

MINUTES
City Council Meeting
Monday, July 20, 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:** Mayor Pro-tem George, Councilmember Bethune, Councilmember Campbell, Councilmember Cody, Councilmember Daniel and Councilmember Tice.

Staff: Ron Feldner, City Manager; Rhonda Ferrell-Bowles, Clerk of Council; James P. Gerard, City Attorney; Pam Franklin, HR Director; Ben Brengman, IT Director; David Lyons, Chief of Police; Blake Hodge, Fire Chief; Benny Googe, Public Works Director, Cliff Ducey, Recreation Director and Ron Alexander, Planning, Zoning & Building Director. Absent: Charles Draeger, Water Operations 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.

Garden City Lyons Club Presentation: Mr. Bowen Jones presented a donation of \$500 from the Garden City Lyons Club to Ms. Jessica Auner, Vice President of the Garden City Housing Team. Ms. Auner said we do a lot for the residents in Garden City and we are grateful for the donation.

Mayor Pro-tem George said I am the President of the Garden City Lyons Club and we have a lot of faithful servants like Mr. Jones as members of the Lyons Club.

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

Mr. Scott George said I am here tonight speaking as a citizen. He said as Mayor and Council know serving on council is a team effort. He said I invited my wife Connie and daughter to be with me here tonight to announce that I am planning to step down as Mayor Pro-tem and run for Mayor in the upcoming election. He said this experience has taught me a lot about government. He said when I first ran for office I was told to always vote your convictions which are always based on me asking the citizens what they want. He said I am asking for your vote for Mayor in the upcoming election.

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

Public Hearing:

Alcoholic Beverage Manager's License Application: Mayor Holder opened the public hearing to receive public comment on an application made by Ms. Kelly McKuhen for an alcoholic beverage manager's license to sell wines, beer and/or malt beverages at Parker's 4219 Augusta Road, Garden City.

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

Appointments:

Resolution – Prosecuting Attorney Appointment – Clerk of Council read a resolution by the Mayor and Council to appoint and engage Mr. Lyon Jemison to perform the duties and responsibilities as Solicitor of the Municipal Court of Garden City, pursuant to the terms and conditions stated in the agreement.

Upon motion by Councilmember Tice, seconded by Councilmember George, City Council voted unanimously to adopt the resolution to appoint Lyon Jemison as Prosecuting Attorney for the Garden City Municipal Court.

Official Oath for Prosecuting Attorney (Solicitor): City Attorney administered the oath of office to Mr. Lyon Jemison to perform the duties and responsibilities as Prosecuting Attorney (Solicitor) for the Garden City Municipal Court.

Resolution – Judge Pro Tem Appointment – Clerk of Council read a resolution by the Mayor and Council to appoint Billy Earl Tomlinson as Judge Pro Tem of the Municipal Court of Garden City.

Upon motion by Councilmember Bethune, seconded by Councilmember Campbell, City Council voted unanimously to appoint Billy Earl Tomlinson as Judge Pro-tem.

Official Oath for Judge Pro Tem: City Attorney administered the oath to of office to Mr. Billy Earl Tomlinson to perform the duties and responsibilities as Judge Pro Tem for the Garden City Municipal Court.

Resolution – City Manager Appointment – Clerk of Council read a resolution by the Mayor and Council of Garden City, Georgia, to appoint Ron Feldner to serve as the City Manager exercising all of the authority delegated to that position by state law, the City Charter and Code, and as otherwise delegated to that position by Mayor and Council.

Councilmember Bethune said as an elected official I'm very conservative and I am disappointed that the city manager's employment contract was not negotiated more than it was. He said Ron has done a great job and has always been very responsive to my requests. He said although I have concerns with the contract, I will support him as city manager.

Councilmember Tice said I do feel we could have worked one statement in the contract out better, but I will not let it keep me from voting in favor of the contract.

Upon motion by Councilmember Daniel, seconded by Councilmember George, City Council voted unanimously to adopt the resolution to appoint Ronald Feldner as City Manager.

City Council Minutes: Upon motion by Councilmember Bethune, seconded by Councilmember Campbell, City Council voted unanimously to approve the City Council Minutes dated 6/15/15, Workshop Synopsis dated 6/22/15 and Workshop Synopsis dated 7/13/15.

Staff Reports:

Planning, Zoning & Building Director presented the Planning, Zoning & Building Department's Monthly Report.

Councilmember Bethune asked the Planning, Zoning & Building Director if the issues with the drainage ditch behind the concrete company were resolved. Planning, Zoning & Building Director said I am working with Benny and we met with the property owner and they are getting an engineer to come out. HR Director presented the Human Resources Department's Monthly Report.

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

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

Councilmember Tice asked the Public Works Director to look at the trees as you turn in off Highway 25 onto Smith Avenue. She said they may need to be cut, because they are hanging low across the road.

Councilmember Cody said Leon Village Road was flooded during the heavy rain, but it drained quickly.

Parks & Recreation Director presented the Parks & Recreation Department's Monthly Report. He thanked the Youth Works group for the work they did at the Recreation Department and Sharon Park.

Councilmember Bethune asked the Parks & Recreation Director to look at the bridges at Sharon Park, because they have mold on them. Parks & Recreation Director said they develop a lot of mold on them and they probably need to be pressure washed.

City Manager presented the Water Operations Department's Monthly Report.

Chief of Police presented the Police Department's Monthly Report.

Fire Chief Hodge presented the Fire Department's Monthly Report. He said we have one new volunteer and four firefighters are going to EMT training.

Councilmember George asked the Fire Chief how many volunteers he had serving on the fire department. Fire Chief said we has seventeen volunteers. Councilmember George said I would like suggest that we acknowledge the volunteer firefighters. He said maybe put their picture on the website or something like that. Fire Chief said I plan to bring them to a council meeting to introduce them.

City Manager Updates: City Manager said I would like to thank Council for the opportunity to serve and I look forward to working with Council and staff.

Items for Consideration:

First Reading, Ordinance – POD Storage Units: Clerk of Council read for the first reading an ordinance to amend the Code of Ordinances of Garden City, Georgia, as amended, to enact section 90-22 of the zoning ordinance of Garden City, Georgia, creating restrictions for the location, number, size, height and setback of portable on demand storage units (PODS); to repeal all ordinances in conflict herewith; to provide an effective date; and for other purposes.

Upon motion by Councilmember Bethune, seconded by Councilmember Campbell, City Council voted unanimously to approve the POD storage unit ordinance on the first reading.

Upon motion by Councilmember Bethune, seconded by Councilmember Campbell, City Council voted unanimously to suspend the rules of council and hold the second reading of the POD storage unit ordinance.

Second Reading, Ordinance – POD Storage Units: Clerk of Council read for the second reading an ordinance to amend the Code of Ordinances of Garden City, Georgia, as amended, to enact section 90-22 of the zoning ordinance of Garden City, Georgia, creating restrictions for the location, number, size, height and setback of portable on demand storage units (PODS); to repeal all ordinances in conflict herewith; to provide an effective date; and for other purposes.

Upon motion by Councilmember Campbell, seconded by Councilmember Daniel, City Council voted unanimously to adopt the POD storage unit ordinance on the second reading.

Resolution – Automatic Aid Agreement for Fire Responses – Clerk of Council read a resolution authorizing the Garden City Fire Department to enter an agreement and memorandum of understanding with the City of Pooler Fire Rescue Department for automatic aid protocols for fire department incident responses.

Upon motion by Councilmember Tice, seconded by Councilmember Daniel, City Council voted unanimously to adopt the resolution authorizing the Garden City Fire Department to enter an agreement and memorandum of understanding with the City of Pooler Fire Rescue Department.

Resolution – RDS Agreement: Clerk of Council read a resolution authorizing the City of Garden City to enter into an occupational tax revenue enhancement agreement with PRA Government Services, LLC, D/B/A RDS, providing for the discovery and recovery of occupational tax revenue from businesses in the City that are not on the City's current business/occupation taxpayer registration list; to authorize the City Manager to execute the contract; to provide an effective date; and for other purposes.

Upon motion by Councilmember Bethune, seconded by Councilmember Campbell, City Council voted unanimously to adopt the resolution authorizing the City to enter into an occupational tax revenue agreement with RDS.

Resolution – Engineering Services Proposal for Highway 17 Water/Sewer Study: Clerk of Council read a resolution authorizing Garden City, Georgia, to enter into an agreement with Hussey, Gay, Bell Consulting Engineers, for professional engineering services in connection with the potential opportunity for the extension of public water and sewer services initially to the commercial corridor along Highway 17 (if feasible) and subsequently into the residential areas along Salt Creek Road and Pineland Drive (if feasible); to authorize the City Manager to execute a proposal and agreement for said services; and for other purposes.

Upon motion by Councilmember Bethune, seconded by Councilmember Tice, City Council voted unanimously to adopt the resolution authorizing the City to enter into an agreement with HGB Consulting Engineers to perform the Highway 17 Water/Sewer Study.

Resolution – FY15 General Fund Budget Amendment: Clerk of Council read a resolution to amend the FY15 General Fund Budget to adjust for the differences between the originally budgeted and presently projected revenues and expenditures for certain of the City's various budgets.

Upon motion by Councilmember Daniel, seconded by Councilmember Campbell, City Council voted unanimously to adopt the resolution to amend the FY2015 Adopted General Fund Budget.

Resolution – FY15 Enterprise Funds Budget Amendments: Clerk of Council read a resolution to amend the FY15 Budgets for the Fire Protection and Stormwater Enterprise Funds; to adjust for the difference between the originally adopted and presently projected revenues and expenses for certain of the various line items in the Fire Protection Fund and Stormwater Fund.

Upon motion by Councilmember George, seconded by Councilmember Daniel, City Council voted unanimously to adopt the resolution to amend the FY2015 Adopted Fire Protection Fund Budget and the FY2015 Adopted Stormwater Fund Budget.

Resolution – Purchase of Two (2) Pierce Rescue/Pumper Trucks – Clerk of Council read a resolution to authorize the City Manager to sign the necessary documents to piggy-back onto the purchase contract between the City of Pooler and Pierce Manufacturing, Inc., to effect the City’s purchase of the two fire rescue pumper trucks; and to authorize the City Manager to obtain financing extending over a seven-year period for the purchase of the trucks with GMA pursuant to the City’s Master Lease with GMA dated April 21, 2003, with the loan amount being \$972,140; an interest rate not exceeding 2.130%; and with payments of principal and accrued interest being paid annually, commencing August 2016.

Upon motion by Councilmember Daniel, seconded by Councilmember Campbell, City Council voted unanimously to adopt the resolution authorizing the City to piggy-back onto the purchase contract between the City of Pooler and Pierce Manufacturing for the purchase of (2) Fire Rescue/Pumper Trucks

Resolution – Lease Supplement to GMA Master Lease for Two (2) 2015 Pierce Rescue/Pumper Trucks: Clerk of Council read a resolution to authorize and direct the City Manager to execute a lease supplement pursuant to the Master Lease under the GMA Direct Leasing Program for two (2) fully equipped Pierce Rescue/Pumper Trucks in an amount not to exceed \$972,140.

Upon motion by Councilmember Campbell, seconded by Councilmember Tice, City Council voted unanimously to adopt the resolution to authorize a lease supplement to the GMA master lease for two fully equipped Pierce Rescue/Pumper Trucks in an amount not to exceed \$927,140.

Resolution – Purchase of One (1) New Kubota Tractor & One (1) New Terrain King Mid-Mounted Hydraulic Boom Mower: Clerk of Council read a resolution to accept the proposal of Hendrix Machinery to sell the City a new Kubota Tractor and a new Terrian King Mid-Mounted Hydraulic Boom Mower at the price of \$101,851; and to authorize the City Manager to sign the purchase contract for the tractor and mower as well as other documents associated therewith in the name of the City; and to authorize the City Manager to negotiate the financing over a five-year period term for the equipment purchase with GMA pursuant to the City’s Master Lease with GMA dated April 21, 2003, with said terms to include annual payments of principal and interest not to exceed \$26,000 commencing August 2016.

Upon motion by Councilmember Campbell, seconded by Councilmember George, City Council voted unanimously to adopt the resolution for the purchase (1) New Kubota Tractor and (1) Terrain King Mid-Mounted Hydraulic Boom Mower.

Resolution – Lease Supplement to GMA Master Lease for One (1) New Kubota Tractor & One (1) New Terrain King Mid-Mounted Hydraulic Boom Mower: Clerk of Council read a resolution to authorize and direct to execute a lease supplement pursuant to the Master Lease under the GMA Direct Leasing Program for one (1) new Kubota Tractor and one (1) New Terrain King Mid-Mounted Hydraulic Boom Mower in an amount not to exceed \$101,851.

Upon motion by Councilmember Tice, seconded by Councilmember Daniel, City Council voted unanimously to adopt the resolution to authorize a lease supplement to the GMA master lease for the purchase of (1) Kubota Tractor and (!) Terrain King Mid-Mounted Hydraulic Boom Mower in an amount not to exceed \$101,851.

Resolution – Purchase of (1) Mini-Excavator: Clerk of Council read a resolution to accept the proposal of Flint Equipment Company to sell the City a new John Deer 35G Compact Excavator at the price of \$57,550; and to authorize the City Manager to sign the purchase contract or order for the mini-excavator as well as all other documents associated therewith in the name of the City.

Upon motion by Councilmember Campbell, seconded by Councilmember George, City Council voted unanimously to adopt the resolution for the purchase of (1) John Deer 35G Compact Excavator at the price of \$57,550.

Resolution – Annual Merit Salary Increases: Clerk of Council read a resolution to authorize performance pay/merit based increases of up to 2.5% pursuant to the results of performance evaluations effective July 30, 2015.

Upon motion by Councilmember Bethune, seconded by Councilmember Tice, City Council voted unanimously to adopt the resolution to authorize performance pay/merit based increases up to 2.5%.

Alcoholic Beverage Manager’s License Application: Mayor Holder said we have for consideration an application made by Ms. Kelly McKuhen for an alcoholic beverage manager’s license to sell wines, beer and/or malt beverages at Parker’s 4219 Augusta Road, Garden City.

Upon motion by Councilmember Bethune, seconded by Councilmember Campbell, City Council voted unanimously to approve the alcoholic beverage manager’s license application by Kelly McKuhen.

Councilmember George said Ron has been serving in the City Manager role for over eighteen months. He said there have not been any bumps and he is doing a fine job for us.

Councilmember George said I would encourage citizens to look at the agenda, because the main reason we implemented property taxes was to be able to purchase equipment for our public safety departments. He said I would like to thank our residents and businesses, because it is their tax money that is buying this equipment.

Councilmember Bethune said the GICH Team along with Habitat for Humanity will hold a public meeting at the Cooper Center on August 11. He said GICH and Habitat for Humanity have partnered together in a Revitalizing the Neighborhood Program.

Adjournment: Upon motion by Mayor Holder, seconded by Councilmember Bethune, City Council adjourned the meeting at 7:57 p.m.

Transcribed by: Clerk of Council

Approved by City Council: 8/17/15