

**MINUTES**  
**WAYCROSS CITY COMMISSION PLANNING & INFORMATION SESSION**  
**MONDAY, JANUARY 31, 2022 – 5:00 P.M.**  
**WAYCROSS CITY COMMISSION CHAMBERS**  
*(417 PENDLETON STREET, WAYCROSS, GA)*

**I. CALL TO ORDER:**

The Planning and Information Session of the City of Waycross was called to order January 31, 2022 at 5:00 pm by Mayor Michael-Angelo James. The meeting was held in the Commission Chambers of City Hall. Present was Mayor James, Mayor Pro Tem Diane Hopkins, Norman Davis, Sheinita Bennett, Katrena Felder, and Henry Strickland.

**A. Invocation**

James Smart offered the invocation.

**B. Pledge of Allegiance**

Mayor James requested that Acting City Clerk, Robin Brookins read the decorum.

**II. GUESTS:**

Tim Peacock: 906 Euclid Avenue / Waycross, GA 31501  
Mr. Peacock inquired about Town Hall Meetings, and asking questions in an open meeting.  
Mayor James responded to the question.

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Mayor James turned the meeting over to Acting City Manager, Marc Hawkins.

Mr. Hawkins introduced a new Codes Officer, Sarah, and Greg Smith as the City's incoming Finance Director.

The commissioners welcomed Mr. Smith.

**III. TRAVEL/TRAINING SCHEDULE AND REQUESTS**

Nothing for Travel and Training.

#### **IV. PLANNING & INFORMATION SESSION**

**A.** Bids: n/a

**B.** Discussion of Waycross Convention & Visitors Bureau Authority

Mr. Hawkins allowed City Attorney, Rick Currie to explain. Mr. Currie's recommendation was to terminate the current positions of the 4 board members and reappoint the 3 members who were appointed last. His recommendation is to appoint 3 members with clearly defined term limits.

There was also some discussion about when the name of the board was changed from the Tourism Committee to the Waycross Visitors and Convention Bureau Authority. The commissioners agreed to do as the attorney recommended.

**C.** Discussion of Appointments to the Land Bank Authority

Mr. Hawkins informed the commission that former Commissioner John Threat would like to come off the board. He also said that Bertha Gray's term will expire.

Commissioner Hopkins asked could this discussion be tabled until the next meeting. City Attorney suggested that it would be good to request a resignation letter from former Commissioner Threat.

**D.** Discussion of Fireworks for Fourth of July Celebration

Mr. Hawkins informed the commission of the cost and changes to this year's contract. The usual discount is not being offered this year.

There was a consensus

**E.** Discussion of Parking Ordinance – Trey Gavin

Trey introduced Mr. Robbie Cheeks as one of the engineers that will be working with ESG Engineering.

Trey went on to explain the status of the parking lot request submitted by Sam Sellers. Trey explained that this property does not meet the requirement. Mr. Gavin's current assessment is that the property does require paving.

**F. Discussion of National Opioids Settlement**

City Attorney, Rick Currie explained that he registered the City, but this does not obligate the City to join in. He mentioned that March 31st is the deadline for the City to decide to take part in the settlement.

**G. Privilege License Renewals:**  
No renewals

**H. Privilege Licenses:**

1. Popbellies Country Buffet Inc., Daniel Mitchell, 1159 Ossie Davis Parkway, Waycross, GA 31501, Consumption on Premises, Beer and Wine

**I. Proposed Ordinances: n/a**

**J. Proposed Resolutions:**

1. A Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia, To Approve Fireworks Display Agreement with Pyrotecnico, Inc. for the Fourth of July 2022 Fireworks Exhibition; and for Other Purposes.

There was a consensus.

2. A Resolution of the City Commission of the City of Waycross, Georgia, To Request the Local Legislative Delegation to the Georgia General Assembly to Increase the Number of Directors on the Waycross Convention and Visitors Bureau Authority; and for Other Purposes.

There was a consensus.

3. A Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia, To Submit FY2022 Georgia Department of Transportation Local Maintenance & Improvement Grant Application; and for Other Purposes.

There was a consensus.

4. A Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia, To Approve Modification of Loan Agreement for GEFA Loan Number CW2020002; and for Other Purposes.

Trey explain that this is a modification that allows to add the additional pumps and adjust the date due to the job being not yet finished.

There was a consensus.

**K. City Attorney's Report:**

No Report

**L. City Manager's Report:**

Department Report: Marissa Hendrix, HR Director

1.

Mrs. Hendrix informed the commission of the status of the City's current workforce employee totals. Hendrix stated that the City currently has 201 total employees, and the breakdown of full time and part time employees. The City is currently scoring higher than the national average on tenure.

She also provided an update on the currently open City Clerk positioned the City Manager. Hendrix went on to inform the commission of additional open positions.

Commissioner Hopkins had questions.

Commissioner Bennett had questions.

Commissioner Bennett also inquired about Retiree Insurance.

**M. Last Call and/or Adjourn to Executive Session**

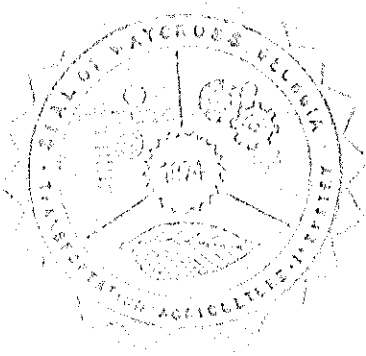
Commissioner Davis motioned to adjourn to executive session.

Mayor James adjourned to Executive Session to discuss the sale and release of properties.

**N. Adjournment**

After Executive Session at 6:38, Commissioner Hopkins asked about the existing procedure if a city employee tested positive for COVID. There was a general discussion of COVID testing and that the City follows CDC protocol for its employees. There was a consensus that the HR Director should reduce this policy to writing and provide to employees and the public.

Commissioner Norman Davis made motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Diane Hopkins. All voted in favor and Mayor James adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.



**CITY OF WAYCROSS**

**BY:**

*+ Michael Angelo James*  
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**MICHAEL-ANGELO JAMES, Mayor**

**ATTEST:**

*Marc Lawrence*  
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**MARC LAWRENCE, City Clerk**