

**MINUTES
WAYCROSS CITY COMMISSION MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 15, 2021
5:00 p.m.**

The Commission of the City of Waycross held their Regular City Commission Meeting on Tuesday, June 15, 2021, in the Commission Chambers of City Hall. Mayor James called 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, Marian Solomon-Gaines, Norman Davis, and Diane Hopkins.

Chief David Eddins offered the opening Invocation. Following the Invocation, Mayor James led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor James took a moment to remind the leaders and citizens of the decorum.

No guest for official actions.

City Attorney Rick Currie requested to set public hearings

1. To consider the annexation of the property at 1911 Memorial Drive for July 20, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.
2. To consider an alley closure near Mary Street and Isabella Street for July 20, 2021 at 4:45 p.m. (Rescheduled Hearing)

Mr. Currie also pointed out for the Waycross Journal Herald that there is a Called Meeting scheduled for June 30, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. to set the budget.

Mayor James recommended appointments for the Waycross Ware County Planning Commission.

Post 5: Jim Brown

Post 8: Joe Skinner

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

Acting City Manager, China Agu invited everyone to come out to the Fourth of July Celebration at Bit Tanner Field on July 4, 2021 beginning at 5:00 p.m. Mrs. Agu also took a moment to wish all Fathers a Happy Fathers Day.

Mayor James announced the upcoming City-wide Job Resource Fair scheduled for August 11, 2021, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.. The event will be held at C.C. McCray City Auditorium.

There were no public remarks on official actions.

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

Approval of Minutes: 1.) Waycross City Commission Planning & Information Session, Monday, April 19, 2021, 5:00 p.m.; 2.) Waycross City Commission Planning & Information Session, Monday, May 17, 2021, 5:00 p.m.; 3.) Waycross City Commission Planning & Information Session, Tuesday, June 1, 2021, 3:00 p.m.; 4.) Waycross City Commission Meeting and Executive Session Tuesday, June 1, 2021, 5:00 p.m.

City Clerk read the following ordinances as second readings:

ORDINANCE NO. 021-19

AN ORDINANCE TO ABANDON AND CLOSE AN UNOPENED ALLEY BETWEEN WATT STREET AND CLOUGH STREET AS HEREINAFTER DESCRIBED; TO AUTHORIZE A QUITCLAIM DEED; TO ESTABLISH AN EFFECTIVE DATE; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

ORDINANCE NO. 021-20

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA, TO CREATE A NEW PUBLIC PARK AT 845 AND 847 FOLKS STREET; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO PROVIDE FOR SEVERABILITY; TO PROVIDE FOR 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 # FY21-24 Morningside Drive and Coral Road.

Commissioner Norman Davis made the motion to approve to the bid; Commissioner Diane Hopkins second the motion. A unanimous vote approved the motion.

Ms. Linda Jones, Purchasing Director, presented Annual Bid #FY22 for Waycross Animal Service. The Bid was awarded to Satilla Animal Hospital.

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

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

ORDINANCE NO. 021-21

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA; TO AMEND CHAPTER 2 – ADMINISTRATION, ARTICLE VI. – DEPARTMENTS, DIVISION 3. – PURCHASING DEPARTMENT, SECTION 2-320. – OPERATIONS OF PURCHASING SYSTEM; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO PROVIDE FOR SEVERABILITY; TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; TO PROVIDE FOR RENUMBERING OR RELETTERING; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Commissioner Norman Davis made the motion to approve the Ordinance. Commissioner Diane Hopkins seconded the motion. A unanimous vote approved the Ordinance.

China Agu, Acting City Clerk read a Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia.

RESOLUTION NO. 21-51

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA, TO AWARD BID CONTRACT TO ALLEN OWENS CONSTRUCTION AND PAVING FOR PAVEMENT REPLACEMENT PROJECT ON MORNINGSIDE DRIVE AND CORAL ROAD; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the City of Waycross Purchasing Department offered and sent invitations to bid to all local road construction contractors for pavement replacement of Morningside Drive and Coral Road; and

WHEREAS, the City of Waycross Purchasing Department received and opened three (3) bids tendered for said project; and

WHEREAS, Allen Owens Construction and Paving of Blackshear, Georgia, submitted the lowest and best bid for the project at a cost of \$125,959.50; and

WHEREAS, said matter having been considered.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Commission of the City of Waycross that a contract be awarded to Allen Owens Construction and Paving of Blackshear, Georgia, for paving replacement on Morningside Drive and Coral Road, in an amount not to exceed \$125,959.50, and to be paid from Local Maintenance & Improvement Grant (LMIG) funds.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor, City Clerk and City Attorney be authorized and directed to execute the Contract on behalf of the City of Waycross, and to do all the acts and things necessary in order to carry out the purposes and intent of this Resolution.

SO RESOLVED, this 15th day of June, 2021.

CITY OF WAYCROSS
BY: MICHAEL-ANGELO JAMES, Mayor

ATTEST:
CHINA WILLIAMS AGU, Acting 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.

China Agu, Acting City Clerk read a Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia.

RESOLUTION NO. 21-52

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 JULY 2021 ON JULY 6, 2021, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 2-60 (d) of the Waycross Code of Ordinances, amended and approved by the City Commission on July 7, 2020, "Work sessions shall be held at 5:00 p.m. on the Monday before the regular commission meeting held on the first ... Tuesday of each month unless otherwise provided by resolution and approved by the commission"; and

WHEREAS, the Monday before the first Tuesday in the month of July 2021, is July 5, 2021, and being Independence Day, a holiday celebrated by the national and state government, as well as by the City of Waycross; and

WHEREAS, said matter having been considered.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Commission of the City of Waycross that the City Commission work session, scheduled by Ordinance 2-60 (d) to be held on Monday, July 5, 2021, shall be held on **Tuesday, July 6, 2021, at 3:00 p.m.**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized and directed 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 15th day of June, 2021.

CITY OF WAYCROSS
BY: MICHAEL-ANGELO JAMES, Mayor

ATTEST:
Acting 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.

China Agu, Acting City Clerk read a Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia.

RESOLUTION NO. 21-53

A RESOLUTION OF THE WAYCROSS CITY COMMISSION TO CANCEL DEED TO SECURE DEBT FOR REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 807 HILL STREET; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the City of Waycross received Georgia Department of Community Affairs Community HOME Investment Program (hereinafter "C.H.I.P.") funds to provide grants for city residents who make less than 80% AMI (Area Median Income) for home rehabilitation assistance; and

WHEREAS, citizens Veneda and Carey Merrell of 807 Hill Street, Waycross, Ware County, Georgia, were approved for such a rehabilitation assistance grant on or about January 8, 2010; and

WHEREAS, the deed to secure debt was, as part of C.H.I.P. grant number 06m-x-148-2-2943, filed to secured the loan of \$22,892.00 for the costs of rehabilitating the residence at 807 Hill Street; and

WHEREAS, the loan required no regular monthly or annual payments, and if no payment event occurred prior to the expiration of the Affordability Period of ten (10) years from the date of the loan, (being a transfer of the real property; or she or her family fail to occupy the property; or the City declares a default under the deed), they "shall not be obligated to pay [the City of Waycross] any part of the Loan amount"; and

WHEREAS, said ten (10) years Affordability Period has matured and expired on January 8, 2020; and

WHEREAS, this matter has been duly considered.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Commission of the City of Waycross that the City of Waycross hereby authorizes the execution of a Cancellation of the Deed to Secure Debt, in the form which is attached hereto and is incorporated herein as if fully set forth, for the real property of Veneda and Carey Merrell of 807 Hill Street, Waycross, Ware County, Georgia.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor, City Clerk, City Attorney be and are hereby authorized, directed, and empowered to execute the documents needed and necessary to submit and file the Cancellation of Deed to Secure Debt set forth herein.

SO RESOLVED this 15th day of June, 2021.

CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA
BY: MICHAEL-ANGELO JAMES, MAYOR

ATTEST:
ACTING 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.

China Agu, Acting City Clerk read a Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia.

RESOLUTION NO. 21-54

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA, TO AMEND REHABILITATION ASSISTANCE FOR 1121 THOMAS STREET AS PART OF C.H.I.P. GRANT NUMBER 2017-112 APPROVED IN RESOLUTION NO. R21-26; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, on April 20, 2021, by Resolution No. R21-26, reference being made thereto and incorporated herein as if fully set forth, the City Commission approved Carol Wilson's request for rehabilitation assistance, being loan number CH17XWAYC-01, in compliance with the program policies adopted by the City of Waycross in the amount of \$62,550.00 to be paid from C.H.I.P. grant number 2017-112; and

WHEREAS, the total amount to be paid out of said grant for rehabilitation assistance on this property is approximately \$86,237.81 because the lead-based paint is not an eligible expense to be put against the property on a deed to secure debt and possible change orders; and

WHEREAS, the City should request a draw on above-referenced C.H.I.P. rehabilitation assistance grant for improvements to the property located at 1121 Thomas Street; and

WHEREAS, said funds are available and the matter has been duly considered;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Commission of the City of Waycross that the City of Waycross hereby approves Carol Wilson's request for rehabilitation assistance, being loan number CH17XWAYC-01, in compliance with the program policies adopted by the City of Waycross in the amount of approximately \$86,237.81 to be paid from C.H.I.P. grant number 2017-112.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor, City Clerk, City Manager, Finance Director, Community Improvement Director and City Attorney be and are hereby authorized, directed, and empowered to execute the documents needed and necessary to submit the application and loan set forth herein, and to do all the acts and things necessary in order to carry out the purposes and intent of this Resolution.

SO RESOLVED this 15th day of June, 2021.

CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA
BY: MICHAEL-ANGELO JAMES, Mayor

ATTEST:
Acting City Clerk

Commissioner Norman Davis 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.

China Agu, Acting City Clerk read a Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia.

RESOLUTION NO. 21-55

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA, TO AUTHORIZE AN ANNUAL SERVICE CONTRACT WITH SATILLA ANIMAL HOSPITAL TO PROVIDE VETERINARIAN SERVICES FOR WAYCROSS ANIMAL SERVICES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the City of Waycross Community Improvement Department has a need for veterinary services for its Waycross Animal Services; and

WHEREAS, the City of Waycross Purchasing Department offered the project through competitive bidding; and received and opened three (3) bids for providing said services; and

WHEREAS, Satilla Animal Hospital submitted the overall lowest and best bid; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.1 of the Charter of the City of Waycross gives the City of Waycross the power and authority to "enter into contracts and agreements with other governmental entities and with private persons, firms and corporations"; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to enter into an Annual Service Provider Contract with Satilla Animal Hospital beginning July 1, 2021, until June 30, 2022, with four (4) additional one year extensions to be awarded each July as long as it remains in the City's best interests; and

WHEREAS, said matter having been considered.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Commission of the City of Waycross that the Bid Contract for FY2022 City Veterinarian Services be awarded to Satilla Animal Hospital for a period from July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022, with four (4) additional one year extensions to be awarded each July as long as it remains in the City's best interests to remain with Satilla Animal Hospital.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor, City Clerk, City Manager and City Attorney be authorized and directed to execute said Annual Service Provider Contract on behalf of the City of Waycross, and to do all the acts and things necessary in order to carry out the purposes and intent of this Resolution.

SO RESOLVED, this 15th day of June, 2021.

CITY OF WAYCROSS
BY: MICHAEL-ANGELO JAMES, Mayor

ATTEST:
CHINA WILLIAMS AGU, 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.

China Agu, Acting City Clerk read a Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia.

RESOLUTION NO. 21-56

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA, TO APPROVE LETTER TO BE SENT TO DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS REQUESTING EXTENSION OF C.H.I.P. GRANT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the Community HOME Investment Program (C.H.I.P.) is a federally funded grant initiative managed by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs but provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and C.H.I.P. grants are awarded to help low to moderate income families do home repairs and address code violations affecting the dwellings; and

WHEREAS, the grant period is soon ending and the City desires to request a grant adjustment or extension to December 31, 2021, to allow for completion of construction on two (2) houses and hopefully, on additional house; 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 does hereby approve the execution, sending and mailing of a letter to the Department of Community Affairs, a copy of which is attached hereto incorporated herein as if fully set forth, requesting an adjustment or extension of the City of Waycross Grant 2017-112 until December 31, 2021.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and City Clerk be, and are hereby authorized, empowered and directed to execute said Resolution on behalf of the City of Waycross, and to do all the acts and things necessary in order to ratify, confirm and carry out the purposes and intent of this Resolution.

SO RESOLVED, this 15th day of June, 2021.

CITY OF WAYCROSS
BY: MICHAEL-ANGELO JAMES, Mayor

ATTEST:
Acting 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.

China Agu, Acting City Clerk read a Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia.

RESOLUTION NO. 21-57

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA,
TO EXECUTE AGREEMENT TERMS AND CONDITIONS DOCUMENTS FOR RECEIPT OF FUNDS FROM THE
AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

WHEREAS, the federal government has passed the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan Act of 2021; and

WHEREAS, this Act provides additional funding to county and city governments to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, including the public health and economic impacts; and

WHEREAS, the Terms and Conditions documents include Assurances of Compliance with Civil Rights Requirements, a copy of which is attached hereto and incorporated herein as if fully set forth, and other requirements; and

WHEREAS, said matter having been considered.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Commission of the City of Waycross that the Mayor, City Manager, Acting City Manager, City Clerk, City Finance Director and City Attorney be and are hereby authorized, directed and empowered to execute the attached Assurances of Compliance with Civil Rights Requirements and any other Agreement Terms and Conditions documents necessary to make application for funds under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

SO RESOLVED, this 15th day of June, 2021.

CITY OF WAYCROSS
BY: MICHAEL-ANGELO JAMES, Mayor

ATTEST:
Acting City Clerk

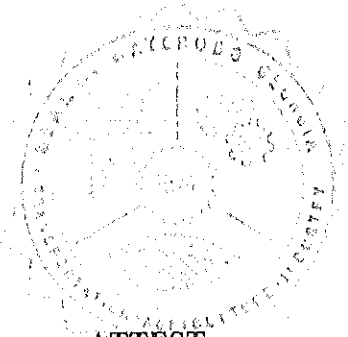
Commissioner Norman Davis made the motion to approve the Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia. Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines seconded the motion. A unanimous vote approved the Resolution.

Stephanie Adams, Bethesda Recovery, 516 McDonald Street, Waycross, Georgia, addressed the Commission about Unity in the Community.

During Last call, Commissioner Threat thanked the staff for all of their hard work, and stepping up while Ms. Tonya has been out. He spoke about the shootings that took place over the weekend and commended Chief Cox and the Assistant for being on the scene. Commissioner Solomon-Gaines announced the upcoming Juneteenth Celebration. She also inquired about the increase in water leaks being

reported. China agreed to update the Commissioner at a later date. Commissioner Diane Hopkins thanked Stephanie Adams for coming out and talking about the Mom Prom and Bethesda Recovery. The Commissioner went on to speak about the yard sale signs being left out after yard sales. Commissioner Davis expressed his condolences to all the families who've lost loved-ones. The Commissioner also inquired about the sign in E.E. Moore Park. He also inquired about the American Rescue Act and suggested things that those funds can be used for. Commissioner Davis also commended Chief Cox on how he and his men are handling and de-escalating these shooting incidents. Commissioner Threat asked Acting City Manager, China Agu to explain what's happening with the new storm water plans. Commissioner Strickland Mayor James spoke about announced the upcoming State of the City Address, and encourage everyone to work together to make our City beautiful. Mayor James thanked everyone for coming out and working together. The Mayor also to a moment to thank Mrs. China and Chief Eddins for doing such an excellent job while Ms. Tonya was away. He proceeded to thank Ms. Linda and Mr. Smart for their diligence.

After the last call, Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines made the motion adjourn to executive session. Commissioner Henry Strickland seconded the motion. Mayor James adjourned the meeting.



CITY OF WAYCROSS

BY:

+ Michael Angelo James

MICHAEL-ANGELO JAMES, Mayor

ATTEST:

China Agu

CHINA AGU, Acting City Clerk