

**MINUTES
WAYCROSS CITY COMMISSION MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 18, 2021
5:00 p.m.**

The Commission of the City of Waycross held their Regular City Commission Meeting on Tuesday, MAY 18, 2021, in the Commission Chambers of City Hall. Mayor James calls the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Members in attendance were: Mayor Michael-Angelo James, Mayor Pro Tem Henry Strickland, Commissioners John Threat, Diane Hopkins, and Marian Solomon-Gaines. Commissioner Norman Davis was absent.

James Smart offered the opening Invocation. Following the Invocation, J a m e s led the Pledge of Allegiance.

City Attorney Rick Currie set a Budget Public Hearing scheduled for June 15, 2021, at 4:15 p.m.

City Attorney Rick Currie read the following ordinance first reading:

ORDINANCE NO. 021-15

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA; TO AMEND CHAPTER 2 – ADMINISTRATION, ARTICLE IV. – OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES, BY ADDING A NEW SUBSECTION (D) IN SECTION 2-191. – OATH FOR CITY CLERK, BOND; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO PROVIDE FOR SEVERABILITY; TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY TO ALLOW FOR SECOND READING; TO PROVIDE FOR RENUMBERING OR RELETTERING; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Commissioner Diane Hopkins made the motion to approve the Ordinance. Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines seconded the motion. A unanimous vote approved the Ordinance.

City Attorney Rick Currie read the following ordinance second emergency reading:

ORDINANCE NO. 021-15

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA; TO AMEND CHAPTER 2 – ADMINISTRATION, ARTICLE IV. – OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES, BY ADDING A NEW SUBSECTION (D) IN SECTION 2-191. – OATH FOR CITY CLERK, BOND; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO PROVIDE FOR SEVERABILITY; TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY TO ALLOW FOR SECOND READING; TO PROVIDE FOR RENUMBERING OR RELETTERING; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines made the motion to approve the Ordinance. Commissioner Diane Hopkins seconded the motion. A unanimous vote approved the Ordinance.

City Attorney Rick Currie administered the oath of the office of the City Clerk to

Community Improvement Director, Marc Hawkins.

Mayor Michael-Angelo James announced the upcoming State of the City Address.

There were no public remarks on official actions.

Mayor James presented the Consent Calendar as read by Acting City Clerk, Marc Hawkins for consideration of official action as follows:

Approval of Minutes: 1.) Waycross City Commission Meeting and Executive Session Tuesday, May 4, 2021, 5:00 p.m.

City Clerk read the following ordinances as second readings:

ORDINANCE NO. 021-14

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF WAYCROSS TO AMEND THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 2 – ADMINISTRATION, ARTICLE III. – CODE OF ETHICS, DIVISION 1. – GENERALLY, SECTION 2-115. DEFINITIONS AND SECTION 2-131. COMPLIANCE WITH APPLICABLE LAWS, AND DIVISION 2. – ENFORCEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION, SECTION 2-165. CONSTITUTING THE BOARD AND SECTION 2-167. ENFORCEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION; TO PROVIDE FOR CODIFICATION; TO PROVIDE FOR SEVERABILITY; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines motion for approval of the Consent Calendar and Commissioner Diane Hopkins seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

Ms. Linda Jones, Purchasing Director, presented a Bid # FY21-22 Compact Track Loader for Public Works.

Commissioner Diane Hopkins made the motion to approve to the bid; Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines second the motion. A unanimous vote approved the motion.

Ms. Linda Jones, Bid # FY21-20 Splash Pad for Pernell Roberts Park.

Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines made the motion to approve to the bid; Commissioner John Threat second the motion. A unanimous vote approved the motion.

For first reading to the Commission, City Clerk presented the ordinances:

ORDINANCE NO. 021-17

AN ORDINANCE OF THE WAYCROSS CITY COMMISSION TO AMEND THE ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA; TO RE-ZONE THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED HEREIN LOCATED AT 951 EVANS WAY

FROM R-50MH RESIDENTIAL TO C-1 NEIGHBORHOOD COMMERCIAL; TO SET AN EFFECTIVE DATE; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Commissioner Diane Hopkins made the motion to approve the Ordinance. Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines seconded the motion. A unanimous vote approved the Resolution.

ORDINANCE NO. 021-16

AN ORDINANCE TO ABANDON AND CLOSE A NEVER OPENED ALLEY BETWEEN MARY STREET AND ISABELLA STREET AS HEREINAFTER DESCRIBED; TO AUTHORIZE A QUITCLAIM DEED; TO ESTABLISH AN EFFECTIVE DATE; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY TO ALLOW FOR SECOND READING; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines made the motion to approve the Ordinance. Commissioner Diane Hopkins seconded the motion. A unanimous vote approved the Resolution.

For emergency second reading to the Commission, City Clerk presented the ordinance:

ORDINANCE NO. 021-16

AN ORDINANCE TO ABANDON AND CLOSE A NEVER OPENED ALLEY BETWEEN MARY STREET AND ISABELLA STREET AS HEREINAFTER DESCRIBED; TO AUTHORIZE A QUITCLAIM DEED; TO ESTABLISH AN EFFECTIVE DATE; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY TO ALLOW FOR SECOND READING; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Commissioner Diane Hopkins made the motion to approve the Ordinance. Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines seconded the motion. A unanimous vote approved the Resolution.

Marc Hawkins, City Clerk read a Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia.

RESOLUTION NO. 21-41

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA, AUTHORIZING THE CITY ATTORNEY TO PREPARE AND FILE A DEFENSE FOR A COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES FILED BY THE CLEMENT A. EVANS CAMP # 64 SONS OF CONFEDERACY, ET AL. AGAINST THE CITY OF WAYCROSS, ET AL.; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the Clement A. Evans Camp # 64 Sons of Confederate Veterans et al. filed a complaint for damages in the Superior Court of Ware County against the City of Waycross and certain named City Commissioners, being case number SUV2021000267 ("Complaint"); and

WHEREAS, the City Attorney waived service of summons for said named Commissioners, by consensus, for the City of Waycross and the named City Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, an answer and responsive pleadings will need to be filed in the Complaint or judgment by default will be entered against the City of Waycross, et al; and

WHEREAS, said matter having been considered.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Commission of the City of Waycross that Richard E. Currie, City Attorney for the City of Waycross, is directed to waive service of process, to file an answer, any other responsive or appropriate motions to said Complaint for Damages and provide a defense for the City to said Complaint filed by the Clement A. Evans Camp # 64 Sons of Confederate Veterans et al.; and the authority provided by this Resolution is given retroactive effect to any and all actions taken by the City Attorney since May 1, 2021.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor, Acting or Interim City Manager, City Clerk and City Attorney be authorized, empowered and directed, on behalf of the City Commission, to do all the acts and things necessary in order to carry out the purposes of this Resolution, hereby ratifying and confirming all actions taken and to be taken.

SO RESOLVED, this 18th day of May, 2021, *nunc pro tunc* to May 1, 2021.

CITY OF WAYCROSS
BY: MICHAEL-ANGLEO JAMES, MAYOR

ATTEST:
CITY CLERK

Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines made the motion to approve the Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia. Commissioner Henry Strickland seconded the motion. A unanimous vote approved the Resolution.

Marc Hawkins, Acting City Clerk read a Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia.

RESOLUTION NO. 21-42

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA, TO AWARD A CONTRACT TO THRIFT BROTHERS, LLC FOR EMERGENCY REPAIR TO SINKHOLE ON LEE AVENUE AND EMERGENCY STORM DRAINAGE REPAIR ON BLACKSHEAR AVENUE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, there was a sinkhole that formed on the southeast side of a vegetated island in a parking lot of the intersection of Lee Avenue and U.S. # 1; and

WHEREAS, this work needs to be completed on an emergency basis since the sinkhole was likely caused by the failure of one or more storm drain pipes and/or a concrete arch culvert that runs under the parking lot; and

WHEREAS, there was also a section of falling sidewalk on the north side of Blackshear Avenue near the head of the existing box culvert and was likely being caused by erosion of the subgrade material underneath the sidewalk by stormwater that, if ignored, would cause more problems and repair need to be completed on an emergency basis; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Code of Ordinances of the City of Waycross, section 2-320 (b), the city manager or her designee used best efforts to obtain competitive pricing for said emergency services and all actions taken by the city manager or her designee were pursuant to Code section 2-320 and were otherwise reasonable under the circumstances; and

WHEREAS, bids were requested from our four (4) local contractors and only one responded with a bid, being Thrift Brothers LLC submitting the lowest and best bid for the project at a cost of **\$101,861.00**; and

WHEREAS, said matter having been considered.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Commission of the City of Waycross that the City of Waycross proclaims an emergency and hereby approves the emergency procedures used by the city manager or her designee and that a contract be awarded to Thrift Brothers LLC for the contract price of not more than **\$101,861.00** for the emergency repair to the sinkhole on Lee Avenue and the emergency storm drainage repair on Blackshear Avenue as described above.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor, Acting or Interim City Manager and City Clerk be authorized and directed to execute any Contract on behalf of the City of Waycross, and to do all the acts and things necessary in order to carry out the purposes

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of this Resolution, hereby ratifying and confirming all actions taken and to be taken.

SO RESOLVED, this 18th day of May, 2021.

CITY OF WAYCROSS
BY: MICHAEL-ANGELO JAMES, MAYOR

ATTEST:
CITY CLERK

Commissioner Henry Strickland made the motion to approve the Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia. Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines seconded the motion. A unanimous vote approved the Resolution.

Marc Hawkins, Acting City Clerk read a Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia.

RESOLUTION NO. 21-43

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA, TO APPROVE ON EMERGENCY AND INTERIM BASIS A CONTRACT WITH GEORGIA MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION, INC. TO PROVIDE CONSULTING SERVICES TO THE CITY OF WAYCROSS FOR GUIDANCE AND EXPERTISE ON HUMAN RESOURCES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Code of Ordinances of the City of Waycross, section 2-320 (b), the City Commission may proclaim an emergency and may authorize the city manager or his designee to procure by purchase or lease such services as are deemed necessary and appropriate for the city's emergency response effort; and

WHEREAS, such procurement may be made in the open market with or without advertisement and with or without sealed bids; and

WHEREAS, the City's Human Resources Director has resigned and attempts to hire a qualified replacement have not been successful, and recently the HR Generalist has resigned, leaving only one employee who is not experienced to do all that is required by the HR Department; and

WHEREAS, the City Manager proposes an agreement with the Georgia Municipal Association on an interim basis, being no more than six (6) weeks from the date of execution of the agreement, to provide consulting services and to provide guidance and expertise on Human Resources; and

WHEREAS, Georgia Municipal Association has presented an agreement, a copy of which is attached, being 8 pages, and incorporated herein by reference as if fully set forth; and

WHEREAS, said matter being considered.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Commission of the City of Waycross that the City of Waycross proclaims an emergency, pursuant to Code 2-320 (b), and authorizes on an interim basis but no more than six (6) weeks from the execution of the agreement, the approval of the Agreement for Georgia Municipal Association, Inc. to Provide Consulting Services for City of Waycross, a copy of which is attached hereto and incorporated by reference as if fully set forth, for guidance and expertise on Human Resources.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor, Acting or Interim City Manager, City Clerk and City Attorney be and are hereby authorized, directed and empowered to execute the agreement reflecting same on behalf of the City of Waycross; and are authorized and directed to do all the acts and things necessary in order to carry out the purposes and intent of this Resolution.

SO RESOLVED, this 18th of May, 2021.

CITY OF WAYCROSS
BY: MICHAEL-ANGELO JAMES, MAYOR

ATTEST:
CITY CLERK

Commissioner Diane Hopkins made the motion to approve the Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia. Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines seconded the motion. A unanimous vote approved the Resolution.

Marc Hawkins, Acting City Clerk read a Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia.

RESOLUTION NO. 21-44

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA, TO APPROVE ON EMERGENCY BASIS A CONTRACT WITH GEORGIA MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION, INC. TO PROVIDE CONSULTING SERVICES TO THE CITY OF WAYCROSS; TO PROVIDE ONSITE SEXUAL HARASSMENT TRAINING; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Code of Ordinances of the City of Waycross, section 2-320 (b), the City Commission may proclaim an emergency and may authorize the city manager or his designee to procure by purchase or lease such services as are deemed necessary and appropriate for the city's emergency response effort; and

WHEREAS, such procurement may be made in the open market with or without advertisement and with or without sealed bids; and

WHEREAS, the City's Human Resources Director has resigned and attempts to hire a qualified replacement have not been successful, and recently the HR Generalist has resigned, leaving only one employee who is not experienced to do all that is required by the HR Department; and

WHEREAS, the City Manager proposes an agreement with the Georgia Municipal Association to provide consulting services and to provide guidance and expertise on Human Resources, specifically onsite Sexual Harassment Training for City employees; and

WHEREAS, Georgia Municipal Association has presented an agreement, a copy of which is attached, being 8 pages, and incorporated herein by reference as if fully set forth; and

WHEREAS, said matter being considered.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Commission of the City of Waycross that the City of Waycross proclaims an emergency, pursuant to Code 2-320 (b), and authorizes the approval of the Agreement for Georgia Municipal Association, Inc. to Provide Consulting Services for City of Waycross, a copy of which is attached hereto and incorporated by reference as if fully set forth, to provide onsite Sexual Harassment Training for City employees.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor, Acting or Interim City Manager, City Clerk and City Attorney be and are hereby authorized, directed and empowered to execute the agreement reflecting same on behalf of the City of Waycross; and are authorized and directed to do all the acts and things necessary in order to carry out the purposes and intent of this Resolution.

SO RESOLVED, this 18th of May, 2021.

CITY OF WAYCROSS
BY: MICHAEL-ANGELO JAMES, MAYOR

ATTEST:
CITY CLERK

Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines made the motion to approve the Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia. Commissioner Diane Hopkins seconded the motion. A unanimous vote approved the Resolution.

Marc Hawkins, Acting City Clerk read a Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia.

Reverend Ferrell Malone, 709 Jones Street, Waycross, Georgia, addressed the Commission concerning Executive Order 13985 signed by President Biden.

Michael Hargrove, 2012 Alice Street, Waycross, Georgia, addressed the Commission concerning Confederate Statues and Monuments.

During Last call, Commissioner Threat thanked Reverend Malone, and spoke about the Splash Pad providing something for the children in our community. Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines thanked Commissioner Threat and explained why Marc Hawkins was sworn in as Acting City Clerk at the top of the meeting. Commissioner Diane Hopkins thanked Marc Hawkins for filling in. Mayor Pro Tem Henry Strickland appreciated the City Staff stepping up and working together to get every task accomplished. He also spoke about everyone coming together to build a better community for our youth. Mayor James mentioned the transitioning of Commissioner Pope's wife, asking that the community be in prayer for the Pope family. The Mayor went on to clarify the decorum/rules for a citizen speaking during a City Commission Meeting. After the last call, Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines made the motion adjourn to executive session. Commissioner Diane Hopkins seconded the motion. Mayor James adjourned the meeting.



CITY OF WAYCROSS

BY:

Michael Angelo James
MICHAEL-ANGELO JAMES, Mayor

ATTEST:

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CHINA AGUI, Acting City Clerk