

# City of Guyton, Georgia

*Working Together to Make a Difference*



CITY COUNCIL MEETING - December 10, 2019

## MINUTES

*ITEM OF BUSINESS*

*ACTION REQUESTED OF COUNCIL*

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| <p><b>1. Call to Order</b></p> <p>Councilman Collins was not in attendance of the meeting</p> <p><b>2. Moment of Repose for Those Who Practice Some Other Faith</b></p> <p><b>3. Invocation</b></p> <p>An Invocation was led by Chairman Harden.</p> <p><b>4. Pledge of Allegiance</b></p> <p>The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilman Lee.</p> <p><b>5. Approval of Agenda</b></p> <p>The agenda was amended by Mayor Lariscy to add item F in new business, Acceptance of the Mossy Hollow Subdivision. A motion to approve the amended agenda was made by Councilman Goldwire and seconded by Councilman Johnson. The motion carried.</p> <p><b>6. Approval of Minutes</b></p> | <p>Mayor Lariscy, 7:00pm</p> <p>Consideration to approve the Agenda</p> <p>Consideration and approval of the meeting minutes from the November 12, 2019 Council Meeting.</p> |
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Mayor Lariscy stated that under new business, item 11N, Mr. Collins found that due to the fact that the Ebenezer Creek is a historic body of water needed to be added to the minutes. Councilman Johnson asked if 5 was supposed to be approved by planning and zoning and if planning and zoning was supposed to approve the habitat and hidden creek properties. Mr. Hofman stated that the engineer provided criteria that the properties needed to meet. A motion to approve the minutes with the addition presented by Mayor Lariscy on behalf of Councilman Collins was made by Councilman Johnson. A second was made by Councilman Goldwire, but stated he was not present for the meeting. The motion carried. Councilman Goldwire abstained.

**7. Historic Preservation**

Ms. Pearl stated there was no report to be given. But she thanked everyone for the luminary service this evening.

**8. Other Committee Reports**

## **ALL PUBLIC COMMENTS WILL BE LIMITED TO AGENDA ITEMS ONLY**

### **9. Old Business**

#### **A. Mayor Lariscy**

Employee of the Month

Mayor Lariscy put forth Ms. Crisa Fort for the employee of the month. He stated she always smiles as you walk in the door. In addition, she did a great job coordinating and setting up the sale on the trail, as she was out there setting up early Saturday morning. Councilman Johnson made a motion. The motion was seconded by Councilman Lee. The motion carried.

#### **B. Councilman Johnson**

Consideration to purchase the state contract priced JCB Hydradig

Councilman Johnson stated that a demo in the City of Guyton of the JCB Hydradig was conducted, and video recordings were presented. Mr. Hofman stated that within a couple hours of its use, it was able clear hundreds of yards of ditches. He stated that it is a catch all multi tool essentially. Interim Superintendent Ford stated that he was able to immediately learn how to use the machine and clear a lot of ditches. He stated that it would be a great asset for the city. Councilman Johnson stated that Anderson Street was cleared. Mr. Hofman stated that a culvert at Anderson Street was under 4 feet of overgrown ditch and was cleared. He stated that the city had the machine for 4 days and it was a huge success. Councilman Goldwire asked if attachments could be added. Mr. Ford answered that a jack hammer, a bush hog, a digging bucket...etc. could be added. An individual shouted from the rear of the room if a mini excavator was demoed as well. Mr. Hofman answered that the city already owns a mini excavator. The individual shouted from the rear of the room asking why doesn't the city spend \$70,000 on a mini excavator and \$14,000 on a trailer rather than spend \$190,000 on the Hydradig. Councilman Johnson explained that no one makes the same equipment, and that a mini excavator has to be loaded on a trailer, then removed to complete a job, then put back on the trailer when the job is complete, and removed from the trailer at the garage. Whereas, the Hydradig can be driven to and from the job. The individual shouted from the rear of the room what is the square miles of Guyton. Councilman Johnson stated that he has circled Guyton in 6 miles. Mr. Ford stated that he took the Hydradig on highway 17 and could be at a job site in 2 minutes. Whereas a mini you need multiple people to hookup the trailer, load the machine and install attachments. An individual asked if someone could attach equipment by themselves with the Hydradig. Councilman Johnson and Mr. Ford answered in the affirmative. The individual asked if we demoed a mini excavator with the self attachment. Councilman Johnson stated the city owns a mini excavator. The individual and Mayor Lariscy stated that the inquiry into demoing a mini excavator was if the city demoed a new mini excavator. Mr. Hofman stated that a mini excavator is made for a construction site, whereas the Hydradig is meant for the road. A different individual shouted that it is meant for a road in Macon. Mr. Hofman stated that the Hydradig was invented in 2013 and that it is new technology. Multiple individuals shouted that 2013 is not new. Mr. Hofman responded that the mini excavator has been around since well before 2013. Mayor Lariscy stated that Mr. Hofman provided a list of municipalities that own the Hydradig. He asked Mr. Hofman if he knew the populations or budgets of these municipalities. Mr. Hofman stated he did not. Mayor Lariscy stated he was skeptical of spending \$189,000. Councilman Goldwire asked if the funds were available. Mr. Hofman stated that the city has over half a million dollars in SPLOST funds for streets and lanes alone, so the funds are definitely available. An individual said she thought there would be an

invitation to bid and she didn't see anything on the website. Mayor Lariscy responded that there is only one manufacturer for this unit. Mr. Hofman stated that is was the only machine like it. An individual repeated what Mr. Hofman stated in the form of a question. Mr. Hofman stated that yes, this is the only machine of its kind that has the engine underneath the cabin and that could allow traffic to flow on Cedar Lane the way it did. No other wheeled excavator could do it. Councilman Goldwire stated that he witnessed that machine do more in a couple days, than what has been in the last 4 or 5 years regarding ditch maintenance. An individual asked if it clears all the ditches, what will you do with the machine then. Councilman Goldwire stated that it has many attachments to complete a variety of jobs. The individual then stated that he is not arguing that, he is just arguing that you could spend half the funds on a mini excavator. Councilman Johnson stated that we should do something. Mayor Lariscy stated he agreed but would personally like to a see a mini excavator demoed. He stated that there are other competing interests for those SPLOST funds, including matching grant funds. He reiterated that he would to see a mini demoed. Councilman Goldwire asked if it would come with the same attachments. The Mayor stated that a mini excavator could. He stated that he believed the Hydradig a wonderful piece of equipment, however, sooner or later you will run out of ditches to maintain and trees to cut back, and the machine needs to be ran constantly to be worth its cost. Mayor Lariscy stated that he would like to see a collaborative purchase with another municipality. Attorney Smith stated that we would need to bid it out. Mr. Hofman stated it is state contract priced. Attorney Smith stated since it is state contract priced, it does not need to be bid out. Councilman Johnson made a motion to purchase the Hydradig and start cleaning out ditches. Mayor Lariscy stated that there might be a lease option that we can exit at some point. Mr. Hofman stated that SPLOST funds could not be used on a lease. Mr. Hofman then clarified that there was three options and one option had to be chosen. Mayor Lariscy explained that there is a \$166,000 option that includes just the bucket, a \$173,000 option that includes the bucket and bush hog, and finally, a \$189,000 option that includes the bucket, bush hog, and grapple. Councilman Johnson made a motion to purchase option 3, the \$189,766 option that includes the bucket, bush hog, and grapple. Mayor Lariscy clarified the motion. The motion was seconded by Councilman Goldwire. An Individual shouted what is this money taken away from if we buy this machine, what could the money be used for, Mr. Hofman, since you have all the answers. Mr. Hofman responded that he did not understand the question. Multiple individuals shouted that roads should get paved with that money. Councilman Lee responded that the city literally just paved multiple roads. Mayor Lariscy stated that the conversation was off topic. Mayor Lariscy asked for a vote. The motion carried with Councilman Lee, Councilman Johnson, and Councilman Goldwire voting in favor with Mayor Lariscy stating that he opposed this purchase for the record.

### **C. Council Lee**

Consideration to approve Michael Garvin water and sewer taps again

Councilman Lee stated that we approved Michael Garvin water and sewer taps and somewhere down the line the ball was dropped and nothing has happened. Mayor Lariscy stated that an application has to be made. Michael Garvin stated that city employees took an existing meter from the property. Mayor Lariscy stated again that an application for service must be made. Michael Garvin stated that he came to city hall and applied, and after, a city employee came to the property and took the meter. Mayor Lariscy stated again that new service application needed to be completed. Michael Garvin then stated that an application does not need to be completed until the tenant moves into the property. He stated the tenant will apply. He further stated that right now he needs the meter returned. The Mayor deferred to Attorney Smith. Attorney Smith stated that he needs an application and stated that council already approved it. Attorney Smith stated that a new motion could be made to declare the connection as active. Mayor Lariscy entertained that motion. Councilman Lee made a

motion to declare the connection as active and only require an application for service. Mayor Lariscy stated that there was a wooded lot and there was never a connection. Councilman Lee disagreed. Attorney Smith stated that council was at a factual impasse and without definitive knowledge of exactly what was there, the duty lies on council to decide how to go forward. Councilman Johnson seconded the motion made by Councilman Lee. The motion carried with the Mayor stating his opposition for the record.

**D. Councilman Johnson** Consideration and approval of compensation for Mr. Hofman as provided in the municipal ordinances and policies

Councilman Johnson stated that we reinstated Mr. Hofman after his appeal and this is for his lost wages and attorney fees. Mayor Lariscy stated that he provided Council with Attorney Smith's opinion. Attorney Smith stated that whether Mr. Hofman would be on administrative leave or not, he would have been entitled to his salary. However, Attorney Smith stated that he does not believe the law allows for the city to reimburse Mr. Hofman for his attorney fees. Mayor Lariscy clarified Attorney Smith's findings. Attorney Smith stated that he talked to Doug Dore and he conquers with him. Councilman Johnson asked how much was the lost wages. Mr. Hofman stated it was \$12,835. Councilman Johnson made a motion to pay the back wages to Mr. Hofman for \$12,835. Councilman Johnson then made a motion to table the matter for executive session. Councilman Lee seconded the motion to table the matter for executive session. The motion carried.

**E. City Manager Hofman** Discussion regarding Mr. Holmes property within the incorporated boundaries

Mr. Hofman stated that Mr. Holmes is not in attendance but the city went through years' worth of minutes and could not find any information. Attorney Smith and Mayor Lariscy stated they looked at records from DCA and they could not find any information. Mr. Hofman asked if he could go through the same process that the city goes through for annexing property, but just un-annex this property. Attorney Smith stated that there should be charter changes and something should be in the DCA documents. Attorney Smith stated that Mr. Hofman could pursue un-annexing. Mayor Lariscy directed Mr. Hofman to pursue un-annexing.

**F. Mayor Lariscy** Accepting the Mossy Hollow Subdivision

Mayor Lariscy stated that the council was going to accept the subdivision given that the bond agreement be received by the city. He stated that he discussed the bond agreement with Attorney Smith and conducted a phone pole quorum with all council members with the exception of Councilman Goldwire, who all agreed to accept the Mossy Hollow subdivision once a bond was received. Attorney Smith advised council to now get the vote on the record in this meeting. Councilman Johnson made a motion to confirm the phone pole of accepting the Mossy Hollow subdivision roads, right-of-ways, water, and sewer into the city. The motion was seconded by Councilman Lee. The motion carried.

**10. New Business**

**A. Councilman Johnson** Discussion regarding providing tablets to Council for meetings

Councilman Johnson stated that tablets are new technologies to local governments as a way to go

green, and therefore, not get posted for looking at your emails or agendas. They can then be on your tablets. The Mayor stated that he would bring a proposal to the next meeting since that is his vocation. Scott Thompson stated that you should try the iPads, as they are the latest and greatest technology. Mayor Lariscy stated he does not know if a tablet could dig a ditch though. Councilman Lee asked if now we're back on to ditches. Councilman Johnson explained a situation of when he took pictures of a city repair and had to print out the pictures for the meeting. He stated that with tablets, he could forward the pictures to the board.

**B. Mayor Lariscy**

Discussion and consideration to allow Mayor to negotiate agreement with Laurel Street Consulting (Mr. Brett Bennett) to provide city management functions and oversee the hiring of new city manager and city clerk in accordance with the city charter and city policy.

Mayor Lariscy stated that he talked with Mr. Bennett and Mr. Deen today and said he wanted to form a committee to talk with Mr. Bennett. Mr. Bennett stated that he knows almost everyone. Mr. Bennett described his experience as finance director of Rincon, city manager of Springfield, and now consultant. He stated that he is on a list of Interim Managers through the GMA. He stated that the Mayor called him on Friday and that he would consider the role is everyone was on board. If there was any opposition, he stated, he would not pursue the role. He stated that rates, roles, and scope of services have to still be discussed. Mayor Lariscy stated that he would like to start those discussions. He stated that Mr. Hofman will be leaving to seek a new position and we are without a City Clerk. He stated to be without one we would be able to do, but to be without both would be impossible. Mayor Lariscy asked for either Councilman Lee or Johnson to be on the committee. Councilman Lee said that he reached out to professionals from the GMA list and that there are other individuals willing to do the job. An individual shouted from the audience where are they. Councilman Lee responded that it doesn't matter where they are, they are willing to come and do the job. He continued that this would give us more options than just one person. Mayor Lariscy stated that Mr. Bennett is local and knows the community and has been following Guyton. Councilman Lee stated that he is not saying that he cannot not reach out to him. Mayor Lariscy stated that he is not putting anyone forward or making a recommendation. He stated that he is out. Councilman Goldwire stated that he knows Mr. Bennett and knows that he would be a good choice. Councilman Lee stated that he received good references from Mr. Bennett but he stated there are other possible candidates. Andy Harville asked about time constraints. Mayor Lariscy stated that a decision would have to be made soon. Councilman Johnson asked if it could be discussed in executive session and Mayor Lariscy answered that it was not an adverse personnel matter so it could not be discussed in executive session. Councilman Lee agreed to be part of the committee. A discussion followed with Councilman Johnson, Councilman Lee, the Mayor, and Russ Deen and a schedule was agreed for a meeting on Monday.

**C. City Manager Hofman** Request regarding unused vacation time

Mayor Lariscy stated that it would only be fair to pay out Mr. Hofman since the same was done for Ms. Alison Bruton when she resigned. Councilman Lee made a motion to grant Mr. Hofman approval to cash out his vacation in accordance with the personnel policy. The motion was seconded by Councilman Lee. The motion carried.

**D. Interim Superintendent Ford** Request for purchase of new water tap

Mr. Ford and Mr. Hofman clarified that this was a machine to create new sewer taps. Councilman Johnson made a motion to approve the purchase of a new water tap machine. The motion was seconded by Councilman Lee. The motion carried.

**11. Reports from Committees**

Legal

City Attorney Smith

Discussion for executive session

Finance & Taxes

Councilman Goldwire

Councilman Goldwire stated the report could be provided in city hall upon request

Streets & Lanes

Councilman Johnson

Councilman Johnson stated that you can see that progress is being made cleaning out ditches.

Water & Sewage

Councilman Collins

Recreation & City Property

Councilman Lee

Councilman Lee stated that all was well for the recreation committee

Police Department

Interim Chief Coppola

Public Works & Water Dept.

Interim Superintendent Ford

Mr. Ford gave his report to council and stated that the major events that have taken place in his departments where demoing the Hydradig and lighting the caboose. A citizen commented on not having Christmas lights in areas. Mr. Ford stated that he would look into the outlets on the poles to hang Christmas lights throughout the city.

Fire Department

Chief Hodges

Chief Hodges presented his report and Mayor Lariscy thanked Mr. Hodges for his help for the luminary services. Councilman Goldwire asked if the ISO rating has dropped. Chief Hodges stated that it has. Chief Hodges and Mayor Lariscy stated that it would be a good idea to call your home owners insurance company and your premium may drop.

### ***12. Dates to Remember***

Tuesday, December 24 - City Hall Closed, Christmas Eve

Wednesday, December 25 - City Hall Closed, Christmas Day

Wednesday, January 1 - City Hall Closed, New Year's Day

Tuesday, January 14 - Regular Council Meeting

Monday, January 20 - City Hall Closed, Martin Luther King's Birthday

Scott Thompson requested ticker tape parade when the Hydradig arrives because his kids will love to see it. Andy Harville asked for the police report readout. Mayor Lariscy read the statistics aloud. Andy Harville stated he was concerned with all the church break ins lately. A citizen asked if the break ins would fall under incident reports since she had to call the county. Mayor Lariscy stated there is a line in the report for county.

### ***13. Adjournment from Regular Session into Executive Session***

### ***14. Executive Session (as needed)***

A motion to break for executive session was made by Councilman Johnson. Seconded by Councilman Goldwire. The motion carried.

**15. Adjournment of Executive Session back into Regular Session**

A motion was made by made by Councilman Goldwire to return from executive session. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Johnson. The motion carried.

**16. Mayor Lariscy**

Consideration and approval of compensation for Mr. Hofman as provided in the municipal ordinances and policies

Mayor Lariscy stated that the council would consider Mr. Hofman's compensation after discussion in executive session. He stated that the amount was specified for \$12,835. Councilman Johnson made a motion to approve the backpay compensation to Mr. Hofman for \$12,835. The motion was seconded by Councilman Lee. The Motion carried.

**17. Adjournment**

Councilman Lee made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Johnson. The motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

  
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Russell Deen, Mayor

  
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Linda Rineair, Interim City Clerk

