

MINUTES
WAYCROSS CITY COMMISSION MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2021
5:00 PM

The Commission of the City of Waycross held their Regular City Commission Meeting on Tuesday, February 2, 2021 in the Commission Chambers of City Hall. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Mayor Michael-Angelo James. Members in attendance were: Mayor Michael-Angelo James, Mayor Pro Tem Henry Strickland, Commissioners Norman Davis, Diane Hopkins, and Marian Solomon-Gaines. Commissioner John Threat was absent.

Commissioner Norman Davis introduced Apostle Janice Thomas, who offered the opening invocation. The Invocation was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor James.

Chief Tommy Cox introduced Carla Nipper of the Police Department as the January Employee of the Month.

There were no public remarks on official action.

Mayor James presented the Consent Calendar as read by City Clerk Michelle Love for consideration of official action as follows:

Approval of Minutes: Planning and Information Session and Executive Session, Tuesday, January 19, 2021, 3:00 p.m.; Waycross City Commission Meeting, Tuesday, January 19, 2021.

No Ordinance was presented for second reading.

There were no Consent Resolutions or Privilege License Renewals.

The Consent Calendar was approved by motion from Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines, seconded by Commissioner Norman Davis. The motion passed with all votes.

Finance Director China Williams Agu presented Bid FY21-16 In Car Cameras and Body Cameras. Purchasing issued bids for 35 car cameras and 35 body cameras for the Waycross Police Department. 4 bids were received. After staff review, it is the recommendation to award the bid to WatchGuard of Allen, Texas. The total bid amount is \$235,800.00. Maintenance and licenses will be \$13,000.00 annually. Commissioner Norman Davis made the motion to approve the bid FY21-16. Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted yes, and the motion passed.

An Ordinance by the City Commission of the City of Waycross, Georgia, to Amend Chapter 38- Traffic and Vehicles, Article I. – In General, Section 38-7. – Parades, Subsection (i) Parade Routes; was presented for an emergency reading:

ORDINANCE NO. 021-04

AN ORDINANCE BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA, TO AMEND CHAPTER 38 – TRAFFIC AND VEHICLES, ARTICLE I. – IN GENERAL, SECTION 38-7. – PARADES, SUBSECTION (j) PARADE ROUTES; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO PROVIDE FOR SEVERABILITY; TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; TO PROVIDE FOR RENUMBERING OR RELETTERING; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY TO ALLOW FOR SECOND READING; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines made the motion to approve the Ordinance amending the Code of the City of Waycross, Georgia Amending Chapter 38, Traffic and Vehicles Article I.- In General as presented for the for the first emergency reading. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Diane Hopkins; and approved with a 4-0 vote.

An Ordinance by the City Commission of the City of Waycross, Georgia, to Amend Chapter 38- Traffic and Vehicles, Article I. – In General, Section 38-7. – Parades, Subsection (i) Parade Routes; was presented for an emergency reading:

ORDINANCE NO. O21-04

AN ORDINANCE BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA, TO AMEND CHAPTER 38 – TRAFFIC AND VEHICLES, ARTICLE I. – IN GENERAL, SECTION 38-7. – PARADES, SUBSECTION (j) PARADE ROUTES; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO PROVIDE FOR SEVERABILITY; TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; TO PROVIDE FOR RENUMBERING OR RELETTERING; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY TO ALLOW FOR SECOND READING; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines made the motion to approve the Ordinance amending the Code of the City of Waycross, Georgia Amending Chapter 38, Traffic and Vehicles Article I.- In General as presented for the for the second emergency reading. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Diane Hopkins. Discussion was made, and the motion approved with all votes.

A Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia to Authorize Execution of Additional Documents Relating to the Agreement with the Georgia Department of Transportation for Albany Avenue Widen and Resurfacing Project was presented for approval.

RESOLUTION NO. R21-10

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA, TO AUTHORIZE EXECUTION OF ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE AGREEMENT WITH THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR ALBANY

AVENUE WIDEN AND RESURFACING PROJECT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the City of Waycross authorized the execution of an agreement by and between the Georgia Department of Transportation and the City of Waycross, Georgia, for the Albany Avenue Widen and Resurfacing Project in Resolution No. R19-58 which Resolution is incorporated herein as if fully set forth; and

WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Transportation has transmitted to the City certain documents that need to be executed by the City of Waycross, namely an Environmental Certification, Right of Way Certification and Utilities Certification; and

WHEREAS, said matter having been read and considered.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor, City Manager, City Clerk and City Attorney are hereby authorized, directed and empowered to execute the Environmental Certification, Right of Way Certification and Utilities Certification for the Albany Avenue Widen and Resurfacing Project, SGRC-153, P.I. 0016312, on behalf of the City of Waycross, and to do all the acts and things necessary in order to carry out the purposes and intent of this Resolution.

SO RESOLVED AND ADOPTED, this 2nd day of February, 2021.

CITY OF WAYCROSS

BY: MICHAEL-ANGELO JAMES, Mayor

ATTEST:

MICHELLE LOVE, City Clerk

Commissioner Norman Davis made the motion to approve a Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia to Authorize Execution of Additional Documents Relating to the Agreement with the Georgia Department of Transportation for Albany Avenue Widen and Resurfacing Project as presented for approval. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines. Commissioner Diane Hopkins requested for City Manager Tonya Miller to explain the resolution. City Attorney Rick Currie requested the floor to explain. Commissioner Diane Hopkins expressed the request for City Manager Tonya Miller to explain. Ms. Miller gave an explanation although City Attorney Currie was more familiar with the resolution from working on it. Ms. Miller also informed the Commission all information pertaining to the resolution was included in the Commission notebooks. The motion was approved after discussion with a 4-0 vote.

Approving Purchase of In-car Cameras and Body Cameras for the Waycross Police Department was the next resolution presented.

RESOLUTION NO. R21-11

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA, TO APPROVE PURCHASE OF IN-CAR CAMERAS AND BODY CAMERAS FOR THE WAYCROSS POLICE DEPARTMENT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the City of Waycross Police Department has approved budgeted funds to purchase thirty-five (35) in-car cameras and thirty-five (35) body cameras for the Waycross Police Department; and

WHEREAS, the Purchasing Department offered the project for the thirty-five (35) in-car cameras and thirty-five (35) body cameras through competitive bidding, and received and opened four (4) bids tendered; and

WHEREAS, Watchguard of Allen, Texas, submitted the lowest and best proposal for the thirty-five (35) in-car cameras and thirty-five (35) body cameras; and

WHEREAS, said matter having been considered.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Commission of the City of Waycross that the Contract for purchase of thirty-five (35) in-car cameras and thirty-five (35) body cameras from Watchguard of Allen, Texas, for a total price of \$235,800.00, with maintenance and licenses being \$13,650.00 annually, and to be paid for from Waycross Police Department budgeted funds.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor, City Clerk, City Director of Purchasing and City Attorney be authorized and directed to execute the Contract on behalf of the City of Waycross, and to do all the acts and things necessary in order to carry out the purposes and intent of this Resolution.

SO RESOLVED, this 2nd day of February, 2021.

CITY OF WAYCROSS
BY: MICHAEL-ANGELO JAMES, Mayor

ATTEST:
MICHELLE LOVE, City Clerk

Commissioner Norman Davis made the motion to approve Purchasing of In-car Cameras and Body Cameras for Waycross Police Department. Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines seconded the motion. After discussion, all voted in favor. The motion passed.

A Resolution of the Waycross City Commission to Approve Rehabilitation Assistance for 908 Quarterman Street as Part of C.H.I.P. Grant Number 2017-112 was presented for review.

RESOLUTION NO. R21-12

**A RESOLUTION OF THE WAYCROSS CITY COMMISSION
TO APPROVE REHABILITATION ASSISTANCE FOR 908 QUARTERMAN STREET
AS PART OF C.H.I.P. GRANT NUMBER 2017-112; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

WHEREAS, the City of Waycross received Georgia Department of Community Affairs Community HOME Improvement (hereinafter “CHIP”) funds for the year 2019, being grant number 2017-112, and is currently administering said grant; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission, in Ordinance Number 19-059, adopted on October 22, 2019, approved the homeowner’s request for rehabilitation assistance in loan number CH17XWAYC-03 in the amount of \$39,778.00 for the property at 908 Quarterman Street; and

WHEREAS, a citizen, Nettie Williams, has a need for rehabilitation assistance and has completed the process and has been approved for rehabilitation assistance; and

WHEREAS, the original amount of the loan was for \$39,778.00 but a change order has increased the loan amount to \$45,675.00; and

WHEREAS, the City should request a draw on the C.H.I.P. grant from the Department of Community Improvement for improvements to the property located at 908 Quarterman Street; and

WHEREAS, said funds are available and the matter has been duly considered;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Commission of the City of Waycross that the City of Waycross hereby approves Nettie Williams’ request for rehabilitation assistance, being loan number CH17XWAYC-03, in compliance with the program policies adopted by the City of Waycross in the increased amount of \$45,675.00 to be paid from C.H.I.P. grant number 2017-112.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor, City Clerk, City Manager, Finance Director, Community Improvement Director and City Attorney be and are hereby authorized, directed, and empowered to execute the documents needed and necessary to submit the application set forth herein, and to do all the acts and things necessary in order to carry out the purposes and intent of this Resolution.

SO RESOLVED this 2nd day of February, 2021, *nunc pro tunc* to 02/01/2020.

CITY OF WAYCROSS

BY: MICHAEL-ANGELO JAMES, Mayor

ATTEST:

MICHELLE LOVE, City Clerk

The Resolution of the Waycross City Commission to Approve Rehabilitation Assistance for 908 Quarterman Street as Part of C.H.I.P. Grant Number 2017-112 was approved with the motion from Commissioner Norman Davis and second by Diane Hopkins. The motion passed with all votes.

Dale Wiley, Waycross, Georgia, addressed the Commission to share with the public a program being created for people with dementia. The program would also assist with grievance counseling. Discussion was made. Mr. Wiley shared his contact information.

Ben Holmes, 408 N. Crawford Street, Waycross, Georgia addressed the Commission about sewer drains and roads being bad in his area. He asked for assistance in fixing the road. Discussion was made. Mayor James asked to speak with Mr. Holmes after the Commission Meeting.

Daryl Smith, 1216 Mary Street, Waycross, Georgia, addressed the Commission to fix the road in his neighborhood. The area needed more dirt and leveling out. Discussion was made. Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines stated she would get some dirt on the road to level it out. Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines requested City Manager Tonya Miller to follow up with dirt being placed on the road.

Commissioner Norman Davis left during last call. Commissioner Hopkins sent sympathy to Commissioner Carter's family during his death. Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines wished Robin a Happy Birthday and reminded the public of the Black History Parade on February 27th at 11 a.m. Commissioner Davis discussed properties within his district. Mayor Pro Tem Henry Strickland thanked staff and prayers were sent to Donald Altman's family. Mayor Pro Tem Strickland read a letter from Commissioner Carter's funeral.

After last call, Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines made the motion to go into Executive Session. Commissioner Diane Hopkins seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines made the motion to return to open session. Commissioner Diane Hopkins seconded the motion. The motion carried, and the meeting resume.

Mayor James adjourned the meeting.

CITY OF WAYCROSS

BY: 
MICHAEL-ANGELO JAMES, Mayor

ATTEST:


MICHELLE LOVE, City Clerk