

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

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The Waycross City Commission Planning and Information Session was called to order on Monday, December 5, 2022, at 5:00 pm by Mayor Michael-Angelo James. The meeting was held in the Commission Chambers of City Hall. Present was Mayor James, Mayor Pro Temp, Diane Hopkins, Commissioners Norman Davis, Sheinita Bennett and Henry Strickland.

A. Invocation:

Invocation led by Public Works Director, James Smart

B. Pledge of Allegiance

II. GUESTS:

Clint Bowman- 505 Ava Street, Waycross Georgia, 31501

Mr. Bowman, spoke briefly on writing up grant request for the Wynona Park Project, and is seeking a letter from the city, stating it is a city park. That the money should they receive, the grant would be for the park. It was stated by Interim City Manager, Marc Hawkins that he would need to see the letter from the people that would be offering the grant to see what they are looking for to apply. The city was not going to maintain the park because it is in the county. The discussion ended with trying to do some research to look for past discussion on the plans for that park.

Brenda McEady-922 Highsmith Street, Waycross Georgia, 31501

Mrs. McEady spoke briefly on the debris that is falling in her yard from the adjoining business when their property is being landscaped. She wanted to know if the city could do anything about that. (She brought in a bag of debris that she says is just some of what is on her property.)

David White- 1419 Marion Street, Waycross Georgia, 31501

Mr. White, spoke briefly on the need to have a traffic light at Blackwell and Corridor Z. He states that there was a recent accident with a Walmart truck. And he still feels there is a need to have a light there for the citizens who walk and must cross that intersection.

Marion Solomon Gaines- 404 Gilmore Street, Waycross, 31501

Ms. Solomon Gaines, spoke briefly on the article that was posted in the Shopper regarding Commissioner Felders position on not allowing Apartments in her district. She also spoke on her distaste for the “Make Waycross Great Again” signature of the composer of that article. She wanted to remind the commission that the citizens in district 3 has expressed to Commissioner Felder that they have no desire to have those apartments in their community, that if the Apartments were needed then allow them to be placed in district of the citizens who are complaining about not having them. She also spoke on the problem with Corridor Z and not having a light not only at Blackwell but out near Garlington Heights area.

Larry Rood- 304 Howe Street, Waycross Georgia, 31501

Mr. Rood, spoke briefly on how thankful and grateful to Commissioner Felder on the job she is doing in district 3. She is listening to her community and adjusting to help in the best way she can. He also Spoke against the article in the shopper comparing it to the “Jim Crow Era” a time he vividly remembers as a child. He expressed a need to work together to keep progress moving forward not backwards

Dr. Earl Martin- 902 Elizabeth Street, Waycross Georgia, 31501

Dr. Martin, spoke briefly on the decision getting ready to be made in selection of a City Manager. He mentioned the two finalists where from Virginia, and in his opinion, we are a racially divided community, he has concerns about the unknown, whether they are coming bringing a color-blind philosophy, or coming with diversity, equity, and inclusion. He stated that no matter the candidate, he would hope that they would be fair to all citizens here in Waycross, quoting Martin Luther King “to judge not by the color of their skin, but the content of their character”. He stated that we all need to look at our country and see how important and beneficial working together is for our city.

Jeremiah Wesley, 806 Brunel Street, Waycross Georgia 31501

Mr. Wesley, spoke briefly on Apartments, and his distaste for the article that was posted in the shopper.

Janice Nzie, 802 Quarterman Street, Waycross Georgia, 31501

Mrs. Nzie, spoke briefly on a Family Advocacy Program that is a faith based, non-profit organization. They partner with communities to help those who have been incarcerated or have felonies to have hope that they can be acclimated back into an accepting community using resources set up through the program, city and the community, through education, employment and housing. She is asking for grants and or funds to continue this project.

II. TRAVEL/TRAINING SCHEDULE AND REQUESTS

IV. PLANNING & INFORMATION SESSION

A. Bids:

1. Employee Appreciation for Christmas

There was a consensus to proceed with each department to send emails to each employee to get a consensus about the choices made available for approval.

2. WAYX 23-08 Land Sale 0.21 Acres Brunswick Ave (Parcel WA0803 085A)

There was a consensus to place this on Tuesday agenda

3. FY23-05 Three (3) Extractor Washing Machines for Fire Department

There was a consensus to place this on Tuesday agenda

B. Discussion: Purchase of Fire Truck

Chief Eddins, discussed with the commission to clarify all information regarding the purchase of the new fire truck. He went through and explained the hand-out given to commission line by line to help them have a understanding and to answer questions.

C. Discussion: Appointments to Boards, Agencies and Authorities

1. Waycross Board of Zoning and Appeals

Commissioner Davis nominated Shawn Taylor

2. Waycross-Ware County Land Bank Authority

Commissioner Davis nominated himself, until he can find someone from his district to appoint to that seat.

3. Waycross-Ware County Public Library Board of Trustees

Martha Hall wants to continue her current seat.

4. Waycross Convention and Visitor Bureau

Rena Vining wants to continue her current seat

D. Privilege License Renewals:

1. Cracker Barrel Old Country Store, Inc. /DBA Cracker Barrel #744, N.J. Mactier, 2501 Memorial Drive, Waycross, GA 31503, Beer and Wine, Consumption On Premises
2. KD's Café, K. Woods, 504 Elizabeth Street, Waycross, GA 31501, Beer and Wine, Consumption On Premises
3. SNS 1302, LLC. /DBA Waycross Food & Beverage, S. Shah, 1302 Brunel Street, Waycross, GA 31501, Beer and Wine, Package Sales Only
4. GMRI, Inc. /DBA The Olive Garden Italian Restaurant #5814, K.R. Smith, 2497 Memorial Drive, Waycross, GA 31503, Beer and Wine Consumption On Premises
5. Quick Mart, Rushiqm Inc. – R. Patel, 800 Ossie Davis Pkwy, Waycross, GA 31501, Beer and Wine, Package Sales Only
6. The Vibe Events, R. Patel, 215 Knight Avenue, Waycross, GA 31501, Beer, Wine, and Liquor, Consumption On Premises
7. Booze Outlet, Booze Outlet Inc.-R. Patel, 1930 Brunswick Hwy, Waycross, GA 31501, Beer, Wine, and Liquor, Package Sales Only
8. Topsy's, Topsy's Inc.-P. Patel, 1711 Ossie Davis Pkwy, Waycross, GA 31501, Beer, Wine, and Liquor, Package Sales Only
9. Plant Café, LLC, M. Howell, 504 Plant Avenue, Waycross, GA 31501, Beer and Wine, Consumption On Premises
10. OM Shree Ambe Inc. /DBA Bunky's, H. Patel, 1545 Ossie Davis Pkwy, Waycross, GA 31501, Beer and Wine, Package Sales Only
11. SNS 508 LLC. /DBA Cheers Package Store, S. Shah, 508 S City Blvd, Waycross, GA 31501, Beer, Wine, and Liquor, Package Sales Only
12. N.S. Traders LLC. /DBA Johnny's Food Store, M. Nadeem, 819 Glenmore Avenue, Waycross, GA 31503, Beer and Wine, Package Sales Only
13. C.C. Stephens AMVETS Post 621, C. Nelson, 773 Ossie Davis Pkwy, Waycross, GA 31501, Beer, Wine, and Liquor, Consumption On Premises
14. Wiley's Too Shelf LLC, D.R. Wiley Jr, 409 Alice Street, Waycross, GA 31502, Beer, Wine, and Liquor, Consumption On Premises
15. Daksh Oil LLC. /DBA Petro Station, H. Bawa, 1001 South Georgia Pkwy, Waycross, GA 31501, Beer and Wine, Package Sales Only

16. OM Shree Laxmi Inc. /DBA Wallys, H. Patel, 1565 Ossie Davis Pkwy, Waycross, GA 31501, Beer and Wine, Package Sales Only
17. Ruby Tuesday Operations LLC. /DBA Ruby Tuesday #4801, K.M. Williams, 2263 Memorial Drive, Waycross, GA 31501, Beer, Wine, and Liquor, Consumption On Premises
18. 1803 Knight LLC. /DBA King Claw, Y. Fu, 1803 Knight Avenue Suite I, Waycross, GA 31501, Beer, Wine, and Liquor, Consumption On Premises
19. Georgia CVS Pharmacy LLC. /DBA CVS/Pharmacy #3348, C. Goode, 1800 Brunswick Hwy, Waycross, GA 31501, Beer and Wine, Package Sales Only
20. Rodeo Mexican Restaurant, L. Escalera, 2020 Memorial Drive, Waycross, GA 31501, Beer, Wine, and Liquor, Consumption On Premises
21. Food Lion, LLC. /DBA Food Lion # 2844, M.L. Hoyle, 1312 Plant Avenue, Waycross, GA 31501, Beer and Wine, Package Sales Only
22. Walgreens # 9277, M.A. Smart Sr., 1740 Memorial Drive, Waycross, GA 31501, Beer and Wine, Package Sales Only

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

E. Privilege Licenses: n/a

F. Proposed Ordinances: n/a

G. Proposed Resolutions:

1. A Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia, To Hold the City Commission Work Session Set for the Monday Before the First Tuesday in the Month of January 2023 on January 3, 2023, and for Other Purposes.

There was a consensus to place this on Tuesday agenda.

2. A Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia, To Hold the City Commission Work Session Set for the Monday Before the Third Tuesday in the Month of January 2023 on January 17, 2023, and for Other Purposes.

There was a consensus to place this on Tuesday agenda

3. A Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia, To Appoint Tommy Cox to be Acting City Manager for the City of Waycross for a Period of Time Not More than Six Months; To Fix Compensation; and for Other Purposes.

There was a consensus to place this on Tuesday agenda

4. A Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia, To Approve Purchase of Extractor Washing Machines for the Waycross Fire Department; and for Other Purposes.

There was a consensus to place this on Tuesday agenda

5. A Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia, To Approve the Sale and Transfer of Certain Surplused Real Property Described Herein and Located Between Albany Avenue and Brunswick Avenue; and for Other Purposes.

There was a consensus to place this on Tuesday agenda

6. A Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia, To Approval Fiscal Year 2022 Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrades Project; and for Other Purposes.

There was a consensus to place this on Tuesday agenda.

H. City Attorney's Report: n/a

I. City Manager's Report:

Interim City Manager, Marc Hawkins, gave an update on the movement out by the college, the site plans did come in and they should be getting started soon.

The mayor asked the commission did they ever memorialize the movement of the City Clerk from the first floor to the second floor. He asked if a resolution was needed to have this finalized and by consensus the commission said no. City Attorney Rick Curry did mention however there may need to have an Ordinance if they are changing who the City Clerk would fall under. He stated he would check and see. City Interim Mark Hawkins stated that normally the City Clerk falls under the City Manager, and they were just waiting for the appointment of that. The mayor stated that there needs to be a chart updated to see where everyone falls as it relates to the individual departments. He also mentioned the barbeque cook-off during the swamp fest for the commission to consider. He asked Mr. Jason to bring some materials explaining how that process works, so that the commission can consider it.

1. Department Report:

Greg Smith, Finance Director- presented the department report

J. Last Call and/or Adjourn to Executive Session

Commissioner Davis- asked Marc about the cell phone charging stations. Marc stated that they will schedule next week to have them installed. Commissioner Davis also asked Chief

Cox to check into a box truck that is blocking the intersection of 1400 block of Walker Street. Chief Cox stated he will go by and check it out in the morning.

Commissioner Bennett- thanked all for coming out. Thanked James Smart and the public works department for helping to get the parks updated. She thanked Marc for his service as acting City Manager. She thanked Robbie Cheeks for the great job they did on Marion Street.

Commissioner Strickland-thanked everyone in attendance for coming out and being attentive.

Mayor Pro Temp, Diane Hopkins- thanked Jason for coming out. Thanked the staff and congratulated the Ware County Gators. She also reminded the citizens about the Christmas Parade. Chief Cox gave information about the detour because road construction on Albany Ave.

Mayor James- thanked everyone for coming out. He expressed his satisfaction of everyone coming together sharing their ideas for the betterment of the city. Good meeting he stated.

K. Adjournment

The mayor asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion to adjourn was given by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Mayor Pro Temp, Diane Hopkins. All voted in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 7:04 pm.

BY:

+ Michael Angelo James
MICHAEL-ANGELO JAMES, Mayor

ATTEST:

Jacqueline Powell
JACQUALINE POWELL, City Clerk

