



City of Guyton
City Council Meeting
Via Teleconference
April 14, 2020 – 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES OF MEETING

Call to Order

The April 14, 2020 City of Guyton City Council Meeting was called to order by Mayor Russ Deen at approximately 7:00 p.m. Mayor Russ Deen, Mayor Pro Tem Michael Johnson, Sr., Council Member Joseph Lee, Council Member Hursula Pelote, and Council Member T. Marshall Reiser were present at this meeting via teleconference.

Other Staff Present - Interim City Manager Brett Bennett, Interim City Attorney Ben Perkins, David “Bobo” Mullens and City Clerk Tina Chadwick were present via teleconference.

Moment of Repose for Those Who Practice Some Other Faith

Mayor Deen asked all present to take a brief repose for those who practice some other faith.

Invocation

Mayor Deen gave the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Deen.

Consideration to approve the Agenda

Johnson made a motion to approve the Agenda, as presented. Lee seconded the motion. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Consideration to approve Minutes of Meetings

Reiser made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 10, 2020 City Council Meeting held at 7:00 p.m. and the March 26, 2020 Special Called Meeting at 10:00 a.m. Johnson seconded the motion. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Agenda Request

Ron Webb, President of the Whitesville HOA is requesting a special speed limit reduction from 25 mph to 15 mph in Old Whitesville Plantation Subdivision

Mr. Webb presented that Whitesville Plantation HOA held a semi-annual meeting last month and they voted unanimously to request the speed limit be reduced. Chief Breletic stated that he had spoken with GDOT, with the executive over our area and he voiced a concern about the HOA wanting to reduce their speed limit and he is going to be getting Chief Breletic a copy of all of our roads and streets to ascertain if its within our limits. Chief Breletic would like to have a couple more days to work on this and produce a report to Mr. Bennett and or the Mayor as requested to see if we could reduce the speed limit itself. DOT did remind Chief Breletic that if we did reduce the speed limit down to 15 mph we may not be able to run radar, but Chief Breletic would like to get all of the documentation in his hand first. Bennett suggested that we get all of that information together and provide it to the Council and Mr. Webb and he can provide that information to the HOA and we can take it up when we have all of that information from GDOT.

ALL PUBLIC COMMENTS WILL BE LIMITED TO AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

NEW BUSINESS

Consideration to adopt Ordinance 2020-03 regarding City of Ethics for the City of Guyton

Bennett stated that this was presented at a previous meeting and there was only one minor tweak that was not material it was simply a wording requirement that was specified in the Charter that should be included in all Ordinances and Ms. Tina has provided you a copy of that. Bennett also stated that Council needs to appoint members for the City of Ethics Committee as outlined in the Ordinance.

Reiser made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-03 regarding City of Ethics for the City of Guyton. Pelote seconded the motion. **Roll Call Vote: Lee – Favor, Johnson – Favor, Reiser – Favor, Pelote – Favor, Deen – Favor. Motion passed unanimously.**

Consideration to authorize the City Manager to take the steps necessary to waive the online payment fees for customers paying utility bills online

Bennett stated that this was on a previous Agenda and that it had been tabled. Bennett stated that we are currently set up with a convenience fee for online payments. That convenience fee charges customers who pay online a fee of 2.95% for any payments for debit and credit cards and a flat fee of \$1.05 for any e-check processed. We would be changing to an agency funded set up. The City would incur the cost of the transaction fees. From October 1, 2019 through the end of February 2020 the fees generated from convenience fees were about \$3,000. You are looking at around a little over \$7,000 a year that the city would incur in cost to become an agency funded to set up online payments. This conversation started at the beginning of the COVID-19 virus and it is going to take some time to get through this process. This was done to encourage people to use online payments. Cost could creep up if more people start using the online payment tool. Johnson inquired about bank drafts. Bennett not aware if the City has done that to date. Bennett would have to do some research into that. Reiser thinks that there is some potential savings in our water

works clerk time as well. Bennett stated that this is credit card processing fees. This is for any credit card processing fee whether online or in City Hall. \$7,200 a year at the current participation rate. A brief discussion was had about how this would encourage people to pay online. Lynsey Ronk asked if the City is going to pay the \$7,000 roughly. Mayor Deen stated that instead of the citizen paying the fee on the front end that the City would be paying those fees. Bennett stated that many governments around us are doing this and absorbing those costs. Ronk asked if the water fees were going up and Mayor Deen stated that was not being decided at this time. Ronk is inquiring about the time the water works clerk enters the checks worth \$7,000 to \$10,000 a year. Reiser said that is just one consideration and it would just be an easier way for people to pay and the City to receive our funds quicker and a courtesy to our citizens. Bennett stated that there are a lot of people that call City Hall wanting to make their water payments and there is a lot of time associated with that.

Reiser made a motion to authorize the City Manager to take the steps necessary to waive the online payment fees for customers paying utility bills online. Johnson seconded the motion. **Roll Call Vote: Lee- Agree, Pelote – Agree, Reiser – Agree, Johnson – Agree, Deen-Agree. Motion passed unanimously.**

Consideration to approve an intergovernmental agreement regarding the TSPLOST referendum

Bennett requested that this item be tabled due to the fact that he just received an updated agreement from Effingham County.

Johnson made a motion to table an intergovernmental agreement regarding the TSPLOST referendum. Reiser seconded the motion. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Consideration to approve a contract with EOM Operations for operations of the City of Guyon's water and sewer system

Bennett suggested that we table this item as there has been some back and forth with EOM and legal counsel over this contract.

Johnson made a motion to table a contract with EOM Operations for operations of the City of Guyon's water and sewer system. Lee seconded the motion. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Consideration to surplus various items from the police department

Chief Breletic stated that there are various items at the Police Department that are no longer needed and do not work. Bennett stated that we will dispose of these items as required by law. Karen Keech asked if these items could be made public. Mayor Deen responded that they could email Tina Chadwick and she would provide you with a list of these items.

Johnson made a motion to surplus various items from the police department. Pelote seconded the motion. **Roll Call Vote: Lee – Agree, Reiser – Agree, Pelote – Agree, Johnson – Agree, Deen – Agree. Motion passed unanimously**

Consideration to nominate three prospective candidates for the Effingham Hospital Authority representative for the City of Guyton

Mayor Deen stated that we need to nominate three prospective candidates to be the Effingham Hospital Authority representative for the City of Guyton. Reiser nominated Peggy Nelson, Pelote nominated Laverne Bowers and Lee nominated Tamela Mydell. Andy Harville asked if there would be a conflict of interest since Tamela Mydell serves on the Planning and Zoning Board. Perkins stated that there would not be a conflict.

Reiser made a motion to nominate three prospective candidates, Ms. Nelson, Ms. Bowers and Ms. Mydell for the Effingham Hospital Authority representative for the City of Guyton. Johnson seconded the motion. **Roll Call Vote: Johnson – Agree, Lee – Agree, Pelote – Agree, Reiser – Agree, Deen – Agree. Motion passed unanimously.**

Consideration to approve a subdivision – Summer Place Phase III

Bennett stated that this had just been approved by the Planning and Zoning Committee meeting last night. All we need to do is sign the Plat. The subdivision had already been approved. Bennett stated that any motion made needs to be subject to the appropriate bond being placed with the City for the infrastructure. Reiser asked how many additional lots and Bobby Lee answered 48. Karen Keech wanted to know if any of the driveways are on Greyson Road. Bobby Lee answered no. She then asked about the drainage issue. Bobby Lee said it had been taken care of. Bennett said that Mr. Ford has been working with Ms. Keech and Mr. Ford will be contacting her today or tomorrow.

Reiser made a motion to approve a subdivision – Summer Place Phase III subject to the appropriate bond being placed with the City for the infrastructure. Johnson seconded the motion. **Roll Call Vote: Johnson – Approve, Lee – Approve, Pelote - Approve, Reiser - Approve, Deen – Approve. Motion passed unanimously.**

Reports from Staff or Committees

Police Department – Chief James Breletic

Chief Breletic stated for February that they had 318 calls, 23 citations and 2 arrests. March they had 349 calls and 29 reports generated 1 arrest and 8 citations Mayor Deen and Council Members thanked Chief Breletic for doing a great job.

Public Works – Jacob Ford

March – Completed 73 Work Orders - 48 Locates – 5 Meter diagnostics

Fire Department - Chief Clint Hodges

March - 358 calls – 6 structure fires - 1 fatal crash that was right outside the City limits – 1 large search and rescue – No structure fires were within the City limits.

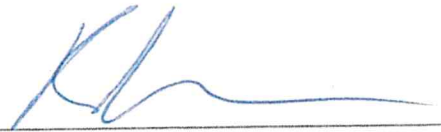
Mayor Deen – Announced the City of Guyton’s new Website

Dates to Remember

CANCELED – May 2, 2020 – Sale on the Trail

Adjournment

Johnson made a motion at approximately 7:52 p.m. to adjourn this meeting. Pelote seconded the motion. **Motion passed unanimously.**



Russ Deen, Mayor



Tina Chadwick, City Clerk

