



City of Guyton
Special Called City Council Meeting
Via Teleconference
April 28, 2020 – 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES OF MEETING

Call to Order

The April 28, 2020 City of Guyton Special Called 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.**

ALL PUBLIC COMMENTS WILL BE LIMITED TO AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

NEW BUSINESS

Consideration to approve an intergovernmental agreement regarding TSPLOST referendum

City Manager Bennett had a brief discussion about the agreement and stated that different factors are still being discussed and it will be approved by Effingham County at a future date. He would recommend that it be tabled at this time as things have been changing.

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

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

City Manager Bennett stated that there has been quite a few turnovers with staff over the last few years and that has left the City with some employees that have some limited experience in operating the water and sewer system. EOM would provide us with the overall operations of the City's water and wastewater system. They would be monitoring a 24/7 response as well as a one (1) hour response time for any after hour or emergency related items. This agreement would bring us a lot of experience and extensive licensing. Part of the contract is to incorporate a regular maintenance program for the various components of the City's system. One of the biggest things to consider is the effect on the budget. The City has two vacate positions. There were going to be some increases needed in this budget. There is a revenue increase to the rate increase that happened in the summer of 2019. Revenue went up substantially from the rate increase in June 2019. There have been some budget decreases as well. That results in a budget increase of about \$18,000 with a projected surplus of around \$100,000. There are no needed future rate increases that the City Manager can see that are related to this. There will be some increase in revenue related to growth of the City that is not considered in the analysis that he sent. Reiser stated that the City is on track with the budget and that the revenues are trending up. Bennett states that he can personally vouch for EOM at his time working with them in Springfield. Reiser stated that the City is within the budget and we will be getting a much higher level of service. Lee asked how long the contract was for. Bennett stated that this a 6 month initial term with a 6 month renewal and a 60 day termination clause. Johnson stated that he liked the contract and it will be a plus for our citizens. Andy Harville asked about the rate increase for sewage and he thought that was going to pay for the debt for the wastewater treatment plant. Bennett stated it was intended for the debt. Current year's budget is only going up about \$18,000 and 90% of the fund is being used for debt services. Harville asked Mr. Perkins about the bid service. Bennett stated that a professional service by Georgia law is not required to bid out. Karen Keech is asking how this contract could not be approved for a bid with the amount of money it is costing the City. She also wants to know if we can provide our own staff with this amount of money. Bennett stated that professional services is different. Johnson stated that we are making the best move to help our citizens of Guyton.

Reiser made a motion to approve a contract with EOM Operations for operations of the City of Guyton's water and sewer system and that the City Manager negotiate the effective date between EOM and the current provider. Johnson seconded the motion. **Roll Call Vote: Reiser – Yay, Johnson – Yay, Lee – Yay, Deen – Yay. Motion passed unanimously.**

Consideration to move from the Special Called Council Meeting into an Executive Session reference Litigation

Johnson made a motion, at approximately 7:43 p.m., to move from the Special Called Council Meeting into an Executive Session reference Litigation. Reiser seconded the motion. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Consideration to move from the Executive Session back into the Special Called Council Meeting


Johnson made a motion, at approximately 8:32 p.m., to move from the Executive Session back into the Special Called Council Meeting. Reiser seconded the motion. **Roll Call Vote: Johnson – Present, Pelote – Present, Lee – Present, Reiser – Present, Bennett – Present – Perkins – Present – Bobo – Present. Motion passed unanimously.**

Consideration to take any actions, if needed, reference the Executive Session


Reiser made a motion to contract with Oliver Maner, LLP to pursue potential claims related to the Wastewater Treatment Plant and Spray Field and to authorize the Mayor to sign the contract with Oliver Maner, LLP. Johnson seconded the motion. **Roll Call Vote: Johnson – Yay, Reiser – Yay, Lee – Yay, Pelote – Yay, Deen – Yay. Motion passed unanimously.**

Consideration to Adjourn the Special Called Meeting

Johnson made a motion at approximately 8:35 p.m. to adjourn this meeting. Reiser seconded the motion. **Motion passed unanimously.**



Russ Deen, Mayor



Tina Chadwick, City Clerk

