

MINUTES

City Council

Monday, June 6, 2011 – 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: Councilmember Bethune offered the opening prayer and Mayor Holder invited everyone to join in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Roll Call:

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

Staff: 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; Scott Allison, PED Director; Frank Clifton, Police Captain; Jimmy Crosby, Fire Chief; Cory Salley, Finance Director; Cliff Ducey, Recreation Director; Charles Draeger, Water Operations Director and Benny Googe, Acting Public Works Director.

Informal Public Comment: Mayor Holder asked if there was any one who wished to address City Council during the informal public comment portion of the meeting. There being no requests to address City Council, Mayor Holder closed the informal public comment portion of the meeting.

Formal Public Comment: Mayor Holder said we received no formal requests to address City Council at tonight's meeting.

Public Hearing:

Charter Amendment Public Hearing: Mayor Holder opened the public hearing to receive public comment on an amendment to the Charter of the City of Garden City, Georgia, to create new council districts based on the report of the Bureau of Census for the United States decennial census of 2010 for the State of Georgia.

City Manager said that the census results mandated a change to our district maps. He said our current council district map was based on the 2000 census. He said we met with the State Re-appropriation Office and Representative Bob Bryant on the re-districting maps. He said we still have five council districts with two being minority districts. He said the council districting maps are actually better than they were before.

There being no further comments or questions, Mayor Holder closed the public hearing.

City Council Minutes: Upon motion by Councilmember Jones, seconded by Councilmember Hall, City Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes dated 5-16-11.

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.

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

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

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

Items or Consideration:

First Reading, Charter Amendment Ordinance: Clerk of Council read for the first reading an ordinance to amend the Charter for the City of Garden City, Georgia, approved April 17, 1973 (Ga. Law 1973, p. 3581), as amended, so as to create new council districts based on the report of the Bureau of Census for the United States decennial census of 2010 for the State of Georgia; to provide for related matters; to repeal all conflicting ordinances; and for other purposes.

Upon motion by Councilmember Kicklighter, seconded by Councilmember Shuman, City Council voted unanimously to approve the Charter Amendment Ordinance on the first reading.

Resolution, Watershed Protection Plan: Mayor Holder said we have for consideration a resolution to adopt the Watershed Protection Plan and commit the City's resources to its future implementation.

City Manager said the Deputy City Manager did the Watershed Protection Plan in-house. He asked the Deputy City Manager to comment on the plan.

Deputy City Manager said one the conditions of the permit being issued was that we develop a detailed plan for approval by EPD. He said the plan outlines the efforts and tasks that we have to perform. He said the plan will be implemented jointly by the Stormwater and Wastewater departments.

Councilmember Hall asked how much money did the City save doing the plan in-house.

Deputy City Manager said normally it would cost you between \$10,000 to \$15,000. He said the City saved a decent amount of money by doing it in-house.

Upon motion by Councilmember Kicklighter, seconded by Councilmember Shuman, City Council voted unanimously to adopt the resolution.

Resolution, ICMA-RC Retirement & Deferred Compensation Plans: City Manager said we have for consideration a resolution for the City's money purchase retirement plan to be administered by ICMA-RC and that the funds held in such plan be invested in the VantageTrust, a trust established by public employers for the collective investment of funds held under their retirement and deferred compensation plans.

City Manager said this is just a housekeeping measure. He said we have had this plan for a number of years and ICMA-RC requires that we periodically update the type of plan that they manage for the City.

Upon motion by Councilmember Bethune, seconded by Councilmember Shuman, City Council voted unanimously to adopt the resolution.

Resolution, Council Meeting Summer Schedule: Mayor Holder said we have for consideration a resolution to amend the regular meeting schedule of the City Council for the period of July 1, 2011 through September 30, 2011 as follows:

Regularly Scheduled Meeting	July 4, 2011	Canceled
Regularly Scheduled Meeting	July 18, 2011	Affirmed
Regularly Scheduled Meeting	August 1, 2011	Canceled
Regularly Scheduled Meeting	August 15, 2011	Affirmed
Regularly Scheduled Meeting	September 5, 2011	Canceled
Regularly Scheduled Meeting	September 19, 2011	Affirmed

Upon motion by Councilmember Kicklighter, seconded by Councilmember Shuman, City Council voted unanimously to adopt the resolution.

Surplus Equipment – Vehicle Maintenance Shop Items: Mayor Holder said we have for consideration declaring the following items as surplus equipment:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Equipment Description</u>
(2002)	Accu-turn 1200 Tire Balancer
(2002)	Accu-turn 1200 Tire Changer
(Year Unknown)	7000 lb. Car Lift

Upon motion by Councilmember Shuman, seconded by Councilmember Kicklighter, City Council voted unanimously to approve declaring the above items as surplus equipment.

Mayor Holder said I would like to read the following statement of response to Reverend Gary Monroe, President of the Garden City Homestead Association.

We, the Mayor and City Council of Garden City, would like to take this opportunity to commend you and the Garden City Homestead Association for your continued interest in our City. For many years, both past and present City Council members have encouraged residents of neighborhood communities throughout the City to take an ownership interest in their community and become more involved. Your recent involvement and that of your organization is encouraging and welcome.

We are in receipt of the “Communal and Municipal Questionnaire” that you submitted for our individual input. However at this point, we feel that responding to the questionnaire on an individual basis would not be in the best interest of the City as a whole and would only bring division among the City Council, City Staff and Citizens of our great City. Our governing body has always made decisions based on what is best for the entire City and not just certain geographic areas or communities of the City. While addressing issues pertaining to specific areas is often necessary, decisions always need to be made in the best interests of the City as a whole. We as the elected officials of Garden City are compelled to discharge our duties in this manner in accordance with the oath of office that we swore to the City which includes the following statement:

“I will perform the duties of my office in the best interest of the City of Garden City to the best of my ability without fear, favor, affection, reward, or expectation thereof.”

Furthermore, it is our duty as elected officials to be responsive to the needs of our citizens and to provide high quality municipal government services. We take this responsibility very seriously and we believe that our efforts demonstrate that we have been successful in being recognized as an award winning municipality. A few examples of this include:

- The **Garden City Police Department** is both a State certified and Nationally Accredited Department – a distinction held by only 33 police departments in Georgia and less than 7% of law enforcement agencies nationwide.
- The **Garden City Finance Department** is a current recipient of both the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award as well as the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association – less than 3% of municipalities in Georgia hold both of these awards for the same reporting period.
- The **Garden City Fire Department** is an ISO Class 3 Department – placing the department in the top 3% of all fire departments and fire protection districts in the United States.
- The **Garden City Water Operations Department** is a current recipient of the Gold Award from the Georgia Association of Water Professionals – marking the third consecutive year that Garden City has been honored for outstanding water treatment facilities and the fourth consecutive year for exceptional wastewater treatment.
- Garden City is 1 of only 5 communities in Georgia to be accepted into the prestigious WaterFirst class, enabling the City to qualify for the elite WaterFirst designation from the Georgia Department of Community Affairs – A WaterFirst designation is the highest mark of water quality a community can receive.

- Garden City is 1 of only 2 municipalities in Chatham County that offers single-stream curbside recycling service.

The aforementioned accomplishments provide documentation as to the level of commitment that past and present Garden City Council Members have undertaken in providing quality municipal services to all of our residents and businesses. We are proud to have accomplished these achievements despite the challenging economic conditions and without the assistance of property tax revenue. We will always strive to maintain a superior level of service for our citizens and customers.

We also recognize that more can and should be done to help Garden City sustain itself and to reach its overall community goals. In order to successfully make changes for the greater good of a community, it takes collaboration between the City and its respective communities as well as between its elected officials and the citizenry. You have indicated that you have a plan for the "Homestead" area and we ask that you share that vision with the City. We would like to extend an invitation to you and your designated representatives of the Garden City Homestead Association to meet with us to openly discuss the various issues and share with us your plans and ideas so that we can accomplish our mutual goal of improving our great City. If we work together collaboratively, there is nothing that cannot be achieved.

Adjournment: Upon motion by Councilmember Kicklighter, seconded by Councilmember Hall, City Council voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:40 p.m.

Transcribed by Rhonda Ferrell-Bowles, Clerk of Council
Adopted by City Council - June 20, 2011