



MINUTES

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
November 9, 2010, 6:30 pm

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING:

Call to Order: The November 9, 2010 Regular Council Meeting was called to order by Mayor David L. Jordan at 6:30 pm.

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

Approval of Minutes: Kenneth Roach made a motion to approve the October 12, 2010 Regular Council Meeting minutes and the October 26, 2010 Called Meeting/Work Session minutes; Wayne Braswell seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.

Additions or Deletions to Agenda:

1. Employee Christmas Bonus – Greg Scott
2. Certify Election Results – Gloria Brown
3. GEFA Loan for Wireless Water Meters – Greg Scott
4. Royston Hospital Authority Board Authority Discussion – David Jordan
5. Police Retirement – Greg Scott
6. Tanglewood Street Project – Greg Scott
7. Water Bill Grievance/Jim and Maralee Dickson – Wayne Braswell
8. Gas Department Issue – Douglas Dove

Approval of Agenda: Mayor Jordan asked that Items M and N become A and B so that they can be heard first; Keith Turman made a motion to approve; Kenneth Roach seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.

DDA Update – Mitch Skelton: The DDA Board did not have a quorum present at the last meeting, therefore there will be a called meeting at the Welcome Center on Thursday, November 11, 2010 at 6:00 pm. The Lions Club has committed to purchasing some park furniture and donation of work-hours; also the Pilot Club will have a letter of commitment to the park soon for in-kind services. The Gospel Fest and Fall Festival were very successful events; Christmas Parade is December 4, 2010 at 6:00 pm and the theme is “Old Time Christmas”; J. D. Royston will be the Grand Marshall, he is the oldest living member of the original Royston family (81 years of age). Beautification Day is November 13, 2010 and on December 9, 2010 there will be Celebrate Holidays in Royston. DDA has encouraged all business owners to remain open; there will be music, Santa, and an Elf. December 3, 2010 is the next DDA meeting. Mayor Jordan asked that the DDA consider extra officers and Explorers along the parade route for safety purposes.

New Business:

- A. **Water Bill Grievance/Jim and Maralee Dickson – Wayne Braswell:** Mr. Braswell advised the Council that Jim Dickson had complained that there is a discrepancy in his recent water bills and

believes that it is due to a faulty water meter. The normal usage is 4,200 gallons and it has recently been 68,500 and 85,800, which results in a very large bill. Butch Watson has tested the meter several times and found no problem, but did, at Mr. Dickson's request, replace the meter. And Mr. Dickson indicated that the reading seems to be normal now. Greg Scott advised Council that he knows of no instance where the City has had a meter fail by speeding up. Discussion held. Wayne Braswell made a motion to hold the water bill with no late fees until testing is completed on the meter and if the meter is found to be faulty the normal usage will be billed and a refund of any over payment. Further discussion held. Larry Bowen recommended that the water committee do an investigation and give Council a recommendation on policy for testing of meters that have extensively high readings. Greg Scott asked Council's pleasure if the meter tests ok. Wayne Braswell made a motion to abate the water bill with 68,500 gallons of usage back to an average usage and reduce the \$339.95 to the average bill of \$34.17; Kenneth Roach seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0. Further testing will be performed on the meter.

- B. Gas Department Issue – Douglas Dove:** Mr. Dove advised Council he would like to see a return policy printed on receipts for purchases at the Gas Store. Discussion held. Council asked Greg Scott to follow up on this.

- C. Budget Amendment for Tri-Co. Wellness Park Grant – Gloria Brown:** Gloria advised Council that we are now to the point of requesting reimbursement of funds from the Recreational Trails Grant and need to budget the revenue and expense. Keith Turman made a motion to approve; Kenneth Roach seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.

- D. Hart County Water Service Delivery Strategy – Greg Scott:** Greg advised Council that it is time to renew the Hart County Water Service Delivery Strategy. Pat Gorin of the Hart County Industrial Water Authority is present and advised that the Authority had adopted this earlier tonight. Wayne Braswell made a motion to approve; Keith Turman seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.

- E. Rezoning Request, 31 Grizzle Street, Residential to Neighborhood Shopping – Candy Ross:** Candy advised that the Zoning Board has approved the request. Keith Turman made a motion to approve; Matt Fields seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.

- F. Rezoning Request, 218 Franklin Springs St., Variance Change from 60' to 25' – Candy Ross:** Candy advised this variance is for commercial use and is for an ice machine; the DOT has approved as long as the machine is behind the sidewalk. There is sufficient parking. The Zoning Board has approved the request. Keith Turman made a motion to approve; Clark Williams seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.

- G. Contract Approval for Ga. Mountain Regional Commission to Write TE Grant – Greg Scott:** This contract is for the Depot Renovation and Phase III Streetscape project. Clark Williams made a motion to approve; Larry Bowen seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.

- H. FY2010 Audit Presentation – John Holden of Rushton & Co.:** John Holden thanked Council for the opportunity of performing their audit for the past several years. John advised Council that a clean opinion has been issued for the FY2010 audit; he then went over the audit figures for the General Fund, Water/Sewer Fund, Gas Fund, and the Sanitation Fund. John advised Council that the City's staff had done a very good job holding costs down and had improved the financial position somewhat over last year.

- I. **Employee Christmas Bonus – Greg Scott:** Greg advised that the City does budget for a \$100.00 Christmas Bonus each year and asks Council approval. Keith Turman made a motion to approve; Wayne Braswell seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.
- J. **Certify Election Results – Gloria Brown:** Gloria advised Council that since the special election was for a referendum question, the results of 314 Yes votes and 21 No votes require certification from Council. Keith Turman made a motion to certify the results; Kenneth Roach seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.
- K. **GEFA Loan for Wireless Water Meters – Greg Scott:** Greg advised Council that the City applied for a grant and resulted in approval for a 10-year loan at 3% interest and 2% closing cost. Greg feels that we now have some things in place so that we can reapply next year and receive grant funds. Greg recommends that we do not enter into a long-term debt at this time. The City will begin to phase in a few of the automated water meters and look into purchasing the software to support the automated system. Wayne Braswell made a motion to accept Greg’s recommendation not to enter into a long-term debt at this time; Kenneth Roach seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.
- L. **Tanglewood Street Project – Greg Scott:** Greg asked Council approval to go ahead with a RFP & Bid Procedure to repair the bad area of this street and feels that it can be done for around \$30,000.00 and we can use SPLOST funds. The City would not have to accept any bids on this project. Wayne Braswell made a motion to approve; Matt Fields seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.
- M. **Police Retirement – Greg Scott:** Greg advised Council that Officer Johnny Cleveland has retired and the Donnie Bolemon had advised him that usually the City retires their weapon, through state and legal processes with the retiring officer. The value is approximately \$500.00. Keith Turman made a motion to approve; Larry Bowen seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0. Mayor Jordan asked Gloria to make sure the auditors did not have a problem with this.

Old Business:

- A. **2nd Reading of Amended Alcohol Ordinance – Mike Green:** Mike Green read the ordinance and advised Council a vote was in order. Wayne Braswell made a motion to approve; Clark Williams seconded the motion. Discussion held regarding Page 28, Section 6-137. Wayne Braswell amended his motion to strike this section and replace with “Reserved”; Clark Williams seconded the amended motion; motion carried 6-0.

Executive Session: Keith Turman made a motion to enter into executive session to discuss real estate, potential litigation, and personnel; Wayne Braswell seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0. Executive session entered at 8:34 pm.

Wayne Braswell made a motion to reopen the meeting at 8:43 pm; Clark Williams seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.

Adjourn: Wayne Braswell made a motion to adjourn; Larry Bowen seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:43 pm.

Mayor David L. Jordan

Gloria A. Brown, City Clerk/Financial Manager

(SEAL)

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