

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

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

Mayor James introduced Dr. Carla D. Hardy who offered the opening invocation. The Invocation was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Michael-Angelo James.

City Attorney Rick Currie administered the oath to Municipal Court Judge Douglas L. Gibson and Municipal Court Prosecutor Joseph R. Johnson Jr.

The Commission of the City of Waycross elected a Mayor Pro Tem for 2021. Commissioner Diane Hopkins nominated Commissioner Henry Strickland Jr. to serve as Mayor Pro Tem for 2021. Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines seconded the motion. The motion passed with all votes. The motion carried and Commissioner Henry Strickland Jr. was elected Mayor Pro Tem.

Mayor Michael-Angelo James announced the City Officers for 2021.

City Attorney

Rick Currie

Assistant City Attorney

Huey W. Spearman

Official Organ:

Waycross Journal-Herald

City Depository:

SunTrust Bank

Waycross Bank & Trust

City Auditor:

Mauldin & Jenkins CPAs

Municipal Court Judge

Judge Douglas L. Gibson

Municipal Court Judge Pro-Tempore' *Adrienne Gibson*

Municipal Court Prosecutor *Joseph R. Johnson, Jr.*

Insurance Agents: *NFP Health Insurance Broker*

McNeal Sports & Wilson Risk Advisers Insurance

Anthem BC/BS Health, Dental, Vision, Life & AD&D

Gallagher Insurance

Corvel Corporation, TPA-Workers' Comp

Travelers Liability

City Election Superintendent: *Ware County Board of Elections and*
 Registration

Commissioner Diane Hopkins motion to receive listed appointments. The motion was seconded by Marian Solomon-Gaines. All voted in favor; the motion carried.

Mayor Michael-Angelo James announced the following appointments to Executive Positions:

Downtown Waycross Development Authority:	Mayor Michael-Angelo James
Law Enforcement Training Center Advisory Committee:	Marian Solomon-Gaines – Fire John Threat - Police
Library Board:	Ex-Officio: Henry Strickland
Southern Georgia Regional Commission	Mayor Michael-Angelo James

Waycross Convention & Visitors Bureau:

Commissioner Diane Hopkins nominated the following names.
Commissioner Marian Solomon- Gaines second the nomination.
All voted in favor; the motion carried.

a. Eunice Dixon

b. Reba Smith

c. Clint Bowman

Transportation Planning Coordinating Committee:

Mayor Michael-Angelo James

Ware County Health Board:

Mayor Michael-Angelo James

Waycross-Ware Co Development Authority:

Mayor Michael-Angelo James

Waycross-Ware Co Chamber of Commerce:

Mayor Michael-Angelo James

(Mayor and/or City Manager are Automatic Appointees to the Southern Georgia Regional Commission, Waycross-Ware Development Authority, Transportation Planning Coordinating Committee and Chamber of Commerce, Downtown Waycross Development Authority)

Waycross – Ware Co Land Bank Authority:

(The members shall be appointed as follows: four (4) members appointed by the Commission of the City of Waycross; and (3) members appointed by the Ware County Board of Commissioners)

a. Post 3:

Larry Rood

Pension Committee for Retirement Fund* (Recommended by Mayor and Confirmed by City Commission) (Mayor, City Manager, City Attorney, and Personnel Analyst & Risk Management Employee are Automatic Appointees):

a. Mayor

Michael-Angelo James, Mayor

b. City Manager

Tonya Miller, City Manager

c. City Attorney

Rick Currie, City Attorney

- | | | |
|----|--------------------------|--|
| d. | Finance Director | China Williams, Finance Director |
| e. | City Commissioner | Diane L. Hopkins, Commissioner |
| f. | Department Head | David Eddins, Fire Chief |
| g. | Human Resources Director | Ed Lastinger, Human Resources Director |

Board of Zoning Appeals

Three-Year Terms Beginning January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2023

Commissioner Marion Solomon-Gaines nominated Post 3 and Commissioner Diane Hopkins nominated Post 4. Commissioner Diane Hopkins motion to approve nominations. Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines seconded the motion. The motion approved with a 4-0 vote.

- a. Post 3: King Goree
- b. Post 4: Ronnie Shepard

The above listed appointments were all confirmed by the City Commission by motion from Commissioner Diane Hopkins; seconded by Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines; all voted in favor and the motion carried.

During official action, City Manager Tonya Miller announced the meetings schedule for Tuesday, January 19, 2021 as follows:

- 1. 4:00 pm Waycross City Commission Planning and Information Session
- 2. 5:00 pm Waycross City Commission Meeting

Mayor James reminded the community to get flu shots and practice safety during COVID.

No public remarks on official actions.

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

Approval of Minutes: Waycross City Commission Planning and Information Session and Executive Session, Monday, December 14, 2020; Public Hearing, Tuesday, December 15,

2020, 4:30 p.m.; and Waycross City Commission Meeting, Tuesday, December 15, 2020, 5:00 p.m.

No ordinances were presented for second reading.

No privilege license renewals.

The Consent Calendar was approved by motion from Commissioner Diane Hopkins; seconded by Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines; all voted in favor and the motion carried.

An Ordinance Amending the Code of the City of Waycross by amending Article VII was presented for the emergency reading.

ORDINANCE NO. O21-01

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE WAYCROSS ZONING ORDINANCE TEXT; TO AMEND ARTICLE VII – REQUIREMENT BY DISTRICTS, SECTIONS 700.3, 700.4, 701.3, 701.4, 705.4 and 717.4 BY ADDING A MINIMUM SQUARE FOOTAGE REQUIREMENT FOR RESIDENTIAL OCCUPANCIES; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY TO ALLOW FOR SECOND READING; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

An Ordinance Amending the Code of the City of Waycross by amending Article VII was presented for the first reading was approved on the first reading by Commissioner Diane Hopkins. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines; and approved by unanimous vote.

An Ordinance Amending the Code of the City of Waycross by amending Article VII was presented for the emergency reading.

ORDINANCE NO. O21-01

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE WAYCROSS ZONING ORDINANCE TEXT; TO AMEND ARTICLE VII – REQUIREMENT BY DISTRICTS, SECTIONS 700.3, 700.4, 701.3, 701.4, 705.4 and 717.4 BY ADDING A MINIMUM SQUARE FOOTAGE REQUIREMENT FOR RESIDENTIAL OCCUPANCIES; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY TO ALLOW FOR SECOND READING; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

An Ordinance Amending the Code of the City of Waycross Article VII was presented for a second reading by Commissioner Diane Hopkins. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines; and approved by all votes.

An Ordinance Abandoning and Closing an Unopened Alley in Block 11 of South Northside Subdivision was presented emergency reading.

ORDINANCE NO. O21 -02

AN ORDINANCE TO ABANDON AND CLOSE AN UNOPENED ALLEY IN BLOCK 11 OF SOUTH NORTHSIDE SUBDIVISION, BEING 806 CLOUGH STREET; TO AUTHORIZE A QUIT CLAIM DEED; TO ESTABLISH AN EFFECTIVE DATE; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY TO ALLOW FOR SECOND READING; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

An Ordinance Abandoning and Closing an Unopened Alley in Block 11 of South Northside Subdivision was approved for first reading by Commissioner Diane Hopkins. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines; and approved with a 4-0 vote.

An Ordinance Abandoning and Closing an Unopened Alley in Block 11 of South Northside Subdivision was presented emergency reading.

ORDINANCE NO. O21 -02

AN ORDINANCE TO ABANDON AND CLOSE AN UNOPENED ALLEY IN BLOCK 11 OF SOUTH NORTHSIDE SUBDIVISION, BEING 806 CLOUGH STREET; TO AUTHORIZE A QUIT CLAIM DEED; TO ESTABLISH AN EFFECTIVE DATE; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY TO ALLOW FOR SECOND READING; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

An Ordinance Abandoning and Closing an Unopened Alley in Block 11 of South Northside Subdivision was approved for second and emergency reading by Commissioner Diane Hopkins. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines. Discussion was made; and approved with all votes.

A Resolution to Approve Holiday Calendar for Calendar Year 2021 was presented.

RESOLUTION NO. R21-01

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA,

**TO APPROVE HOLIDAY CALENDAR FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2021; AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES.**

WHEREAS, the City Manager and Human Resources Department are requesting approval of the Calendar Year 2021 Holiday Calendar for employees of the City of Waycross; and

WHEREAS, the “floating holiday” has been discontinued in lieu of a permanent holiday being observed on Christmas Eve Day, Monday, December 23, 2021; and

WHEREAS, said matter having been considered.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Commission of the City of Waycross that the City Commission hereby approves the Calendar Year 2021 Holiday Calendar for employees of the City of Waycross, in the form attached hereto as Exhibit A and incorporated herein as if fully set forth, as the same is in the best interest of the City of Waycross and its employees.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor, City Manager, City Clerk and Director of the Department of Human Resources and his staff are authorized and directed to take the necessary action to forthwith implement this Calendar Year 2021 Holiday Calendar, and hereby ratifying and confirming all the acts and things done by said City Officials, in order to give effect to the purposes and intent of this Resolution.

SO RESOLVED, this 5th day of January, 2021, *nunc pro tunc* to January 1, 2021.

CITY OF WAYCROSS

MICHAEL-ANGELO JAMES, Mayor

ATTEST: MICHELLE LOVE, City Clerk

Commissioner Diane Hopkins made the motion to approve the Resolution for Holiday Calendar for Calendar Year 2021 as presented. Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines seconded the motion; all voted yes. The motion was approved with a 4-0 vote.

A Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia, To Approve the Signing of a Letter to Southern Commercial Development was removed from the agenda for later discussion by Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines. The motion was second by Commissioner Diane Hopkins. The motion carried to remove the Resolution from the agenda with all votes.

During last call Commissioner Diane Hopkins discussed Knight Ave/City Blvd. Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines announced there would be no parade for MLK holiday. An event will be held at the City Auditorium on January 16, 2021 at 12 p.m. A request was made for only 3 to 4 youth be sent from different groups. The event will start on time. Commissioner Strickland thanked the Commission for electing him as Mayor Pro Tem. Prayer was requested for Mr. Carter and others which battled COVID. Mayor James thanked everyone. Information was shared about Georgia high number of COVID cases. Mayor James encouraged the citizens to comply. Large gatherings is the cause of the increase in COVID cases. Practice safety with COVID. Happy Founder's Day.

Following last call, Commissioner John Threat made the motion to adjourn the meeting to go into Executive Session for Personnel and Litigation; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines. The motion carried with all votes and the meeting adjourned into Executive Session.

Commissioner Henry Strickland made the motion to return to open session. Commissioner Diane Hopkins seconded the motion. The motion carried, and the meeting resume.

Mayor Michael-Angelo James adjourned the meeting.

CITY OF WAYCROSS

BY: + 
MICHAEL-ANGELO JAMES, Mayor

ATTEST:


MICHELLE LOVE, City Clerk