

MINUTES
WAYCROSS CITY COMMISSION PLANNING & INFORMATION SESSION
MONDAY DECEMBER 4, 2023 – 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 4, 2023, at 5:02 pm by Mayor Michael-Angelo James. The meeting was held in the Commission Chambers of City Hall. Present was Mayor James, Mayor Pro Temp, Sheinita Bennett, Commissioners Katrena Felder and Henry Strickland and Norman Davis

A. Invocation: Commissioner Felder

Invocation led by Chief Eddins, WFD

B. Pledge of Allegiance

II. GUESTS:

Eunice Dixon, 1207 Emma Streets, Waycross Ga. 31501

Mrs. Dixon spoke on Wednesday called meeting. She wanted to apologize to the commission and the citizens for misunderstanding the reason behind the called meeting. She stated she now understands that when a called meeting is stated For Personnel, that can mean several things. She wanted the commission to know whatever the reason, she is for things being done decently and in order.

Ferrell Malone, 709 Jones Street, Waycross Ga. 31501

He spoke about some information concerning the City Manager, that he also received. He wanted to express his support for the City Manager, speaking about the great things he knows that have happened because of the great work and efforts of the city manager. He wanted to come today as a show of support and to express that the has been a very present city manager in this city. He is in hopes that whatever the problem maybe with him or if there is a problem with him that it can be worked out, so that the things can continue to move forward in a positive direction.

David White, 1419 Marion Street, Waycross Ga. 31501

Mr. White came speaking regarding the intersection of Blackwell and Corridor Z. He expressed that something still needs to be done regarding the safety of citizens at this intersection. He also spoke on his disdain for GDOT, for not even coming to hear the citizens concerns. He remains hopeful that some resolution will happen for the safety of all citizens who must walk across that highway.

Christopher Smithson, 1082 Lake Street, Waycross Ga. 31501

He is advocating for a traffic light on Crawford and Corridor Z, because the members of his Church have to walk across that highway often to attend worship and he is extremely concerned about their safety.

III. TRAVEL/TRAINING SCHEDULE AND REQUESTS

IV. PLANNING & INFORMATION SESSION

A. Bids: n/a

B. Discussion Items:

1. ARPA Utilization Update
Work force pay
2. ARPA Grant Update
36 completed applications.,120 that is incomplete, because of citizens unable to get quotes. Because of that he wanted to move the deadline to January 5th, 2024.
3. Employee Bonus
There was a consensus to give the employees a \$217 Christmas Bonus. Want to make it a part of the coming year's budget.
Dist-1 Norman Davis-yes, Dist-2 Sheinita Bennett-yes, Dist-3 Katrena Felder-yes, Dist-4 Henry Strickland-yes
4. Utilities Increase Update
Ryland asked for an increase in their rate. We would have to raise utilities to match this rate increase. We would need to do a rate study to justify the increase. The last rate study was done in 2009. Requesting to do a rate study, and the money for this was budgeted using ARPA funds, estimated to cost between 50,000- 100,000. He will put bids out and bring back to the commission.
5. Waycross and Ware County Development Authority Appointment Request
The two names sent were Chris Kovacs for District 2 and Stephen Burse for District 3

Dist-1 Norman Davis-yes, Dist-2 Sheinita Bennett-yes, Dist-3 Katrena Felder-yes, Dist-5 Henry Strickland-yes
6. Repairs of the Public Works Bucket Truck
There was a consensus to give the employees \$200 Christmas Bonus
Dist-1 Norman Davis-yes, Dist-2 Sheinita Bennett-yes, Dist-3 Katrena Felder-yes, Dist-5 Henry Strickland-yes
7. 2023 TSLOST Road List Execution
Commissioner asked to review the list before final decision are made.

C. Privilege Licenses Renewals:

1. Pizza Inn, H. Dhar, 501 City Blvd, Waycross, Ga. 31501, Beer and Wine, consumption on premises.
2. Applebee's Neighborhood Grill & Bar, T. Rubenbauer, 1901 Memorial Dr, Waycross, Ga. 31501, Beer, Wine and Liquor, consumption on premises.
3. Food Lion #2844, M. Hoyle, 1312 Plant Ave, Waycross, Ga. 31501, Beer and Wine, package sales only.
4. Walmart #4257, C. Stacey, 1630 Plant Ave., Waycross, Ga 31501, Beer and wine, package sales only
5. Cracker Barrel #744, N. Mactier, 2501 Memorial Dr, Waycross Ga. 31503, Beer and Wine, consumption on premises.
6. Walmart #556, B. Landrum, 2425 Memorial Drive, Waycross, Ga. 31503, Beer and Wine, package sales only.
7. Olive Garden, L. Smith, 2497 Memorial Drive, Waycross, Ga. 31503, Beer, Wine and Liquor, consumption on premises

8. King Claw, Y. Fu, 1803 Knight Ave Suite I, Waycross Ga. 31501, Beer, Wine and Liquor, consumption on premises.
9. Plant Café, M. Howell, 504 Plant Avenue, Waycross, Ga. 31501, Beer and Wine, package sales only.
10. Topsy's, P. Patel, 1711 Ossie Davis Pkwy, Waycross Ga. 31501, Beer, Wine and Liquor, package sales only.
11. Quick Mart, R. Patel, 800 Ossie Davis Pkwy, Waycross Ga. 31501, Beer and Wine, package sales only.
12. Booze Outlet, R. Patel, 1930 Brunswick Highway, Waycross, Ga. 31501, Beer, Wine and Liquor, package sales only.
13. The Vibe Events, R. Patel, 215 Knight Ave, Waycross, Ga. 31501, Beer, Wine and Liquor, consumption on premises.
14. Waycross Area Community Theatre, M. Howell 309 Pendleton Street, Waycross Ga., Wine consumption on premises.
15. Gooley's Pizza Too, S. Meis, 910 Memorial Dr. Waycross Ga. 31501, Beer conception on premises.
16. Thai Smile 2, C. Seangmontri, 314 Pendleton Street, Waycross Ga. 31501, Beer, Wine and Liquor, consumption on premises.
17. Om Food Convenience Store, V. Trivedi, 1302 Sweat Street, Waycross Ga. 31501, Beer, package sales only.

D. Privilege Licenses: n/a

E. Proposed Ordinances:

1. An Ordinance to Amend the Code of the City of Waycross, Georgia; To Amend Chapter 34 – Taxation, Licenses and Business Regulations, Article IV. – Occupation Tax, Section 34-90 By Adding Language that Other Business Locations in the City are Taxed for Gross Receipts; To Repeal Conflicting Ordinances; To Provide for Severability; To Provide for an Effective Date; To Provide for Renumbering or Relettering: and for Other Purposes.

There was a consensus to place this on Tuesday agenda.

F. Proposed Resolutions: n/a

G. City Attorney's Report:

Rick, spoke on the Ordinance making giving more clarity Occupation Taxes. Also, spoke on a proposed Ordinance for later, he gave the commission handouts to establish the map approved in 2011.

H. City Manager's Report:

He will be Reformatting the City Report because of fonts size. Also, the park design as far as scope and cost are ready. He will set up time to go over with the three commissioners affected.

I. Last Call

Commissioner Davis- I don't apologize for my actions at the last meeting. (SCM) Because I believe that where there is smoke there is fire. Please remember those that have passed since the last time we met.

Commissioner Bennett-I want to thank everyone for coming out, and I don't have any regrets in speaking out. I was put in the office by the citizens. If I'm not aware of the situation I need to know. I'm my own boss, I don't follow commissioner Davis. At the end of the day we are here because of you all.

Commissioner Felder- great patch of words spoken by commissioners Davis and Bennett. She completely understands the tension that has been throughout the city. Because of presumptions and what citizens have been told. She stated that before you make presumptions always have your facts. To make better decisions. Thanked everyone for coming out, also thanked those who called a meeting in district 3, and she was not invited, which is okay. However, if you are going to have a meeting in her district, she would like a formal invitation. The citizens voted for her in district three so if anything is going to be said about the district or her as a commissioner, she would like to bring clarity, hearsay, malicious gossip, and false rumors. She stated that her commitment to the citizens and the entire City of Waycross Community speaks for itself.

Commissioner Strickland- thanked everyone for coming out tonight and on Wednesday as well. He said that he understands the people wanting to be heard and hopes that we all learned what process the commission follows. He thanked the staff for all their hard work.

Mayor James- thanked everyone for their condolences during the loss of his family members. Also, if you know of anyone that is interested in becoming a part of the mayor's youth council, please look on the website for the application. Thanked everyone for coming out.

J. Adjourn to Executive Session

K. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:41p.m.

CITY OF WAYCROSS

BY:

+ Michael-Angelo James
MICHAEL-ANGELO JAMES, Mayor

ATTEST:

Jacqueline Powell
JACQUALINE POWELL, City Clerk

