

**MINUTES**  
**City Council Meeting**  
**Monday, June 3, 2013 – 7:00 p.m.**

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

**Opening:** Councilmember Campbell 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:** Mayor Pro-tem George, Don Bethune, Bruce Campbell, Rosetta Cody, Bessie Kicklighter and Judy Shuman.

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

Mayor Holder said City Council held a Pre-Agenda Session prior to tonight's meeting. He said no decisions were made during the pre-agenda session.

**Presentation of Life Saving Award by Chief David Lyons:** Chief Lyons said that Officer Chad Wierenga responded to a call of an individual that was unconscious in the parking lot of Auto Shine Carwash on Highway 21. He said when Officer Wierenga arrived the individual did not have a pulse. He said that Officer Wierenga performed CPR until the ambulance arrive and then the paramedics took over. He said I am honored to present this award to Officer Wierenga for his quick actions that gave this individual a chance for life.

**Informal Public Comment:** Mayor Holder opened the informal comment portion of the meeting.

Ms. Eloise Johnson, 3908 Eighth Street express concerns about the ditches not being cleaned in the Rossignol Hill area, and on Big Hill Road and Hawkinsville Road. She requested the City to check and clean the ditches in these areas.

Ms. Johnson also stated that the dry trash is not being collected in her neighborhood on the day it is supposed to be. She said that it is generally the next day before it is picked up.

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

**Formal Public Comment:** Mayor Holder said we have a request from Ms. Stascia Hardy, Principal of Mercer Middle School to address City Council on the activities and programs at Mercer Middle School.

Ms. Hardy said this is my first year as Principal of Mercer Middles School. She said we have approximately 550 students attending Mercer and we are a Title 1 School. She said our students are struggling academically and behaviorally. She said our CRCT's have improved marginally, but Mercer

Middle School still remains at the bottom. She said Mercer at one time was a Charter School and we are trying to return the school to its glory days. She said it is hard to improve a school without the help of the community. She said we are trying to get away from paper and pencils and make the school technological advanced. She said I would like to establish a Shadow Program for our students to shadow business leaders so they can see another side of life. She said Mercer serves approximately six public housing complexes and we do deal with gang related issues.

Councilmember Bethune said we are in the initial stages of starting to work on a ten-year plan for our City. He said schools will be an important part of the plan. He said I would like to invite you to serve on our Strategic Plan committee when it is formed. He said I would welcome you as a team member and I appreciate all your efforts at Mercer.

Councilmember George said we would be more than happy to participate in the shadow program and speak to the student on career day.

Ms. Hardy said that Chief Lyons has come over to the school and some of his officers have walked the school which helps us greatly.

Chief Lyons said I would be more than happy to meet with you prior to the new school year and discuss how the Police Department can be of service to you at Mercer.

Mayor Holder thanked Ms. Hardy and said I look forward to you serving on our Strategic Plan Team.

**City Council Minutes:** Upon motion by Councilmember Bethune, seconded by Councilmember George, City Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes dated 5/20/13.

**Staff Reports:**

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

PED Director said that Housing Team applied for a grant and was just awarded the grant. He said the grant is a no cash match grant for \$5,000 in Home Depot gift cards for home improvement materials. He said now that the Housing Team has the materials we will need volunteers.

Councilmember Bethune said Housing Team members worked on a house on Chatham Villa Drive this past weekend. He said I would like to thank Harriet one of our Code Enforcement Officers and one of our Police Officers for donating their time to help us work on the house. He said it is always good to see employees take a personal interest in our City.

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

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

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

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

Parks & Recreation Director said we have over 40 registrations for this year's Summer Camp Program. He said the Summer Camp Program will start June 10<sup>th</sup> and should be finished by August 7<sup>th</sup>.

Councilmember Campbell thanked the Parks & Recreation Director, Public Works Director and their staff for all their hard work on getting the field in good shape for the kids to use on 5/18/13. He said it was a nice event and I appreciated everyone's efforts.

City Manager said R.B Baker will be performing several street resurfacing project throughout the City – Salt Creek Road, Woodlawn Avenue, Chatham Villa Drive, Deletre Avenue and Minus Avenue. He said I wanted to make everyone aware that they may encounter some delays on these roadways and may need to seek an alternate route while the resurfacing work is taking place.

Councilmember Bethune said I received a door hanger on my door today regarding the street resurfacing work scheduled to be done in my neighborhood.

**Item for Consideration:**

**Alcoholic Beverage License Application:** Mayor Holder said we have for consideration an alcoholic beverage license application by Olga A. Henriques Treja to sell spirituous liquors (by the drink), wines, beer and/or malt beverages at Copacabana's Sport Bar, 435 US. Highway 80, Garden City, Georgia.

Upon motion by Councilmember Kicklighter, seconded by Councilmember Bethune, City Council voted unanimously to approve the alcoholic beverage license application.

**Adjournment:** Upon motion by Mayor Holder, seconded by Councilmember Bethune, City Council unanimously adjourned the meeting at 7:33 p.m.

*Transcribed by Rhonda Ferrell-Bowles, Clerk of Council  
Adopted by City Council 6/17/13*

