



CITY COUNCIL MEETING - May 14, 2019

MINUTES

ITEM OF BUSINESS

ACTION REQUESTED OF COUNCIL

1. Call to Order

Mayor Lariscy, 7:00pm

City Attorney Smith and City Clerk Bruton were not in attendance. These minutes were created from the recording of the City Council Meeting.

2. Moment of Repose for Those Who Practice Some Other Faith

3. Invocation

4. Pledge of Allegiance

5. Approval of Agenda

Consideration to approve the Agenda

After some discussion, Councilman Goldwire made a motion to approve amendments to the agenda adding items as follows:

12 C. Discussion regarding water/sewer tap for property owned by Mr. Michael Garvin on Samuel Smalls Sr. Ave.

12 D. Update regarding the SDS

12 E. Discussion and consideration of quotes for water tower repairs and police vehicle repairs

Councilman Johnson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

6. Approval of Minutes

Consideration and approval of April 9, 2019 Minutes

Councilman Johnson made a motion to approve the April 9, 2019 Minutes, seconded by Councilman Lee. During the vote, Councilman Goldwire abstained stating clearly for the record it was because he was not in attendance of the April 9, 2019 Meeting.

Councilman Collins opposed due to not having time to review the minutes. Councilman Johnson, Councilman Lee, and Mayor Lariscy voted in favor of the motion.

7. Planning & Zoning

No report.

8. Leisure Services

Mayor Lariscy informed Council that Ms. Diann Hicklen has resigned her positions as the Chairperson for Leisure Services, and congratulated her on the birth of her grandchild. Mayor Lariscy then stated he had reached out to Council and based on the inactivity of the Leisure Services Committee, he planned to disband the Committee and move forward with event-based Committees. Councilman Goldwire stated he wanted to make sure this decision wasn't based on Ms. Hicklen's lack of involvement, and Mayor Lariscy stated that was not the case and commended her on her work with the Committee. Councilman Collins expressed his appreciation for her work as well.

9. Historic Preservation

Ms. Pearl stated the Committee didn't have a meeting, but wanted to remind Council of their upcoming Ice Cream Social event on June 13, 2019. She added there are 7 individuals making ice cream at this point. She then provided a list of items needed to Council to give to City Clerk Bruton.

Ms. Hicklen then asked Council about the Leisure Services budget, and what would happen to the funds. Mayor Lariscy stated the funds would still be utilized for the events they were budgeted for. Ms. Lula Seabrooks then spoke saying she is a member of the Committee and she is in the dark about what is happening with the Committee. She asked if other members have resigned, and why Council would disband the Committee with the resignation of only one member. Mayor Lariscy stated he wasn't entirely due to the resignation of Ms. Hicklen, but the inactivity of the Committee as a whole; the Easter Egg Hunt being cancelled, and scheduled meetings not having a quorum were among the list of reasons. Ms. Seabrooks stated there should be a conversation with the Committee before disbanding. Mayor Lariscy stated he appreciated her comments, she is welcome to participate in the Committee for planning the Community Picnic, and he will plan to meet with the Leisure Services remaining members at the next scheduled meeting in June.

10. Other Committee Reports- Mr. Rutland from Habitat for Humanity- Discussion regarding building permit fees

Mr. Rutland approached Council and stated that in the past, the City had charged \$100.00 to Habitat for Humanity for their building permits, plus the additional tap fees required. He added there is a similar arrangement with Effingham County and the City of Rincon. Habitat for Humanity is in the process of purchasing property on 4th Street Extension on which they will construct sustainable housing for low-moderate income families. After a brief discussion, Mayor Lariscy stated the request was for \$300.00 versus the regular priced permit of \$895.00. Mr. Rutland then said the property they are purchasing is set to close on the Friday afternoon following this Council meeting, and they are putting together a plat to divide the area into 4 lots. There was some discussion

regarding the number of homes on the lots in the past. Councilman Collins asked if City Attorney Smith would be in attendance for tonight's meeting, and Mayor Lariscy responded that he would not. Mayor Lariscy stated that because the subdivision of the lot would most likely need to go before the Planning and Zoning Committee, he suggested tabling the this decision until Council has time to discuss with City Attorney Smith and the subdivision information submitted. Councilman Collins made a motion to that effect. Mr. Rutland stated he was hoping to begin building as soon as possible. After some discussion, Council stated that because of the possibility of the need for the Planning and Zoning Committee to review, the process could take 60 days. They clarified that he should not start construction until everything has been approved. Councilman Johnson seconded the motion made by Councilman Collins, and the motion carried.

ALL PUBLIC COMMENTS WILL BE LIMITED TO AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

11. Old Business

A. Mayor Lariscy Discussion and consideration of increase to water and/or sewer rates

Mayor Lariscy stated that increased rates proposed by City Manager Hofman were discussed at the budget workshop that occurred prior to the meeting. Mayor Lariscy then clarified this is not something that the City Council wants to do, but something that is needed for the City to meet their needs. Councilman Goldwire made a comment expressing concern. He added he knows that action needs to be taken, but would like more time to review the rates. Councilman Goldwire then made a motion to table this discussion until the next Council meeting. Councilman Johnson seconded the motion stating he believed the base rate to be 3,000 gallons, not 2,000 gallons. Motion carried.

B. Mayor Lariscy Discussion and approval of replacement truck for public works- opening of sealed bids

Bids received as follows:

Metter Ford	F250 3/4 Ton	\$26,433.80	
JC Lewis	F250 3/4 Ton	\$27,429.00	
Metter Ford	F250 3/4 Ton	\$32,333.80	Service Body
Rincon Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	\$32,678.50	4WD
JC Lewis	F150 1/2 Ton	\$38,165.00	
Rincon Chevrolet	Silverado 2500	\$38,384.00	
JC Lewis	F250 3/4 Ton	\$39,111.22	
Rick Hendricks	Silverado 2500	\$39,563.00	Service Body
Rincon Chevrolet	Silverado 1500	\$39,599.00	4WD
Rick Hendricks	Silverado 3500	\$40,853.00	Service Body

Rincon Chevrolet	Silverado 2500	\$41,284.00	4WD
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There was a lengthy discussion regarding the difference in the bids and which vehicle would benefit the City. Councilman Collins stated that City Manager Hofman and a Public Works representative could go view the vehicles first to make a decision if needed. Councilman Lee stated he did not agree and that Council should make the decision. Councilman Collins stated that if Council is comfortable with the vehicle listings, then he is okay with making a decision, but if there were questions or doubts, then the City Manager could review. Mayor Lariscy added that in the budget workshop, Councilman Lee had stated the City should listen to the department heads as to the needs of the departments, and added that he felt the City should listen to the Public Works Superintendent and employees to hear their input. After further discussion, Councilman Johnson made a motion to approve the purchase of the \$32,333.80 vehicle from Metter Ford, seconded by Councilman Lee. Motion carried.

C. Mayor Lariscy

Discussion of date for budget workshop and fire services workshop, update regarding the workshop that occurred at 5:00pm

Mayor Lariscy stated that a second budget workshop did need to be scheduled. After some discussion, Council agreed to hold a second workshop on June 6th at 10am. Mayor Lariscy then introduced Mr. Daniel Hofman as the new City Manager to those in attendance.

D. Mayor Lariscy

Discussion and consideration of fire department volunteer incentive program-tabled from last meeting

Mayor Lariscy requested that Council table this discussion until he can discuss the program with City Attorney Smith. Councilman Johnson made a motion to table, seconded by Councilman Lee. Motion carried.

E. Councilman Johnson

Discussion regarding digging out ditches

Councilman Johnson stated that because the City did not get CDBG funds this year, Council needed to move forward with getting the ditches dug out around 4th Street, Martha Drive, and Cedar Lane. Councilman Johnson then stated he recalled the quote submitted by Mr. Frank Warner being approved. Mayor Lariscy and Councilman Collins stated they did not remember them being approved and stated the minutes would have to be reviewed. Councilman Johnson and Councilman Lee then asked about the repairs made in Del-a-rae and the funds used for that repair. Councilman Collins stated the repairs were approximately \$16,000. Councilman Lee brought up the runoff that is occurring there. Councilman Collins and City Manager Hofman advised that it was a simple repair that has been reviewed by the engineer and it is stable. Mayor Lariscy asked if the City engineer had reviewed the ditches, and Councilman Johnson stated he had driven around with the engineer for two hours. Councilman Collins asked if there were funds budgeted for this work, and Councilman Johnson stated the money wasn't

budgeted for the Del-a-rae repairs, but that work was completed. There was a lengthy discussion regarding drainage areas in the City that would have been remedied with the CDBG funds, had the City had 100% participation for the grant. There was additional conversation in which Councilman Johnson stated he would contact Effingham County to inquire about the use of equipment.

12. New Business

A. Mayor Lariscy Discussion regarding surplus equipment

City Manager Hofman advised Council that they had photos of the equipment that he is requesting to surplus in their agenda packets. Councilman Lee asked what was wrong with the boom truck that was shown. He was advised that the vehicle is not in working condition. The boom truck was listed along with an F-650 that is not operational, some miscellaneous small equipment, and some fitness equipment. City Manager Hofman stated he would like to post the items on Govdeals.com and has had success with that website in the past. Councilman Goldwire made a motion to proceed, seconded by Councilman Johnson. Motion carried. Councilman Johnson then led a short discussion regarding setting a price or leaving the items for open bid.

B. Councilman Lee Discussion regarding the water/sewer rates for residences that have home businesses, charging the commercial rate instead of residential rate

Councilman Lee stated that homes with a business license should be charged the commercial water rate as opposed to the residential rate. Councilman Collins agreed. Councilman Lee then brought up the business that is located across from the Guyton Police Department, and Councilman Collins stated that violated the City Ordinances and should not be there. Mayor Lariscy stated that at one time he had a business license with his home as the business address, but he did not necessarily do business out of his home. His business was conducted wherever he needed to do the work. His home was only where he kept his books and materials. There was a discussion that followed. City Manager Hofman stated that the City needed an entirely new zoning ordinance. After further discussion, Mayor Lariscy stated this would have to be reviewed further.

C. Councilman Lee Discussion regarding water/sewer tap for property owned by Mr. Michael Garvin on Samuel Smalls Sr. Ave.

Mr. Michael Garvin approached Council and stated he wanted the meter placed back on his property that was removed by the City. He added he had spoken with the previous City Manager, who was also the building inspector, and all that was requested was to move the property lines to accommodate the mobile home, which he has done. Now he has received two letters from the City. Mayor Lariscy stated that the letters came from him after conversing with the City Attorney. One letter addressed the ordinance violations, stating Mr. Garvin could move forward with a variance for the lot, and the

second letter addressed the sewer connection that was done without City Hall approval. Mayor Lariscy then added that both of these issues still need to be remedied. Mr. Garvin stated that Council has already approved the lots. Mayor Lariscy stated that the City Engineer stated that it wasn't possible for the lots to meet the ordinance requirements. Councilman Lee asked how Mr. Garvin was issued a permit, and Mayor Lariscy stated that former Building Inspector/City Manager Grubbs would have to answer that. He added that the mobile home could have been put on the property perpendicular, but that wasn't the case. Mr. Garvin stated that all of the property belonged to him, so it shouldn't matter and he believed the City Council forced former City Manager Grubbs to have an issue with the mobile home. Councilman Collins stated the City can't move forward without changing the Ordinances for everyone. Mr. Garvin stated that Council issues permits to construction in Hidden Creek and didn't require them to demo their building. Councilman Collins stated that they had to stop construction and obtain a variance through Planning and Zoning, as the ordinance states. Councilman Johnson stated that last time Mr. Garvin was told he had to change the plat, and he has done that so Council should give him the permits as needed for water and sewer connections. At this point in the recording an argument occurred; there were several raised voices and nothing said was audible. Mayor Lariscy hit his gavel to maintain order. Councilman Johnson stated there was an old house there and the meter needed to be put back into the ground. Councilman Collins stated that the water/sewer tap would have to be applied for and approved, then the fees would have to be paid. He added that the structure that was there was on lot 12 and not lot 13 and the City is bound by its Ordinances and the bond which says that taps will not be given away. Councilman Goldwire stated that the City needed to own up to its misinformation or misguidance and remove the hardship placed on Mr. Garvin. Mayor Lariscy stated he has spoken to both City Attorney Smith and City Engineer Wesley Parker and they both support the letters submitted and decision made. Councilman Lee asked who took the meter up and who approved it. Councilman Collins stated that the direction would have come from the Public Works Superintendent. Councilman Lee then asked if they plan on taking all of the old meters out of the ground around the City. At this time, another argument ensued and what was said was not audible on the recording. Mayor Lariscy again utilized his gavel to bring order to the room. Councilman Collins stated that this has been reviewed with the City Attorney and this is the correct procedure. Councilman Goldwire asked how this is any different than the last time. Councilman Collins asked him which incident he is referring to, and Councilman Goldwire mentioned the Hidden Creek variance. Councilman Johnson mentioned that Habitat for Humanity was asked about subdividing lots and asked if Council would do the same to them. Councilman Collins stated that he would enforce the City Ordinances. Councilman Johnson stated that there was no reason to take the meter out of the ground. Councilman Johnson made a motion to grant water and sewer taps to Mr. Garvin for the property on Samuel Smalls Sr. Ave.. Councilman Collins stated that Council couldn't do that. Councilman Johnson said that Councilman Collins wouldn't have the vote, and that he had officially made the motion. Councilman Goldwire seconded the motion. Mayor Lariscy advised at this point that he would like to review the legalities of this decision, but couldn't stop the vote. Councilman Goldwire, Councilman Johnson, and Councilman Lee voted in favor of

the motion. Councilman Collins asked for clarification on what they were voting for. Mayor Lariscy began to respond and Councilman Collins asked if they were voting to give the former Mayor preferential treatment. At this time, yet another argument ensued in which Mayor Lariscy had to utilize his gavel to maintain order. Councilman Johnson stated he is doing what is right for the citizens, and Councilman Goldwire compared the situation to Hidden Creek again. Councilman Collins asked him how they compare, and Councilman Goldwire stated they compare to him. Mayor Lariscy stated that to answer Councilman Collins' question previously, what they had voted for was two grant a variance involving two lots without paying for the variance and going through the planning and zoning hearing approval and granting a water and sewer tap to a lot that had not had a tap previously without payment. Councilman Johnson stated there was a tap there, and that Mr. Garvin owns all the properties so he could run a line all the way up if he wanted to. Councilman Collins stated that he owned all of the properties in Del-a-rae but he couldn't only pay for one tap. He then added that the City Ordinances state that the Water and Sewer Chair had to approve all water and sewer connections in the City. Councilman Johnson stated that it just got approved. Councilman Collins stated he will approve the tap when \$6,300.00 is paid the same as anyone else that wants to connect. Councilman Johnson stated that Councilman Collins just got out-voted. Councilman Collins stated he wanted it on the record that as the Water and Sewer Chair he does not approve the water and sewer tap for Mr. Michael Garvin.

D. Mayor Lariscy

Update regarding the SDS

Mayor Lariscy and City Manager Hofman updated Council on the previous meeting with Effingham County, City of Springfield, and City of Rincon regarding the SDS. Our consultant, Mr. Michael Brown, has several issues with the "old" SDS that was never filed with DCA. After some discussion, Mayor Lariscy advised that Council is invited to the next two SDS meetings.

E. City Manager Hofman

Discussion and consideration of quotes for water tower repairs and police vehicle repairs

City Manager Hofman advised he had a list of repairs from the City Engineer that need to be completed on the 150,000 gallon water tank on Magnolia Street. After some discussion, Mayor Lariscy suggested creating an RFP for the work listed, and Council approving an amount of \$29,000 or less based on the Engineer's report. Councilman Johnson made a motion to that effect, seconded by Councilman Lee. Motion carried. Interim Chief Coppola then approached Council stated he had an estimated cost of \$1,800.00 to repair the PD Expedition (brakes/pads/rotors), and another \$1,500.00 approximately to repair the PD Tahoe that was now overheating. After some discussion, Councilman Goldwire made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilman Johnson. Motion carried.

Reports from Committees

Legal

City Attorney Smith

City Attorney Smith was not in attendance.

Finance & Taxes
No report due to budget workshop.

Councilman Goldwire

Streets & Lanes

Councilman Johnson

Councilman Johnson stated he rode around the City with City Manager Hofman to see which streets need repair, stop signs that need replacing, and pot holes that need to be filled.

Water & Sewage
No report.

Councilman Collins

Recreation & City Property

Councilman Lee

Councilman Lee stated the City needed to move forward with getting bids to replace the windows at the gym and he would work with City Manager Hofman to put that together. There was then discussion regarding the use of the gym and ballfield.

Police Department

Interim Chief Coppola

Interim Chief Coppola gave the PD report, and stated that he has completed and passed Chief school.

Fire Department

Interim Chief Stringer


LT. Chris Huntley gave the fire report. Councilman Collins asked how many calls went unanswered in the City, and Firefighter Steven Lisius stated there was one call, which LT. Huntley confirmed. He then added that there were 7 responders for the month.

14. Dates to Remember

Monday, May 27 - City Hall Closed, Memorial Day
Monday, May 27, 5pm - Veterans Park Memorial Service
Wednesday, June 5, 4pm - Guyton Municipal Court
Monday, June 10, 7pm - Leisure Services Meeting
Tuesday, June 11, 7pm - Guyton City Council Meeting
Thursday, June 13 - Ice Cream Social
Wednesday, July 3, 4pm - Guyton Municipal Court
Thursday, July 4 - City Hall Closed, Independence Day
Monday, July 8, 7pm - Leisure Services Meeting
Tuesday, June 9, 7pm - Guyton City Council Meeting
Saturday, July 20 - Guyton Community Picnic

Adjournment

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



Jeff Lariscy, Mayor



Alison Bruton, City Clerk

