

**MINUTES
WAYCROSS CITY COMMISSION MEETING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2021 | 5:00 p.m.**

The Commission of the City of Waycross held their Regular City Commission Meeting on Monday, November 2, 2021, in the Commission Chambers of City Hall. Mayor James called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Members in attendance: Mayor Michael-Angelo James, Mayor Pro Tem Henry Strickland, Norman Davis, John Threat, Marian Solomon-Gaines, and Diane Hopkins.

James Smart, Public Works Director offered the opening Invocation. Followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Acting City Clerk, China Agu read the decorum.

Employee of the Month:

Marc Hawkins introduced Patrick Simmons as Employee of the Month.

City Manager, Tonya Parrish requested confirmation of Mrs. China Agu as City Clerk.

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

Attorney Currie administered the Oath of Office to Mrs. China Agu.

China Agu was sworn in as the new City Clerk for the City of Waycross.

City Manager's Report:

1.) City Manager, Tonya Parrish informed the Commission that she had recently received an affirmation letter from the IRS that the City of Waycross is in fact a city. This was a requirement to apply for a \$5000 grant with the Walmart Foundation for funds to go toward the completion of the new Splash Pad Project. Tonya requested the Commission's approval to apply for the grant.

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

2.) City Manager informed everyone of new opportunities to apply for grant funding.

Public Remarks on Official Actions:

Michael Hargrove spoke about Bid Item #FY22-20 Infrared Cameras for WPD. He also spoke about the need cleaning up some of the properties coming into town.

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 Meeting, Tuesday, October 5, 2021, 5:00 p.m.;
- 2.) Waycross City Commission Planning & Information Session, Monday, October 18, 2021, 5:00 p.m.
- 3.) Waycross City Commission Meeting, Tuesday, October 19, 2021, 5:00 p.m.;

There were no Ordinances for second reading.

Privilege License Renewals:

- a. Flash Foods #1, Jennifer Bennett, 505 Reynolds Street, Waycross, GA 31503, Package Sales Beer and Wine
- b. Flash Foods, LLC/ dba Circle K #2745051, Jennifer Bennett, 2307 Plant Avenue, Waycross, GA 31503, Sales Beer and Wine
- c. Flash Foods, LLC/ dba Circle K #2745068, Jennifer Bennett, 1712 Memorial Drive, Waycross, GA 31503, Sales Beer and Wine
- d. Flash Foods, LLC/ dba Circle K #2745085, Jennifer Bennett, 1401 Tebeau Street, Waycross, GA 31501, Sales Beer and Wine
- e. Flash Foods, LLC/ dba Circle K #2745133, Jennifer Bennett, 1736 S. GA Parkway W., Waycross, GA 31503, Sales Beer and Wine
- f. Rodeo Mexican Restaurant, Leonides Escalera, 2020 Memorial Drive, Waycross, GA 31501, Consumption on Premises, Beer, Wine, and Liquor
- g. Manshi LLC/ dba Stop N Save, Urmilaben Patel, 1333 S. GA Parkway, Waycross, GA 31501, Package Sales Beer and Wine
- h. Two Guys Beverage and Tobacco, Josh Fowler, 2100 Memorial Drive, Waycross, GA 31501, Package Sales Beer, Wine, and Liquor

Commissioner Norman Davis motion for approval of the Consent Calendar and Commissioner Diane Hopkins seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

Privilege Licenses:

- 1.) Wong's Palace, Ming Qian Chen, 903, Knight Avenue, Waycross, GA 31501, Consumption on Premises, Beer and Wine

Commissioner Norman Davis made the motion to approve to the privilege license; Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines second the motion. A unanimous vote approved the motion.

- 2.) SNS 508, LLC/ dba Cheers Package Store, Shivang Shah, 508 City Blvd, Waycross, GA Package Sales Beer, Wine, and Liquor

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

Ms. Linda Jones, Purchasing Director, presented our Bids.

1. Bid # FY22-13 Center Elementary Turn Lane Improvements

Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines made the motion to approve the request with the understanding that the City will gather more information about the light and possibly deduct the cost of moving the light if it is found that the City is not the responsible party; Commissioner Diane Hopkins second the motion. A unanimous vote approved the motion.

2. Bid # FY22-20 Thermal Imaging Cameras

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

Ordinances:

- 1.) An Ordinance to Grant A Special Exception Permit to River of Life Church of God, Inc. Located at 1441 Brunel Street in Order to Operate Transitional Housing on Property Zoned as RM – 75 (Residential Mobile Home District); and for Other Purposes.

Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines made the motion for approval; Commissioner Norman Davis second the motion. A unanimous vote approved the motion.

Resolutions:

- 1.) A Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia, To Approve an Agreement Between the Georgia Department of Human Services, Division of Family and Children Services, and the City of Waycross to Provide Low Income Household Water Assistance; and for Other Purposes.

Commissioner Norman Davis made the motion for approval; Commissioner Diane Hopkins second the motion. A unanimous vote approved the motion.

- 2.) A Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia, To Award Contract to Thrift Brothers, LLC, for Plant Avenue Emergency Sewer Repair Project; and for Other Purposes.

Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines made the motion for approval; Commissioner Diane Hopkins second the motion. A unanimous vote approved the motion.

- 3.) A Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia, To Execute State Fiscal Recovery Fund Terms and Conditions for Public Safety Officials and First Responders Pay Supplement; and for Other Purposes.

Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines made the motion for approval; Commissioner Norman Davis second the motion. A unanimous vote approved the motion.

- 4.) A Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia, To Award Bid Contract to MES (Municipal Emergency Services) of Charlotte, North Carolina, for New Thermal Imaging Cameras for the Waycross Fire Department; and for Other Purposes.

Commissioner Diane Hopkins made the motion for approval; Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines second the motion. A unanimous vote approved the motion.

- 5.) A Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia, To Award Bid Contract to Scruggs Company of Valdosta, Georgia, for the Center Elementary School Entrance Improvement Project; and for Other Purposes.

Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines made the motion for approval; Commissioner Norman Davis second the motion. A unanimous vote approved the motion.

- 6.) A Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia, To Contract with Cigna for Health and Dental Insurance for the City's Insurance Needs and Services for Calendar Year 2022; and for Other Purposes.

Commissioner Diane Hopkins made the motion for approval; Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines second the motion. A unanimous vote approved the motion.

- 7.) A Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia, To Authorize the Execution and Signing of Memoranda of Understanding with the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 City of Waycross Recipients; and for Other Purposes.

Commissioner Norman Davis made the motion for approval; Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines second the motion. A unanimous vote approved the motion.

Guests:

1.) Barry Worley, 401 Gilmore Street, Waycross, GA – Mr. Worley requested that the Commission hold off on the previously discussed COVID Protocols.

2.) Earl Martin, 902 Elizabeth Street, Waycross, GA – Dr. Martin echoed Mr. Worley’s request for holding off on the previously discussed COVID Protocols. He also added that Commissioner Solomon-Gaines’ stance on the matter was vastly differed from his own.

-Commissioner Solomon-Gaines requested the opportunity to address the comment due to being “Called Out” during Dr. Martin’s request. The Commissioner stated that she is still the sitting Commissioner and that her term does not end until the end of December. She went on to inform Dr. Martin that this Commission will not stop/sit still and wait on candidates who “might” become Commissioner. She concluded her response, stating that the employees are satisfied with the current measures set in place.

3.) Bonnie Danford, 1315 Clough Street, Waycross, GA – Ms. Danford announced an upcoming event hosted by First Born Church. The event is being held at Bailey Street Park on November 19, 2021.

4.) Tim Peacock, 906 Euclid Avenue, Waycross, GA – Mr. Peacock addressed the Commission concerning the COVID Protocols.

-Commissioner Davis addressed Mr. Peacock. He first thanked him for how eloquently he addressed the Commission concerning the Confederate statues. He went on to state that he ran during this election unopposed. Mr. Peacock thereafter stated that the Commissioner didn’t “actually” run because he wasn’t on the ballot. Commissioner reiterated that he’s running unopposed.

Last Call:

Commissioner Diane Hopkins just wanted to thank the citizens for coming out and taking the things that are going on in the city serious.

Commissioner Solomon-Gaines also thanked the guests for coming out and wished the candidates who are running for office good luck. The Commissioner also said to the directors that their staff should be talking to them about their concerns with the new COVID Protocols. She informed the directors that only the Commission can do something about the protocols. The directors should be bringing the staff’s concerns to the Commission. The Commissioner went on to announce that her Pastor had been battling cancer and recently received a diagnosis of all clear, “Cancer Free.”

Commissioner Threat thanked all the guests for coming out. He thanked Dr. Martin, referring to him as, “Dr. Hemp” and Mr. Worley. Threat also expressed his condolences to the family who lost a love-one in the house fire on Blackwell Street. The Commissioner was out of town when the accident occurred. He also took a moment to thank all the City’s Staff. The Commissioner then called Marc Hawkins, Community Improvement Director to the podium to address the issue raised by the Guest Mr. Michael Hargrove. He congratulated Patrick Simmons and announced the next dialogue concerning the youth in our community.

Commissioner Davis expressed his condolences to those who have lost love-ones. The Commissioner then called James Smart, Public Works Director to the podium. He also took a moment to voice his support for Commissioner Solomon-Gaines continued support and stance on COVID Protocols. Commissioner Davis inquired about a tree on Bunch Street. Mr. Smart explained that the tree is on private property and the City cannot go on private and remove a tree, but Mr. Smart did agree to assist with the removal of the debris once the tree has been cut down.

Commissioner Threat recognized that Akeem Clayton was also present during the meeting and wished him good luck on the election.

Commissioner Strickland also thanked the guest for coming out. He also encouraged everyone to be patient with the process. Mayor James too thanked the guest for coming out. Then he talked a little about being willing to listen. He explained that it's good when we work together doing things in our community. He also took a moment to explain some of the previously established Commission Meeting Protocols.

After the last call, Commissioner Norman Davis made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines seconded the motion. Mayor James adjourned the meeting.



CITY OF WAYCROSS

BY:

Michael Angelo James

MICHAEL-ANGELO JAMES, Mayor

ATTEST:

China Agu

CHINA AGU, City Clerk