

City of Guyton, Georgia

Working Together to Make a Difference



SPECIAL CALLED CITY COUNCIL MEETING - February 28, 2019

MINUTES

ITEM OF BUSINESS

ACTION REQUESTED OF COUNCIL

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1. **Call to Order** Mayor Lariscy, 6:00pm
 2. **Moment of Repose for Those Who Practice Some Other Faith**
 3. **Invocation**

The Invocation was led by Councilman Collins.

4. **Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilman Lee.

5. **Approval of Agenda** Consideration to approve the Agenda

Councilman Collins made a motion to amend to agenda and add item H. Discussion and approval of bid by Wright's Tree Service to remove dead tree across from FD. Councilman Johnson made a motion to approve the agenda with the amendment, seconded by Councilman Goldwire. Motion carried.

ALL PUBLIC COMMENTS WILL BE LIMITED TO AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

A. Consideration and appointment of Sgt Joseph Coppola as Interim Police Chief

Mayor Lariscy stated that since DPS McDonald resigned, SGT Coppola has been keeping the department moving forward. Councilman Collins made a motion to approve the appointment of SGT Coppola to Interim Police Chief, seconded by Councilman Lee. Motion carried.

B. Consideration and appointment of Nick Smalley as Interim Fire Chief

Mayor Lariscy stated that Mr. Smalley was not able to attend the meeting, but recommends appointing him as Interim Fire Chief. Councilman Lee stated Mr. Smalley told Council once before that he didn't have the time to dedicate to the Interim Chief

position. Mayor Lariscy stated that was correct, but he has agreed to the position now and will be supported by Scott Stringer as Assistant Chief. Councilman Collins asked how long the department has been without a Chief, and Mayor Lariscy responded that after Robert Ancell was termination, that responsibility fell to DPS McDonald. There was a brief discussion regarding the availability of Mr. Stringer during the day to assist the department and run calls. Councilman Johnson made a motion to appoint Scott Stringer as the Interim Fire Chief. Scott Stringer informed Council he could not accept until speaking to Council and Mr. Smalley. Councilman Collins seconded Councilman Johnson's motion to appoint Scott Stringer pending his acceptance of the position. Motion carried.

C. Discussion of Fire Department budget needs and ISO review

Mayor Lariscy advised Council that due to recent events, the budget has been negatively affected, and an ISO inspection has been triggered by those events for the City and the County. He continued that during the last inspection, a consultant was hired to assist and it cost the department \$7,000.00. Mayor Lariscy advised he has reached out to this consultant. It was stated that this expense was not budgeted. No motion or vote was made on this discussion.

D. Consideration of collecting fire service fees via water bills beginning March 2019

Mayor Lariscy stated that instead of collecting the fire fees on the property tax bills, he proposes collecting them via water bills. Council could then adjust the rates as needed. Councilman Johnson asked if a motion was needed now, and Mayor Lariscy responded that he needed to know what direction Council would like to move in. Councilman Johnson stated that if Council decided to go in this direction, a notice needs to be sent out with the water bills in March, then the fee can be added in April. Councilman Collins made a motion to table this until the March Council meeting, seconded by Councilman Johnson. Motion carried.

E. Discussion of draft agreement between the City of Guyton and Effingham County pertaining to HB 489, fire service, mutual and automatic aid provisions

Mayor Lariscy stated that after conversations with the City Attorney, this discussion will be held in executive session.

F. Discussion regarding letter from Effingham County Board of Commissioners regarding the FD and SDS

Mayor Lariscy stated that after conversations with the City Attorney, this discussion will also be held in executive session.

G. Discussion regarding removal of the Fire Department from oversight of a Public Safety Director back to an independent department

Mayor Lariscy stated that after conversations with Mr. Stringer and Mr. Smalley, this request was brought forward by Fire Personnel. They stated the department was

running smoothly at one point, and things became contentious when the FD was placed under the direction of the Police Chief. Mayor Lariscy added that he recommends separating the departments. Former Mayor Garvin was in attendance, so Councilman Lee asked if he could tell Council why the departments were combined. He stated it was due to accountability, and ISO ratings. The PD officers were required to be fire certified as well. Councilman Collins stated that in light of that information, the separation should be discussed with the ISO consultant to determine if it affects the rating. He made a motion to table the discussion. Councilman Goldwire seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

H. Discussion and approval of bid by Wright's Tree Service to remove dead tree across from FD

Councilman Collins advised Council there is a dead pine tree across from the FD that is dangerous. A bid from Wright's Tree Service has been obtained; \$700.00 to remove the tree, \$800.00 to remove the tree and grind the stump. He added that other companies have been contacted, but did not produce bids. Mayor Lariscy recommended moving forward with the bid to remove the tree and grind the stump. Councilman Goldwire recused himself from the vote. Councilman Lee made a motion to accept the bid, seconded by Councilman Johnson. With Councilman Goldwire recused, the motion carried.

6. Adjournment from Regular Session into Executive Session

Councilman Collins made a motion to adjourn to executive session, seconded by Councilman Lee. Motion carried.

7. Executive Session (as needed)

Executive session was held to discuss litigation and personnel.

8. Adjournment of Executive Session back into Regular Session

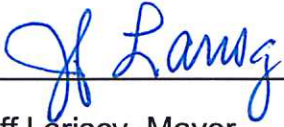
A motion to open regular session was made by Councilman Johnson, seconded by Councilman Lee. Motion carried.

Mayor Lariscy recommended the City contract with Brown Pelican Consulting regarding the Service Delivery Strategy. A motion to approve was made by Councilman Johnson, seconded by Councilman Goldwire, and the motion carried.

Mayor Lariscy stated a conversation was had with Scott Stringer. Pending a conversation with Nick Smalley, Scott Stringer will accept the position of Interim Fire Chief for a period of 90 days.

9. Adjournment

Councilman Collins made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman Goldwire. Motion carried.



Jeff Lariscy, Mayor



Alison Bruton, City Clerk

