

MINUTES
WAYCROSS CITY COMMISSION PLANNING & INFORMATION SESSION
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2022 – 3:00 P.M.
WAYCROSS CITY COMMISSION CHAMBERS
(417 PENDLETON STREET, WAYCROSS, GA)

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The Waycross City Commission Planning and Information Session was called to order on Monday, August 15, 2022, at 3:05pm by Mayor Michael-Angelo James. The meeting was held in the Commission Chambers of City Hall. Present was Mayor James, Commissioners Norman Davis, Katrena Felder, and Henry Strickland.

A. Invocation

The Invocation was led by Public Works Director, James Smart

B. Pledge of Allegiance

II. GUESTS:

There were no guest speakers.

III. TRAVEL/TRAINING SCHEDULE AND REQUESTS

Mayor James will be at a GMA Conference this coming up week.

IV. PLANNING & INFORMATION SESSION

A. Bids:

1. FY23-02 Knuckle Boom Loader

There was a consensus to place this on Tuesday Agenda

2. Armory Project - Contract Agreement to Begin Renovations (Phase 1A and Phase 1B) for WPD

There was a consensus to place this on Tuesday Agenda

B. Discussion: City of Waycross Commission District Symposium

Interim City Manager Marc Hawkins, spoke on scheduling a time in each district to inform the on things such as codes and information, to help educate the public on the full scope of what the WPD does as well as, to allow them to interact and get to know their commissioners. Also, to do a city wide clean-up of trash and debris. He suggested events to be held between the hours of 9:00am to 1:00p.m., one per district. Mr. Hawkins would like to get this initiated between now and December. Mayor James stated that he had spoken with some of the commissioners and they have already set aside dates for their districts. Commissioner Davis said it would be early next year when he would be ready to fulfill the promise of the event. Attorney Rick Curry reminded everyone that if a quorum is present to be mindful of the Open Meeting Laws. Town Hall Meetings are not included because it would only include one commissioner and possibly the mayor. Commissioner Strickland is happy with the idea of having this event. It brings all people together to give information to help inform. Commissioner Felder suggested that we consider including a SPLOST informative session on Oct 22nd, at City Hall.

There was a Consensus to have the Symposium on Oct 22th 9am-1pm at Waycross City Hall.

C. Discussion: Proposed COLA Increase – Greg Smith, Finance Director

Greg Smith, Finance Director gave a brief description of the proposed cost of living increase of 3% to 4% for the city's employees. Commissioner Strickland wanted to know if we could afford it. Once it is done, we cannot takeback. He is for the increase but wanted to make sure we can afford it. Commissioner Davis stated we cannot afford not to raise our wages because of staff wants the wage to be at 15\$ an hour, people are living in poverty, and we need to find a way to pay our workers. Commissioner Felder asked if his statement was that the city could handle the next few years. She asked what will happen after that? Greg stated we will be looking ahead to make sure that Budget is in place for increase. She stated there is a competition going on around the businesses we need to invest in them in our employees.

There was a Consensus to give employees a 4% increase in wages. And to come back to revise this to make an increase later.

D. Privilege License Renewals: n/a

E. Privilege Licenses: n/a

F. Proposed Ordinances n/a

G. Proposed Resolutions:

1. A Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia, to Approve and Adopt an Investment Policy, and for Other Purposes.

There was a discussion by our Finance Director, Greg Smith, with information on a consensus to adopt an investment policy, to get more of a return than what we are previously getting from the bank.

He suggested we take part of the money we have in the bank to use to invest in the United States Treasury, as to recoup more on interest, at six months at a time incrementing down for that six-month period. Then look at the reporting to see where we are at.

Our City Attorney Rick Curry stated code 36-83-1 is the local government invest pool act informing us of the ability/right to invest portions of the city's funds.

There was a consensus to place this on the agenda for Tuesday.

2. A Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia, to Award Bid Contract to Environmental Products Group of Atlanta, Georgia, for the Purchase of New Knuckle Boom Loader for the Public Works Department; and for Other Purposes.

There was a consensus to place this on the agenda for Tuesday.

3. A Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia, to Approve and Agreement with Douglas A. Neal Architect, INC. of Saint Simons Island, Georgia, for the Armory Complex-Police Special Operations Renovations Project, and for Other Purposes.

There was a consensus to place this on the agenda for Tuesday.

H. City Attorney's Report:

Rick Curry, spoke on the need to set a Public Hearing for Oct 4, 2022, at 4:45, to close a portion of College Street.

I. City Manager's Report:

J. Last Call and/or Adjourn to Executive Session

No Executive Session

K. Adjournment

The mayor adjourned the meeting at 4:02.

CITY OF WAYCROSS

BY: *Michael Angelo James*
MICHAEL-ANGELO JAMES, Mayor

ATTEST:

Jacqueline Powell
JACQUALINE POWELL, City Clerk

