

MINUTES
City Council Meeting
Monday, March 16, 2015 – 7:00 p.m.

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

Opening: Mayor Pro-tem George offered the opening prayer and Mayor Holder invited everyone to join in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Roll Call:

Members: Mayor Holder presided. Council Members: Don Bethune, Bruce Campbell, Rosetta Cody, Marcia Daniel, Scott George and Kim Tice.

Staff: Ron Feldner, Interim City Manager; Rhonda Ferrell-Bowles, Clerk of Council; James P. Gerard, City Attorney; David Lyons, Chief of Police; Ron Alexander, Building Safety Director; Benny Googe, Public Works Director; Charles Draeger, Water Operations Director; Cliff Ducey, Parks & Recreation Director and Blake Hodge, Fire Chief. *Absent:* Pam Franklin, HR Director and Ben Brengman, IT 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 by the City Manager on the Coastal Incentive Grant Stormwater Management

Masterplan: He said the Coastal Incentive Grant is funded through NOAA and administered by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. City Manager provided an overview of the Project Tasks, Project Workplan, Stormwater Projects, Special Drainage District Concept and Public Education & Outreach activities.

Councilmember Bethune asked the City Manager if the stormwater projects will be prioritized. City Manager said the stormwater projects are ranked and rated in the report.

Councilmember Bethune asked the City Manager how the Talmadge Canal will affect Garden City if Pooler develops further. City Manager said all the local governments in Chatham County operate under the same stormwater water ordinance. He said the ordinance applies to all projects occurring in the County.

Councilmember Bethune asked City Manager if the fire department had boats to get people out of flood areas. City Manager said yes, but as we move forward we will look at possibly securing more.

Councilmember George asked the City Manager to put the stormwater document on the website.

Informal Public Comment: Mayor Holder opened the floor to receive public comment from the audience.

Ms. Sharon Bethune updated City Council on the GICH Team's housing projects. She said the GICH Team will be holding a fundraiser on April 30th at the Farmer's Market from 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. She said the cost to lease a space is \$40 per area. She said we are looking for vendors to participate. She

distributed a flyer containing the information on the fundraiser to City Council. She requested the City post the fundraiser information on the City's website.

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

Discussion of Conflict of Interest Issue: Discussion of Conflict of Interest relating to the agenda item on considering an application to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs for the FY2015 Community Development Block Grant for improving the sewer system serving the City's sewer customer in the Rossignol Hill CDBG target area.

Councilmember Cody said I want to formally notify you that my residing in the Rossignol Hill Area which stands to benefit from the Community Development Block Grant for which the City is to consider applying tonight in order to improve that area's sewer system creates a conflict of interest issue preventing me from discussing, deliberating upon, or voting on the matter. She said to do otherwise would create the appearance of impropriety which I wish to avoid at all costs. I did want to say, however, that if the CDBG application were to be approved and the sewer rehabilitation program was performed, my property in Rossignol Hill would receive exactly the same benefits as my Rossignol Hill neighbors. *(Reference attached statement signed by Rosetta Cody, Councilperson)*

Public Hearings:

PC1504, Rezoning Request: Mayor Holder opened the public hearing to receive public comment on a request by Kenneth Harrelson, applicant and representing property owner Central Baptist Church to rezone 2610 and 2612 US Highway 80 from R-1 to C-2. PIN 6-0926-03-021 and PIN 6-0926-03-020.

Pastor Harrelson said the two neighbors adjacent to the property are in favor of the rezoning. He said the Central Baptist Church inherited the property. He said we are requesting to rezone the property to commercial to enable the church to get the most money when it is sold. He said we currently have no buyers for the property.

There being no further questions or comments, Mayor Holder closed the public hearing on PC1504

PC1505, Rezoning & Lot Variance Request: Receipt of public comment on a request by Jeff Kole, property owner to rezone the property from C-2 to R-2 and to vary a lot area requirement from 2700 sq. ft. per dwelling unit to 2110 sq. ft. per dwelling unit at 1326 US Highway 80 West. PIN 6-0826-01-002; 6-0826-01-003; 6-0826-01-004; 6-08-01-004A; 6-0826-01-004B; 6-0826-01-005; 6-0826-01-006A; 6-0826-01-006B, and 6-0826-01-007.

Mr. Shay said the Mr. Kole is the current owner and operator of the apartment complex. He said Mr. Kole is requesting to rezone to build additional units and leasing office. He said the intended project will be the same size of the existing apartments but with modern construction. He said this will allow more people to live in Garden City.

Councilmember George asked Mr. Shay if the traffic pattern was staying the same. Mr. Shay said the existing entrance will be utilized and accessed off of Highway 80.

There being no further questions or comments, Mayor Holder closed the public hearing on PC1505.

Mayor Holder said City Council will consider the two cases at the next council meeting on April 6th.

City Council Minutes: Upon motion by Councilmember Campbell, seconded by Councilmember George, City Council voted unanimously to approve the City Council Minutes dated 3/2/15 and Workshop Synopsis dated 3/9/15.

Staff Reports:

Planning, Zoning & Building Director presented the Planning, Zoning & Building Department's monthly status report.

Councilmember Bethune asked the City Manager to contact the Judge to see if he would be available to participate in City Council's tour of the city on March 23rd.

Water Operations Director presented the Water Operations Department's monthly status report.

Chief of Police presented the Police Department's monthly status report.

Councilmember Bethune said the fines and forfeitures are back up and seem to be tracking well. He said the officers handling the break-in on Rommel Avenue did a good job catching suspects. He said I am still receiving a lot of complaints from citizens about the truck traffic on Highway 80 not using the proper lane. He said what are you doing to resolve this issue?

Chief Lyons said we continue to work on it. He said it is not just Highway 80, but also Highway 21 and Highway 307. He said safety wise it is not a real high priority.

Councilmember Bethune asked the Chief of Police to look into it and to let Council know at the next meeting what can be done to resolve the issue.

Councilmember Bethune said Kessler and Heidt have a three ton weight limit and truckers are still traveling on them. He said a notice needs to be given that we are going to start enforcing the weight limit.

Councilmember Bethune asked the Chief of Police if they are using the portable radar or was something wrong with it. He asked the Chief of Police to give a report at the next meeting.

Councilmember Bethune said in old Garden City the residents have stated that they are not seeing police officers in the area. He said our residents are actually our customers. He said it would not hurt for the officers to stop and speak to the residents. He said also after there is a burglary we should develop a customer questionnaire to see how the officers did. He said these are some talking points for our next meeting.

Fire Chief presented the Fire Department's monthly status report. Chief Hodge said our ISO evaluation starts April 8th. He said we brought on the administrative assistant last week and posted the two firefighter positions. He said we will be doing blood pressure checks every Tuesday at the senior center starting April 7th.

Councilmember Bethune said I would like to encourage you to do public safety events at the schools, Cooper Center, Lyons Club, etc., to reach to the community. He said also I would like for you to demonstrate to council a dry drill so citizens can see how complex firefighting is.

City Manager Updates: City Manager said I have no updates tonight.

Councilmember George said Councilmember Bethune highlighted a lot of issues that I was not aware of. He said on some of the issues mentioned regarding the police concerns me, because what are they going to take away from. He said I would like to see the officers in all the areas of Garden City not just the historic area. He said I would like to thank the Chief of Police for taking the time to update us when a break-in occurs. He said also the new Fire Chief is doing a fine job.

Councilmember Bethune said I would like to thank staff for the landscaping work at Burnsed and 516. He said the storm drain at Waste Management on Highway 80 is stopped up.

City Attorney said the Judge should not participate in the tour on March 23rd, because he is supposed to be neutral. He said when a defendant appears in court the Judge has to maintain neutrality. He said for that reason, I would not suggest the Judge be invited to participate in the tour.

Items for Consideration:

Resolution, Bid Award (Belt Filter Press & Facility Improvements): Mayor Holder read a resolution by the Mayor and Council of Garden City, Georgia, to award the Wastewater Plant Belt Filter Press Installation and Facility Improvements contract to the low bidder PF Moon Construction in the amount of \$1,391,000.00, and that the acting City Manager is authorized to sign the contract for the Contract Work in the name of the City, with the City Clerk's attestation to said Manager's signature.

Upon motion by Councilmember Bethune, seconded by Councilmember George, City Council voted unanimously to adopt the resolution awarding the belt filter press installation and facility improvements contract to the low bidder PF Moon Construction in the amount of \$1,391,000.00.

Resolution, CDBG (Rossignol Hill Area Sewer Improvements): Mayor holder read a resolution by the Mayor and Council to authorize the City of Garden City to apply for a FY2015 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for the purpose of improving the sewer system serving the City's sewer customers in the Rossignol Hill CDBG target area and hereby delegates to the Mayor authority to execute all documents necessary to apply for and obtain the CDBG.

Mayor Holder called for the vote. Councilmember Cody excused herself from the vote and stepped down from the council dais.

Councilmember Campbell made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Bethune to adopt the CDBG resolution. Mayor Holder, Councilmember Bethune, Councilmember Campbell, Councilmember Daniel, Councilmember George and Councilmember Tice voted to adopt the resolution to authorize the City to apply for a FY2015 CDBG and to authorize the Mayor to execute all documents necessary to apply for and obtain the CDBG for the Rossignol Hill area sewer improvements.

Councilmember Cody returned to the council dais.

Resolution, GDOT Standard Utility Agreement: Mayor Holder read a resolution by the Mayor and Council of Garden City, Georgia, to authorize the Mayor to execute an agreement between the City and GDOT authorizing the GDOT to include the adjustment of water and sewer distribution facilities belonging to the

City in the GDOT's contract for the roadway work on State Route 21 by which the City will reimburse GDOT for this work in the amount of \$22,700.

Upon motion by Councilmember Tice, seconded by Councilmember Daniel, City Council voted unanimously to adopt the resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement between the City and GDOT for the adjustment of the water and sewer distribution facilities belonging to the City in the GDOT's contract for the roadway work on State Route 21 by which the City will reimburse the GDOT for this work in the amount of \$22,700.

Resolution, City of Ethics Recertification: Mayor Holder read a resolution by the Mayor and Council of Garden City, Georgia, to readopt the ethics principles approved by the Georgia Municipal Association Board.

Upon motion by Councilmember Tice, seconded by Councilmember George, City Council voted unanimously to adopt the resolution to readopt the ethics principles approved by the Georgia Municipal Association Board.

Resolution, FY15 SPLOST Fund Budget Amendment: Mayor Holder read a resolution to amend the FY15 SPLOST Fund budget; to adjust for the difference between the originally adopted and presently projected revenues and expenses for certain of the various line items in the FY15 SPLOST Fund budget.

Upon motion by Councilmember Bethune, seconded by Councilmember George, City Council voted unanimously to adopt the resolution to amend the FY2015 SPLOST Fund Budget.

Mayor Holder reminded everyone of the City's Annual Easter Eggtravaganza on Saturday, March 28th from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at Sharon Park.

Adjournment: Upon motion by Councilmember Campbell, seconded by Councilmember Cody, City Council adjourned the meeting at 8:07 p.m.

*Minutes Transcribed by Rhonda Ferrell-Bowles, Clerk of Council
Minutes Accepted & Approved by City Council*