



MINUTES

PUBLIC HEARING
January 13, 2009, 6:15 PM

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
January 13, 2009, 6:30 PM

PUBLIC HEARING:

Call to Order: The January 13, 2009 Public Hearing to discuss the 2008 Tax Millage Rate was called to order by Mayor William C. Stewart, Jr. at 6:15 p.m.

Attendance: Mayor William C. Stewart, Jr., Keith Turman, Jason Phillips, David Jordan, Kenneth Roach, Wayne Braswell, Mayor Pro-Tem Angie Pressley, Mike Green, City Attorney, Gloria Brown, City Clerk, and Greg Scott, City Manager.

Public Hearing: No Public Comment.

Close Public Hearing: Mayor Stewart closed the public hearing at 6:30 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING:

Call to Order: The January 13, 2009 Regular Council Meeting was called to order by Mayor William C. Stewart, Jr. at 6:30 p.m.

Attendance: Mayor William C. Stewart, Jr., Keith Turman, Jason Phillips, David Jordan, Kenneth Roach, Wayne Braswell, Mayor Pro-Tem Angie Pressley, Mike Green, City Attorney, Gloria Brown, City Clerk, and Greg Scott, City Manager.

Approval of Minutes: Keith Turman made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2008 Regular Council Meeting; Kenneth Roach seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.

Additions or Deletions to Agenda:

1. Discussion of an Anonymous Letter Received – David Jordan

Approval of Agenda: Kenneth Roach made a motion to approve agenda; Jason Phillips seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.

Departmental Quarterly Reports:

DDA Report – Chuck Viers: Chuck reported that the DCA has a new BHT coordinator for our area and that the new coordinator will be reviewing Royston's BHT program in June 2009. The Design Committee of the DDA is almost ready to present new guidelines for the Façade Grant Program offered by the DDA. Chuck also asked that new board members be considered in the appointments for 2009.

New Business:

- A. **Set 2008 Tax Millage Rate – Mayor Stewart:** Angie made a motion for the City to remain at 10 mills for the 2008 tax rate; Wayne Braswell seconded the motion; discussion held regarding extending the HRTG rate of \$80.00 per homestead exemption and whether or not to bill the \$80.00 to taxpayers if the State decides not to reimburse the City; motion for the City to remain at 10 mills for the 2008 tax rate carried 5-1. David Jordan made a motion to extend the HRTG credit and not bill taxpayers for \$80.00 if the State fails to reimburse the City; motion seconded by Jason Phillips; motion carried 5-1.
- B. **Set Election Qualifying Fees – Mayor Stewart:** Kenneth Roach made a motion to set the election qualifying fees at \$35.00; Wayne Braswell seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.
- C. **Appointments for 2009 – Mayor Stewart:** Keith Turman made a motion to reappoint F. Mayes Davison as City Judge, Michael Green as City Attorney, and Gloria Brown as City Clerk for 2009; motion seconded by Jason Phillips; motion carried 6-0.

Appointment of an Election Superintendent was tabled until Mike Green can contact the Franklin County Board of Elections to possibly enter into an intergovernmental agreement to handle the City elections.

D. Committee Assignments for 2009 – Mayor Stewart:

Mayor Stewart appointed the following committees for 2009:

| <u>Committee</u> | <u>Chairman</u> | <u>Co-Chairman</u> |
|---|-----------------|--------------------|
| Water, Sewer, and Building Permits | Keith Turman | Jason Phillips |
| Personnel, Budget, Finance, Taxes, and Business License | Wayne Braswell | Angie Pressley |
| Police, Library, and City Hall | Angie Pressley | Keith Turman |
| Natural Gas, Cemetery, and Industry | David Jordan | Wayne Braswell |
| Fire, Zoning, and Parks & Recreation | Jason Phillips | Kenneth Roach |
| Street, Sanitation, and Shop | Kenneth Roach | David Jordan |

DDA Board Members recommended by Chuck Viers are Margie Moore, Louise Cheek, and Christy Malcom, all whose terms go through 2013; Keith Turman made a motion to approve; Wayne Braswell seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.

- E. **Mayor Pro-Tem for 2009 – Bill Stewart:** Mayor Stewart called for nominations of Mayor Pro-Tem; Kenneth Roach made a motion to nominate Wayne Braswell as Mayor Pro-Tem; Keith Turman seconded the motion. David Jordan made a motion to nominate Jason Phillips as Mayor Pro-Tem; Angie Pressley seconded the motion. Angie Pressley made a motion to close the nominations; Kenneth Roach seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0. Mayor Stewart called for a vote approving Wayne Braswell – 2 votes received; Mayor Stewart called for a vote approving Jason Phillips – 3 votes received with one abstention; Mike Green advised that the abstaining vote has to be counted as a vote in approval for a necessary quorum, therefore giving Jason Phillips 4 votes. Jason Phillips received a majority of the votes and is the Mayor Pro-Tem for 2009.

- F. Adoption of Natural Gas Alcohol Misuse Prevention Plan & Anti-Drug Plan – Greg Scott:** Greg advised Council that this plan is required by the Municipal Gas Authority (MGAG). Angie Pressley made a motion to adopt; Keith Turman seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.
- G. Budget Amendment – Greg Scott:** The police department received donations of \$600.00 for the purchase of a bicycle, therefore a budget amendment is needed for both the revenue and the expense of the bicycle. Jason Phillips made a motion to approve; Kenneth Roach seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.
- H. Discussion of an Anonymous Letter Received – David Jordan:** Mr. Jordan advised Council that had received an anonymous letter signed as concerned citizens with complaints regarding the police dispatch department, noting want of assurance that the City is spending tax dollars wisely. Discussion held. Mr. Jordan would like to respond and will possibly put a letter in the paper with those responses.

Old Business:

- A. 2nd Reading of Addition to Animal Control Ordinance – Mike Green:** Mike Green read the addition to the ordinance. Jason Phillips made a motion to approve; Angie Pressley seconded the motion; discussion held; motion carried 6-0.
- B. Review of Sidewalk Café License Fee – Greg Scott:** Greg reported that we have not had any applications for this license and recommends extending the suspension of the license fee for 2009. David Jordan made a motion to approve the suspension of license fees for 2009; Wayne Braswell seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.
- C. Civic Center Rental Agreement – Greg Scott:** Greg advised that in item 11. on the Civic Center Rental Agreement the wording has been changed regarding commercial use. Wayne Braswell made a Motion to approve; Jason Phillips seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.

*****Action Items: None***

Executive Session: David Jordan made a motion to enter into executive session to discuss personnel; Jason Phillips seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0. Executive session entered at approximately 7:40 p.m.

Kenneth made a motion to reopen the meeting at 8:25 p.m.; Jason Phillips seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.

Mayor Stewart advised the Personnel Committee would meet with Greg Scott toward the end of the week.

In other business Greg advised Council that the police department dispatch also monitors the lift station alarms and responsible for calling the “on-call” persons during need of emergency and/or after-hours utility needs.

Adjourn: Jason Phillips a motion to adjourn; Wayne Braswell seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Mayor William C. Stewart, Jr.

Gloria A. Brown, City Clerk/Financial Manager

(SEAL)

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