



MINUTES
CALLED COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 1, 2010, 12:00 Noon

Call to Order: The March 1, 2010 Called Meeting was called to order by Mayor David L. Jordan at 12:07 pm

Attendance: Mayor David L. Jordan, Matt Fields, Kenneth Roach, Mayor Pro-Tem Keith Turman, Clark Williams, Larry Bowen, Mike Green, City Attorney and Gloria Brown, City Clerk.

Additions or Deletions to Agenda:

1. Property Tax Exemption for Seniors – Gloria Brown
2. Resolution in Support of Library Grant – Mayor Jordan

Approval of Agenda: Keith Turman made a motion to approve the agenda; Kenneth Roach seconded the motion; motion carried 5-0.

New Business:

- Georgia Forestry Commission/ARRA Grant Contract Approval – Donnie Bolemon:** Mayor Jordan advised Council that the City has received a grant award for \$20,000.00 for trees and planting for the Wellness Park. A letter of commitment to expend the funds and approval to sign the grant contract. A motion to approve letter of commitment and signing of contract was made by Kenneth Roach; Larry Bowen seconded the motion; motion carried 5-0.
- CBDG Grant Contract for Sewer Line Replacement and Storm Drainage – Mayor Jordan:** Mayor Jordan read a resolution in support of applying for a \$500,000 CBDG Grant for replacement of sewer lines and storm water drainage in the Jordan Street, College Street, Grove Street, Putnam Street, and a portion of Cherry Street areas. Butch Watson advised Council that he is suggesting a \$100,000 match from SPLOST funds and in-kind services to replace water lines in the targeted area as well. Discussion held. Kenneth Roach made a motion to approve signing the grant contract and using \$100,000 of SPLOST money as matching funds; Keith Turman seconded the motion; motion carried 5-0.
- Property Tax Exemption for Seniors – Gloria Brown:** Gloria advised that she has completed research regarding a property tax exemption for homeowners 65 and older. And that the City cannot extend an exemption without going through the legislative process and then placing the proposal on a local ballot for citizens to vote upon. She is recommending that we proceed with the legislative process by approving a type of homestead exemption for homeowner's primary residences, with regular homestead exemption filed with the county they live in, at a \$10,000.00 exemption, which would mean a \$100.00 exemption from City property tax. Also, this exemption will not affect the reimbursement of the Governor's HRTG when and if the State of Georgia votes the grant back in. A public hearing will be necessary and the City Attorney will draft the local legislation to be given to Alan Powell to present for approval at the State level. The cost to the City would be around \$20,700.00 in property tax revenue per year. Keith Turman made a motion to approve; Kenneth Roach seconded the motion; motion carried 5-0.

D. Resolution in Support of Library Grant – Mayor Jordan: Mayor Jordan advised that Kathryn Ames, of the Athens Regional Library has been advised of a \$50,000.00 grant that they would like to apply for that will assist the proposed new library in Royston. The grant money, if awarded, would be used for a computer lab in the new library. Mayor Jordan is asking Council to support the application of this grant by a resolution. Larry Bowen made a motion to approve the resolution; Clark Williams seconded the motion; motion carried 5-0.

Adjourn: A motion was made by Kenneth Roach to adjourn; motion seconded by Matt Fields; motion carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 12:21 p.m.

David L. Jordan, Mayor

Gloria A. Brown, City Clerk/Financial Manager

(SEAL)

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