

MINUTES
City Council Meeting
Monday, February 6, 2017 – 6:00 p.m.

Call to Order: Mayor Bethune welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Opening: Mayor Pro-tem Campbell gave the invocation and Mayor Bethune invited everyone to join in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Roll Call:

Members: Mayor Don Bethune presided. **Council Members:** Bruce Campbell, Rosetta Cody, Marcia Daniel, Bessie Kicklighter, Debbie Ruiz and Kim Tice.

Staff: Ron Feldner, City Manager; Rhonda Ferrell-Bowles, Clerk of Council; James P. Gerard, City Attorney; Ben Brengman, IT Director; Major Gilbert Ballard, GCPD; Cliff Ducey, Recreation Director; Pam Franklin, HR Director; Corbin Medeiros, Interim Fire Chief; Jackie Jackson, Special Projects Coordinator, Benny Googe, Public Works Director. Absent: Ron Alexander, Planning Director and Charles Draeger, Water Operations Director.

Presentation – Retirement Proclamation: Mayor Bethune presented a proclamation to congratulate Mr. Jackie Williams upon his retirement from the City. He said Mr. Williams is retiring after 36 years with the City' water operations department. He said I would like to thank Mr. Williams for his dedicated service and I extend my personal best wishes upon his well-earned retirement.

Mr. Williams thanked the Mayor and Council. He said I have enjoyed working with everyone and serving the citizens.

Informal Public Comment: Mayor Bethune opened the floor to receive public comment from the audience. There being no questions or comments, Mayor Bethune closed the informal public comment portion of the meeting.

Formal Public Comment: Mayor Bethune said we have a formal request from the Garden City Housing Team, Inc., to address City Council. He introduced Ms. Sharon Bethune, Co-Chairperson and Ms. Jennifer West of Garden City Housing Team, Inc.

Ms. Sharon Bethune highlighted the endeavors accomplished in 2016 by the housing team members, volunteers, and the businesses/organizations that partnered with the Garden City Housing Team. She said we have a busy year ahead and gave an overview of some the upcoming projects/activities that the Housing Team has planned in 2017.

Public Hearing:

PC1628, Rezoning Request: McAllaster Financial LP, property owner, request to rezone 1140 Dean Forest Road from R-I-N to C-2. Mayor Bethune said the petition was withdrawn by the applicant.

City Council Minutes:

Upon motion by Councilmember Campbell, seconded by Councilmember Daniel, City Council voted unanimously to approve the city council minutes dated 1/17/16 and the workshop synopsis dated 1/30/17.

Staff Reports:

HR Director presented the Human Resources Department's report. She said the Employee Service Awards Ceremony is scheduled for tomorrow at 11:00 a.m.

Mayor Bethune said we received the second installment of the grant funding for the Health & Wellness Program.

HR Director said we started a workplace wellness program last June. She said we are pleased that we were awarded the grant to receive funding for this program.

IT Director presented the Information Technology Department's report.

Public Works Director presented the Public Works Department's report. Councilmember Tice asked the Public Works Director to look into who is responsible for picking up the trash along State Route 25 from the Food Lion Shopping Center down to Brampton Road. Public Works Director said we will look at it.

Mayor Bethune said that is the area that needed the most attention when we did the Keep Chatham Beautiful clean up last year. He said another cleanup is being planned for this year.

Councilmember Tice said the area between Pipemaker's up to Highway 307 has a lot of trash too. Public Works Director said we will look at it.

Parks & Recreation Director presented the Parks & Recreation Department's report. He said our opening day parade/festivities is April 1st and April 8th is the Easter Eggstravgana at Sharon Park. He said I would like to thank Jackie Williams for helping the Recreation Department with Water/Sewer issues through the years. He said we really appreciate him and all he did.

Items for Consideration:

Resolution – Chatham City Lift Station Improvements Bid Award: Clerk of Council read a resolution by the Mayor and City Council of Garden City, Georgia, to award the Chatham City Lift Station Improvements Project to the lowest bidder Southern Champion Construction, Inc., at the bid amount of \$648,300.00 and to authorize the City Manager to execute the required contract documents to commence work on the project.

City Manager said several years ago we got a GEFA loan to take on several big water/sewer projects. He said this is the final project to be completed. He said contractor will be starting to work on this project in the next couple of weeks.

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

Mayor Bethune announced that the Georgia Ports Authority will hold a Town Meeting at the Garden City Gym on February 28 from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. He said I would like to encourage the residents and business owners stop by to look at their Highway 25 improvement plan. He said the improvements will make a big difference in the train traffic.

Adjournment: Upon motion by Councilmember Tice, seconded by Councilmember Cody, City Council unanimously adjourned the meeting at 6:57 p.m.

Transcribed & submitted by: Clerk of Council
Approved by City Council: 2/20/17