

## MINUTES

### City Council

Monday, July 2, 2012 – 7:00 p.m.

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

**Devotional & Pledge of Allegiance:** Mayor Holder offered the opening prayer and invited everyone to join in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

**Roll Call:**

**Members Present:** Mayor Holder presided. **Council Members:** Don Bethune, Bruce Campbell, Rosetta Cody, Scott George, Bessie Kicklighter and Judy Shuman

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

**Informal Public Comment:**

Ms. Eloise Johnson, Rossignol Hill resident, expressed concerns regarding nothing being done for the residents in the Rossignol Hill area.

Mr. Jimmy Blakey, 141 Azalea Avenue reiterated that he is opposed to property taxes. He thanked the three council members that said at the public hearing that they would vote “no” to property taxes. He said please look at what you can do without taxing us.

Mr. Ollie Rollinger, 1430 Dean Forest Road, said it has been bugging me that my comments were misunderstood at a recent meeting. He said when you have a Town Hall meeting the public should be allowed to talk. That is your time to listen to what we have to say. He said I feel you all should be more open to letting people talk at these meetings.

Ms. Jennifer Lambeth said I am a candidate for the 7<sup>th</sup> District School Board Representative. She presented to City Council her qualifications for the seat and asked City Council for their support in the upcoming election.

There being no further questions or comments from the public, Mayor Holder closed the informal public comment portion of the meeting.

**Formal Public Comment:**

**Formal Request to address City Council:** Mayor Holder said we have with us tonight Mr. Eddie DeLoach, Candidate for County Commission Chairman. He said Mr. DeLoach has requested to address City Council on his qualifications for Commission Chairman.

Mr. DeLoach presented to City Council his qualifications for Chatham County Chairman and asked City Council for their support in the upcoming election.

**City Council Minutes dated 6-18-12:** Upon motion by Councilmember George, seconded by Councilmember Kicklighter, City Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes dated 6-18-12.

**City Council Retreat Synopsis dated 6-2-12:** Upon motion by Councilmember Bethune, seconded by Councilmember George, City Council voted unanimously to approve the City Council Retreat Synopsis dated 6/2/12.

**Staff Reports:**

PED Director presented the Planning & Economic Development Department's Monthly Status Report.

HR Director presented the Human Resources Department's Monthly Status Report.

Councilmember Kicklighter asked the HR Director if she was correct that we currently have 105 employees with 110 budgeted positions.

HR Director said correct.

Councilmember Kicklighter asked if we are going to fill the five positions.

City Manager said we are holding off except for a water/sewer position.

IT Director presented the Information Technology Department's Monthly Status Report.

Councilmember Kicklighter asked if there are cameras in city hall.

IT Director said there are 45 cameras. He said there are 25 at city hall. He said there are cameras also at the Public Works facility. He said these cameras are for security purposes.

Public Works Director presented the Public Works Department's Monthly Status Report.

Mayor Pro-tem George complemented the Public Works Director on the asphalt repairs. He asked if the street sweeping included State Highways.

Public Works Director said, yes.

Recreation Director presented the Parks & Recreation Department's Monthly Status Report.

Councilmember Kicklighter asked the Recreation Director if the City offered recreational activities/programs for middle aged adults.

Recreation Director said we do have adult basketball on Tuesday's and Thursday's.

Councilmember Cody asked how many of the children participating in programs at the Cooper Center are from Garden City. She said I don't believe all those children are from Garden City.

Recreation Director said I will have to find out.

Councilmember Cody thanked the Public Works Director for cleaning her ditch. She said the drainage issue has been resolved.

**Items for Consideration:**

**Resolution, Ad Valorem Tax:** Mayor Holder said we have a resolution of the Mayor and Council of Garden City, Georgia to set the Ad Valorem Tax rate of Garden City for Fiscal Year 2012; and for other purposes.

Councilmember Kicklighter made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Campbell to deny levying a millage rate of 2 mils for fiscal year 2012. Councilmember Campbell, Councilmember Cody, Councilmember George and Councilmember Kicklighter voted in favor of denying levying a millage rate of 2 mils for fiscal year 2012 with Mayor Holder, Councilmember Bethune and Councilmember Shuman opposed.

At the request of Councilmember Kicklighter a roll call vote was taken by the Clerk of Council on the Ad Valorem Tax Resolution as follows:

Motion to deny levying a millage rate of 2 mils for fiscal year 2012:

Councilmember Campbell – Aye

Councilmember Cody – Aye

Mayor Pro-Tem Georgia – Aye

Councilmember Kicklighter - Aye

Mayor Holder - Nay

Councilmember Bethune – Nay

Councilmember Shuman – Nay

**Adjournment:** Upon motion by Councilmember Kicklighter, seconded by Councilmember Campbell, City Council voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:31 p.m.

*Transcribed by Rhonda Ferrell-Bowles, Clerk of Council*

*Adopted by City Council: 7/16/12*