposes.

There was a consensus to place this on the agenda for Tuesday.

3. A Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia, to Award a Contract to Hydra-Stop for Emergency Purchase of Check Valve for use at the Waycross Water Plant; and for Other Purposes.

There was a consensus to place this on the agenda for Tuesday.

**J. City Attorney's Report:**

**K. City Manager's Report:**

1. Department Report:

Chief Tommy Cox, WPD, he presented the department report for the Waycross Police Department

**L. Last Call and/or Adjourn to Executive Session**

Commissioner Davis-

Wanted to recognize the upcoming birthday of his mom. Please keep his family in your prayers. She will be 99 years "young" on the 24<sup>th</sup> of August. He expressed to Public Works Director, James Smart that he wanted to expand back part of the basketball court at the park in his district. He thanked Mr. Smart as well Chief Cox for all the hard work they put in for the City of Waycross.

Commissioner Felder-

Thanked all citizens for coming out to share their concerns. She stated to Chief Cox her appreciation for him meeting them in the middle as it pertains to his satisfaction with the layout of the Armory. She thanked the Commission for their diligence in the works of the city.

Commission Bennett-

Thank all citizens for coming out and being a part of the meeting. She thanked public works department for the work done on Marion Street, it looks great.

Commissioner Strickland-

Thanked all for coming out.

Mayor James- thank all for coming out. He explained his position as the mayor when it comes to the commission meetings. He did ask for a itemized statement from the architect regarding the armory. He spoke on the Monument and his position as it pertains to anything that has to do with the process of the removal of it.

**M. Adjournment**

Mayor James adjourned the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

**CITY OF WAYCROSS**

BY: *Michael Angelo James*  
**MICHAEL-ANGELO JAMES, Mayor**

**ATTEST:**

*Jacqueline Powell*  
**JACQUALINE POWELL, City Clerk**

