

MINUTES

City Council

Monday, October 17, 2011 – 7:00 p.m.

Call to Order: Mayor Holder welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Opening: Councilmember Shuman offered the opening prayer and Mayor Holder invited everyone to join in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Roll Call:

Members Present: Mayor Holder presided. **Council Members:** Gwyn Hall Bowen Jones, Durward Motes, Judy Shuman and Jimmy Spilliards. **Absent:** Don Bethune and Bessie Kicklighter

Staff Present: Brian Johnson, City Manager; Ron Feldner, Deputy City Manager; Rhonda Ferrell-Bowles, Clerk of Council; James P. Gerard, City Attorney; Cory Salley, Finance Director; Pam Franklin, HR Director; Scott Allison, PED Director; Ben Brengman, IT Director; Cliff Ducey, Recreation Director; Charles Draeger, Water Operations Director; Benny Googe, Public Works Director; Jimmy Crosby, Fire Chief and Frank Clifton, Police Captain. **Absent:** David Lyons, Chief of Police

Proclamation: Mayor Holder read a proclamation proclaiming October 24th – October 30th as “Clean Water Week” in Garden City, Georgia.

Georgia Port Authority Presentation: Mr. Jamie McCurry, Director of Administration of GPA presented a video and briefed City Council on GPA’s activities. He said that GPA is reaching out to the Garden City community and surrounding municipalities to inform the citizens of GPA’s activities. He said that we have a presentation scheduled on November 17th at the Garden City Senior Citizens Center to talk with the citizens. He said that GPA has no plans to expand at this time. He said that we are working with the City, DOT, and the Railroad on several projects in the area that should alleviate a lot of the truck traffic coming through Garden City.

City Manager said Jamie approached me about GPA’s renewed effort to get out in the community to keep the lines of communications open between GPA and citizens. He said with growth comes challenges. He said that Jamie and I communicate and we have been involved in working on several transportation projects that will benefit the citizens of Garden City.

Committee/Board Reports:

PED Director presented the Planning Commission/BOA minutes dated 10/11/11.

Councilmember Jones presented the Garden City Beautification Committee Meeting Report dated 10/10/11. He said that the Beautification Committee is in the process of preparing a one page newsletter that will included in with your water bill.

Informal Public Comment: Mayor Holder asked if there was anyone who wished to address city council. There being no questions or comments, Mayor Holder closed the informal public comment portion of the meeting.

Formal Public Comment: Mayor Holder said we received a request by Reverend Carl Gilliard, CEO of Feed the Hungry to address City Council.

Reverend Gilliard briefed City Council on the activities of the Feed the Hungry organization and requested City Council to help celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's. Birthday and participate in a unity march from Groves High School to the Feed the Hungry facility on Highway 21. He said the unity march is being planned for January 14, 2012. He said that several members of Dr. King's family will be attending the event. He said that we would like to request the City to recognize this event by placing it on the City's calendar, grant permission for the unity march and provide police security for the event at no cost. He said we feel bringing everyone together will make for a greater Garden City.

Mayor Holder said we can't give you an answer tonight. He said that DOT has to give permission to walk down Highway 21. He said you will need to get with the City Manager to discuss the details and to see what you have to do to obtain DOT's approval. He said we understand what you are trying to do, but we can't do anything, unless you get DOT's approval. He said get with Brian and let him get everything lined up.

City Council asked what time the event would be held on January 14th.

Reverend Gilliard said the event will be held at 2:00 p.m. and we are expecting approximately 1,000 people. He said the walk should take about 45 minutes or so.

Councilmember Hall asked how much security do you will need?

Reverend Gilliard said that we have members of the King Family attending and will probably need a unit at the head of the march.

Mayor Holder said get with Brian to line up with DOT.

Reverend Gilliard asked if the City would place the event on its calendar.

Councilmember Hall said that the City already recognizes MLK Day as a holiday. He said that City Hall is closed and our council meeting always falls on MLK Day and we reschedule the meeting to Tuesday in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's. Birthday. He said that Chief Lyons and I participate in Savannah's MLK Day parade.

Councilmember Spilliards asked if the Feed the Hungry organization accepted donations such as clothes, furniture, etc.

Reverend Gilliard said that we do take donations and several of your staff members have dropped off items to us.

City Council Minutes: Upon motion by Councilmember Jones, seconded by Councilmember Hall, City Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes dated 10/3/11.

Staff Reports:

Finance Director presented the Finance Department's Monthly Status Report.

Water Operations Director presented the Water Operations Department's Monthly Status Report.

Captain Clifton presented the Police Department's Monthly Status Report.

Fire Chief presented the Fire Department's Monthly Status Report.

Items for Consideration:

Resolution, Capital Improvement Element & Short Term Work Program: Clerk of Council read a resolution by the Mayor and Council of Garden City, Georgia, adopting the Capital Improvements Element (CIE) 2011 Annual Update and the Short Term Work Program (STWP) of the Garden City Comprehensive Plan.

Upon motion by Councilmember Jones, seconded by Councilmember Motes, City Council voted unanimously to adopt the resolution.

First Reading, Ordinance Changing Tax Rate on Insurance Companies in Garden City: Mayor Holder read an ordinance for the first reading to amend the Code of Ordinances of Garden City, Georgia, as amended, to amend Chapter 74, Article II, Sections 74-26 and 74-27, to re-establish the amount of license fees for insurance companies in general, and for life insurers insuring certain risks at additional business locations; to repeal all ordinances in conflict herewith; to provide an effective date; and for other purposes.

Upon motion by Councilmember Shuman, seconded by Councilmember Hall, City Council voted unanimously to approve the ordinance on the first reading.

Upon motion by Councilmember Jones, seconded by Councilmember Shuman, City Council voted unanimously to suspend the rules of council and hold the second reading of the ordinance.

Second Reading, Ordinance Changing Tax Rate on Insurance Companies in Garden City: Mayor Holder read an ordinance for the second reading to amend the Code of Ordinances of Garden City, Georgia, as amended, to amend Chapter 74, Article II, Sections 74-26 and 74-27, to re-establish the amount of license fees for insurance companies in general, and for life insurers insuring certain risks at additional business locations; to repeal all ordinances in conflict herewith; to provide an effective date; and for other purposes.

Upon motion by Councilmember Jones, seconded by Councilmember Spilliards, City Council voted unanimously to adopt the ordinance on the second reading.

City Manager reminded everyone of the Fall Festival to be held from 3:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 22nd at the City Hall on the Town Green. He said there will be activities for the whole family. He said there will be a BBQ Cook-off and vendor booths. He said there will be live bands throughout the event, custom cars and motorcycles. He said the fireworks display will begin around 8:00 p.m.

Adjournment: Upon motion by Councilmember Shuman, seconded by Councilmember Hall, City Council voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:35 p.m.

Transcribed by Rhonda Ferrell-Bowles, Clerk of Council
Adopted by City Council: 11/7/11