

# MINUTES

## City Council Meeting Tuesday, January 21, 2020 – 6:00 p.m.

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

**Opening:** Pastor Bruce Campbell, Oak Baptist Church gave the invocation and Mayor Bethune led City Council in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

### Attendees

**City Council Members:** Mayor Bethune, Mayor Pro-tem Bessie Kicklighter, Councilmember Marcia Daniel, Councilmember Richard Lassiter, Jr., Councilmember Natalyn Morris, Councilmember Debbie Ruiz and Councilmember Kim Tice.

**Staff Members:** Ron Feldner, City Manager; James P. Gerard, City Attorney; Rhonda Ferrell-Bowles, Clerk of Council; Pam Franklin, HR Director; Ben Brengman, IT Director; Cliff Ducey, Parks & Recreation Director; Benny Googe, Public Works Director; Scott Robider, City Marshall; Gil Ballard, Chief of Police; and Corbin Medeiros, Fire Chief.

**Presentation:** Mayor Bethune read a proclamation recognizing January 26 – February 1, 2020 as School Choice Week in Garden City.

**Informal Public Comment:** Mayor Bethune opened the floor to receive comment from the audience. Mr. Jackson Selph, 2622 Woodlawn Avenue, said I would like for the City to have better fields for more ball tournaments. I would like to see the City give more money to repair its ball fields. I have a list of repairs to give to the City Manager.

Mayor Bethune asked Mr. Selph to give the list to the City Manager. City Manager said I will get with the Recreation Director on the list. Mayor Bethune said the Recreation Director and his staff do a good job.

Mayor Bethune asked if there was anyone else in the audience who wished to address City Council. There being no further comments or questions from the audience, Mayor Bethune closed the information public comment portion of the meeting.

**City Council Minutes:** Councilmember Tice made a motion to approve the city council minutes dated 11/18/19. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Daniel and passed without opposition.

### Staff Reports:

HR Director presented the Human Resources Department's year-end report for 2019.

Councilmember Morris asked if the twelve employee separations were all voluntary? HR Director replied that four of the employee separations were for cause; four employees located to other counties; three employees left for other jobs and one employee left because they needed to stay home more.

Councilmember Morris asked if any of the worker comp accidents were avoidable? HR Director replied that some were.

Councilmember Morris asked do you have diversity training? HR Director replied that leadership training was held last year. Councilmember Morris stated that she didn't see any training listed in the report for last year. HR Director replied that she didn't list it, but could start putting it in the report.

Councilmember Morris stated that she saw several job openings listed on the website, but didn't see openings for twelve positions. HR Director replied that decisions hadn't been made to fill some of the positions.

IT Director presented the IT Department's year-end report for 2019.

Councilmember Lassiter asked if the new computers at the Cooper Center were new or used? IT Director replied that they are new computers donated by the Georgia Ports Authority.

Recreation Director presented the Parks & Recreation Department's year-end report for 2019.

Councilmember Lassiter asked if there any plans to upgrade the basketball goals behind the Cooper Center? He stated that they have been there since I was a kid. Recreation Director replied that we are looking at replacing the backboards.

City Marshall presented the Planning Department's year-end report for 2019.

Public Works Director presented the Public Works Department's year-end report for 2019.

Councilmember Lassiter asked if there is a breakdown of the total hours spent in each particular district. Public Works Director replied that it's hard to keep up with the number of hours. Councilmember Lassiter inquired then how do you keep up with a list on where to go. Public Works Director asked are you speaking about grass cutting or street sweeping.

Mayor Bethune stated that when you cut grass you can go back and look at it to see if needs cutting. He stated that public works can't sweep the streets unless the street has curb and gutter. Councilmember Lassiter stated that there are a lot of curbed streets in Rossignol Hill. Public Works Director stated that the sweeper stayed in the shop most of last year.

Councilmember Morris asked can you bring me up to speed on the Chatham Villa drainage project? What is the timeframe for completion? City Manager stated that Mill Creek is the contractor. Curb and gutter are only going in on the street that they are currently working on. The project is nearing completion.

Councilmember Lassiter asked if public works had looked at the drainage in front of the Haynes field. Public Works Director replied that the drainage pipe needs to be replaced. We are trying to get the contractor doing the Chatham Villa drainage project to look at replacing the drainage pipe.

Councilmember Daniel stated that public works does an excellent job with the resources they have and Councilmember Tice thanked the Public Works Director for a good job.

Chief of Police presented the Police Department's year-end report for 2019.

Fire Chief presented the Fire Department's year-end report for 2019.

**City Manager's Updates & Announcements:** City Manager reported that a large tree fell last Sunday on Nelson Avenue and took out the power lines. The tree fell due to a rotting root system. Since the tree was on the property owner's land we had no way of inspecting the tree. The tree has been cut up and will be hauled off this week.

**Items for Consideration:**

**Resolution, CVB Funds Transfer Request:** Clerk of Council read the heading of a resolution authorizing a transfer of funds in the amount of \$21,600.00 from the City's Tourism Fund to the Garden City Area Convention and Visitors Bureau Authority (CVB) to cover the difference between the Authority's budgetary expenses for the first quarter of fiscal year 2020 and the anticipated monthly hotel/motel tax revenues to be received by the Authority from the City during such first quarter pursuant to the terms of that certain agreement between the City and the Authority dated as of January 1, 2020.

City Manager stated that the Convention Visitors Bureau Authority (CVB) has been operating for about ten years under the direct oversight of the City. In 2019, the CVB started functioning independently from the City. The CVB is requesting a transfer of funds from the Tourism Fund account retained by the City so they function during the first quarter. The CVB will be issuing the City monthly financial/budgetary reports.

Councilmember Ruiz made a motion to adopt the resolution. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Tice and passed without opposition.

**Resolution, Chief Judge Agreement:** Clerk of Council read the heading of a resolution by the City Council to authorize the Mayor to execute an agreement between the City and Billy Tomlinson which sets forth the terms of Mr. Tomlinson's appointment as the Chief Judge of the Garden City Municipal Court.

City Manager stated that the City's Charter requires City Council to appoint certain positions of the City. The various appointments listed for consideration on tonight's agenda are such positions.

Councilmember Kicklighter made a motion to adopt the resolution. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Tice and passed without opposition.

**Resolution, Associate Judge Agreement:** Clerk of Council read the heading of a resolution by the City Council to authorize the Mayor to execute an agreement between the City and Brian Joseph Huffman, Jr., which sets forth the terms of Mr. Huffman's appointment as the Associate Judge of the Garden City Municipal Court.

Councilmember Kicklighter made a motion to adopt the resolution. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Daniel and passed without opposition.

**Resolution, Judge Pro Tem Agreement:** Clerk of Council read the heading of a resolution by the City Council to authorize the Mayor to execute an agreement between the City and Richard Sanders, Jr., which sets forth the terms of Mr. Sander's appointment as Judge Pro Tem of the Garden City Municipal Court.

Councilmember Kicklighter made a motion to adopt the resolution. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Tice and passed without opposition.

**Resolution, Prosecuting Attorney Agreement:** Clerk of Council read the heading of a resolution by the City Council to authorize the Mayor to execute an agreement between the City and Nathanael Wright which sets forth the terms of Mr. Wright's appointment as the City's Prosecuting Attorney on a part-time basis.

Councilmember Ruiz made a motion to adopt the resolution. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Daniel and passed without opposition.

**Resolution, Prosecuting Attorney Agreement:** Clerk of Council read the heading of a resolution by the City Council to authorize the Mayor to execute an agreement between the City and Don Montgomery which sets forth the terms of Mr. Montgomery appointment as the City's Prosecuting Attorney on a part-time basis.

Councilmember Kicklighter made a motion to adopt the resolution. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Daniel and passed without opposition.

**Resolution, Public Defender Agreement:** Clerk of Council read the heading of a resolution by the City Council to authorize the Mayor to execute an agreement between the City and Ryan D. Langlois which sets forth the terms of Mr. Langlois' appointment as the City's Public Defender on a part-time basis.

Councilmember Daniel made a motion to adopt the resolution. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Ruiz and passed without opposition.

**Resolution, Public Defender Agreement:** Clerk of Council read the heading of a resolution by the City Council to authorize the Mayor to execute an agreement between the City and Crystal D. Harmon which sets forth the terms of Ms. Harmon's appointment as the City's Public Defender on a part-time basis.

Councilmember Kicklighter made a motion to adopt the resolution. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Tice and passed without opposition.

**Resolution, Judge Pro-tem Appointment:** Clerk of Council read the heading of a resolution by the Mayor and Council to appoint Douglas G. Andrews to serve as Judge Pro Tem of the Garden City Municipal Court.

Councilmember Tice made a motion to adopt the resolution. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Daniel and passed without opposition.

**Resolution, Judge Pro-tem Appointment:** Clerk of Council read the heading of a resolution by the Mayor and Council to appoint James P. Gerard to serve as Judge Pro Tem of the Garden City Municipal Court.

Councilmember Kicklighter made a motion to adopt the resolution. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Ruiz and passed without opposition.

**City Attorney Appointment:** Consideration by the Mayor and Council to appoint James P. Gerard to serve as City Attorney.

Councilmember Kicklighter made a motion to adopt the resolution. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Daniel and passed without opposition.

**Board of Zoning Appeals / Planning Commission Appointments:** Motion by the Mayor and Council to appoint four persons to serve new four-year terms beginning in February 2020 until the terms expire and the Mayor and Council appoints successors at the first regular Council meeting in January 2024.

Mayor Bethune opened the floor to receive nominations from City Council. Councilmember Daniel stated that she would like to add Bruce Campbell to the list of nominees. Mayor Bethune stated that there are four seats open on the board so you can only vote up to four. He stated that once you have finished casting your vote, please give your ballot to the City Attorney so he can tabulate the votes.

City Attorney stated that you can't vote more than four, because you are only voting for four seats on the board.

Mayor Bethune stated that while we are waiting for the City Attorney to tabulate the votes, I would like to recognize Mr. Michael Brown, Director of the Chatham Area Transit in our audience. Mr. Brown has invited City Council to attend a Chatham Area Transit meeting tomorrow night.

Councilmember Morris inquired do we customarily take nominations when volunteer board appointments come up. City Manager stated that we have a roster of board members with term limits. We start in October discussing this with Council. The former planning director reached to the four board members with terms expiring in January 2020 to see if they were interested in serving another term. The board members expressed their desire to stay on. When positions come up for appointment on volunteer boards you all generally know someone who wants to serve. We have positions on the City's Convention Visitors Bureau if you know of someone.

Councilmember Morris stated that this is my first time to hear about selecting someone to serve. City Manager said that is why we are bringing up the Convention Visitors Bureau appointments later. There is an urgency to move forward tonight on the Board of Appeals / Planning Commission appointments, because they have a meeting in February.

City Attorney stated that the votes for the nominees for appointment to the Board of Appeals / Planning Commission are as follows: Gary Monroe (5 votes), Nancy Cox (6 votes), Jimmy Crosby (7 votes), Charles Orrel (7 votes) and Bruce Campbell (3 votes). As such, the top vote getters were Gary Monroe, Nancy Cox, Jimmy Crosby and Charles Orrel. City Attorney stated that the ballots and tabulation sheet should be attached as part of the official minutes.

**President of Council Appointment:** Motion by the Mayor and Council to appoint a member of City Council as President of Council to serve a two (2) year-term commencing January 2020 and expiring when a successor is appointed by City Council at the first regular Council meeting in January 2022.

Mayor Bethune stated that the President of Council will fill in if both the Mayor and Mayor Pro-tem are unable to attend meetings.

Mayor Bethune asked for nominees from the Council. Councilmember Ruiz stated that she would like to nominate Councilmember Tice to serve as President of Council. Mayor Bethune asked if there were any other nominees. There being no further nominees, Councilmember Kicklighter made a motion to appoint Councilmember Tice to serve as President of Council. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Daniel and passed without opposition.

**Adjournment:** There being no further items to discuss, Mayor Bethune called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Upon motion by Councilmember Tice, seconded by Councilmember Ruiz, City Council unanimously adjourned the at 6:56 p.m.

Attachment

*Transcribed & submitted by: Clerk of Council*

*Accepted & approved by: City Council 2/3/20*

**City Council Vote 1/21/20 - BOA/ PC Member Appointments (Term January 2020 - January 2024)**

<u>City Council Member</u>	<u>BOA / PC Member Nominees</u>					<u>Write-in</u>	<u>Write-in</u>
	<u>Gary Monroe</u>	<u>Nancy Cox</u>	<u>Jimmy Crosby</u>	<u>Charles Orrel</u>	<u>BC</u>		
	Councilmember Daniel		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Councilmember Kicklighter	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Councilmember Lassiter	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Councilmember Morris	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Councilmember Ruiz		✓	✓	✓	✓		
Councilmember Tice	✓		✓	✓	✓		
Mayor Bethune	✓	✓	✓	✓			
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>		

**City Council Vote 1/21/20 - BOA/PC Appointments (Term January 2020 - January 2024)**

<u>City Council Ballot</u>	BOA / PC Member Nominees					Write-in	Write-in
	Gary Monroe	Nancy Cox	Jimmy Crosby	Charles Orrel	Bruce Campbell		
Councilmember Daniel		X	X	X	X		

City Council Vote 1/21/20 - BOA/PC Member Appointments (Term January 2020 - January 2024)

City Council Ballot	BOA / PC Member Nominees					Write-in	Write-in
	Gary Monroe	Nancy Cox	Jimmy Crosby	Charles Orrel			
Councilmember Kicklighter	✓	✓	✓	✓		Brice	

*[Handwritten scribbles and signatures]*

**City Council Vote 1/21/20 - BOA/PC Member Appointments (Term January 2020 - January 2024)**

<u>City Council Ballot</u>	BOA / PC Member Nominees					
					Write-in	Write-in
	<b>Gary Monroe</b>	<b>Nancy Cox</b>	<b>Jimmy Crosby</b>	<b>Charles Orrel</b>		
Councilmember Lassiter, Jr.	✓	✓	✓	✓		

**City Council Vote 1/21/20 - BOA/PC Member Appointments (Term January 2020 - January 2024)**

<u>City Council Ballot</u>	BOA / PC Member Nominees					Write-in	Write-in
	Gary Monroe	Nancy Cox	Jimmy Crosby	Charles Orrel			
Councilmember Morris	✓	✓	✓	✓		Bruce Campbell	

**City Council Vote 1/21/20 - BOA/PC Member Appointments (Term January 2020 - January 2024)**

<u>City Council Ballot</u>	BOA / PC Member Nominees					Write-in	Write-in
	Gary Monroe	Nancy Cox	Jimmy Crosby	Charles Orrel			
Councilmember Ruiz		X	X	X		Bruce Campbell	



**City Council Vote 1/21/20 - BOA/PC Member Appointments (Term January 2020 - January 2024)**

<u>City Council Ballot</u>	BOA / PC Member Nominees					
					Write-in	Write-in
	<b>Gary Monroe</b>	<b>Nancy Cox</b>	<b>Jimmy Crosby</b>	<b>Charles Orrel</b>		
Mayor Bethune	X	X	X	X		