

MINUTES
WAYCROSS CITY COMMISSION PLANNING & INFORMATION SESSION
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2023 – 3:00 P.M.
WAYCROSS CITY COMMISSION CHAMBERS
(417 PENDLETON STREET, WAYCROSS, GA)

I. CALL TO ORDER:

- A. Invocation: James Smart
- B. Pledge of Allegiance

II. GUESTS:

Dr. Earl Martin – 902 Elizabeth Street.

Expressed a need for a city manager, stated his dissatisfaction with the City Code Department, suggested the decorum section of the city commission meetings be in alignment with the first amendment of the U. S. Constitution, suggested a Waycross alligator roundup and rodeo, and wanted improvements in railroad signage on the CSX east-west tracks. (Dr. Martin had one additional point that was not heard.)

Clint Bowman – 505 Ava Street

Commented on a map he handed out to Commissioners showing playground and picnic tables for a Winona Park project. Commissioner Hopkins asked about the status of a grant writer for the park. Mr. Bowman stated they had a grant writer. The mayor stated that a consensus was present to support the need for the project. The City Attorney Rick Curry stated he could prepare a resolution for the meeting in two weeks.

III. TRAVEL/TRAINING SCHEDULE AND REQUESTS

IV. PLANNING & INFORMATION SESSION

Barbara Miller consensus as board member of Health Department.

A. Bids:

1. WAYX 23-11 - Surplus Land Sale - 0.117 Acre Brunswick Avenue

There was a consensus (Hopkins, Strickland, Felder) to place this on the 5:00 Agenda.

2. WAYX 23-12 – Cellphones

There was a consensus (Davis, Felder, Hopkins, Strickland) to place this on the 5:00 Agenda.

3. WAYX 23-14 - Surplus Property – 80 Glock 22/27 Pistols

There was a consensus to place this on the 5:00 Agenda.

4. Bid # FY23-08 - Financing for Fire Truck

There was a consensus (all 5) to place this on the 5:00 Agenda.

Comm Davis found an invoice from Days Inn and an invoice from CSX. Comm Davis stated documents found in the commissioner's information are a part of the Commission. Commissioner Davis stated that the commissioners want to know the line to attach information found in their packet. Chief Cox stated there was also a wrecker bill in the papers. Rick Currie stated that the invoices are not relevant to the fire truck loan and not relevant to any proclamation. Comm Davis wanted to know when they had discussed the CSX invoice or if they were to discuss the CSX invoice. Comm Bennett read the invoice. Mamie stated she was not familiar with the invoice. The mayor said the discussion would take place at the next meeting. Mamie stated the invoice may have been picked up off of the copier by mistake.

Comm Strickland asked Greg Smith what the invoice was for. Mr. Smith stated it appeared to be rent paid to CSX for the use of CSX land for something such as a pipe under a railroad track. The mayor asked the Finance Director to give the Comm an explanation at the next meeting.

- B.** Presentation: OATH – Allie Dixon and Kim Gibson
Kim Gibson, representing OATH (Okfenokee Alliance for the Homeless) stated she is concerned about the growing issue of homelessness and housing insecurity in our community. She provided statistics concerning the issues and stated that OATH partnered with other organizations. OATH wants to open a resale furniture and homegoods store. A collaborative solution was discussed with the Comm.

- C.** Discussion: Albany Avenue – Trey Gavin

Trey Gavin:

Two Phases of Albany Avenue Resurfacing Project – First phase: Thrift Brothers was low bidder. Excavation of existing utilities, getting them moved out of the way. Notice to proceed for Thrift contract was 8/2/2021. Completion date was scheduled to be 7/28/2022. The Thrifts would work to get the utilities out of the way for the most part to do the curb and gutter work. And the contract with East Coast would kick off at the end of that work to do the paving. Original concept that both phases would be done in 360 days. The provision for the paving was for 60 days. The change order is the differential in time. The Thrifts actually finished their work in December. East Coast was asking for more money in April, 2022 based on GDOT indexing. However, this was not allowed in this contract. The East Coast contract was signed but a letter to proceed was not signed. East Coast states that the price needs to be increased because (1) the scope was altered due to the change in curb and gutter and (2) costs have increased. East Coast has requested an increase of \$243,310.20 to \$903,123.60.

Option 1: Accept East Coast increase.

Option 2: Rebid for the remaining work declaring an emergency due to safety issue to expedite the bidding process.

Steve Pope:

We have only had one change order and that was with Thrift, a \$290,000 to relace existing curb and gutter and a storm drain line. Of the \$290,000, we have only spent about \$200,000.

Comm Davis asked about a \$5,000 change order that Mr. Pope was not familiar with.

Comm Hopkins and Davis stated that in December there were days that no work was being done.

Comm Strickland recognized an increase in time by Thrift due to increase in scope.

Comm Davis asked who is responsible for the road not being complete. Trey responded they would report about how things fell in the place that they did.

Trey recommended that the City rebid as soon as possible. That way we will get a price that we can stand behind.

Comm Hopkins asked Steve Pope if Thrift Brothers should have know about the curb and gutter issues. Steve Pope replied that Thrift Brothers would not have known about the issue because they would not have done their own survey.

Comm Bennett and Hopkins asked that reports be given to Commissioners on the status of the Albany Street project on a regular basis.

Comm Felder requested that the road project be completed and completed the right way.

Comm Hopkins asked when East Coast asked for the increase. Steve Pope indicated the increase was requested a few weeks ago even though East Coast we informed that Thrift Brothers were finishing up their part in December.

D. Discussion: Friendly Express Water Services/1811 W. South Georgia Parkway – Trey Gavin

The Comm did not act to assist Friendly Express with water services.

E. Discussion: Ladder Truck Update – Battalion Chief Blackburn, WFD

Chief Blackburn indicated the ladder truck needs additional repairs to fix the ladder truck.

F. Discussion: Fireworks Contract – Marc, Hawkins, Community Improvement Director

Mr. Hawkins indicted Ware County was not willing to help pay for fireworks. Cost is \$20,000 with sponsors reducing the costs. Location will be the same near Waycross Middle School. Consensus – all 5 Comm.

G. Discussion: Equipment Replacement / Surplus – Chief Tommy Cox, WPD

The Comm had no additional questions.

H. Privilege License Renewals: n/a

I. Privilege Licenses: n/a

J. Proposed Ordinances:

1. An Ordinance to Abandon and Close an Unopened Alley in Block 50 of Gilchrist Park Subdivision; To Authorize Quit Claim Deeds; To Establish an Effective Date; To Repeal Conflicting Ordinances; and for Other Purposes.

K. Proposed Resolutions:

1. A Resolution of the City Commission of Waycross, Georgia, To Appoint a City Manager for the City of Waycross; To Approve the Entry of an Employment Agreement Upon the Terms and Conditions Attached Hereto, The Same Setting Salary and All Other Terms of Employment; and for Other Purposes.

2. A Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia, to Approve the Modification of Loan Agreement for GEFA Loan Number CW2020002, and for Other Purposes.
3. A Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia, to Approve the Modification of Loan Agreement for GEFA Loan Number DW2020009, and for Other Purposes.
4. A Resolution of the City Commission of Waycross, Georgia to Approve Purchase of Glock Duty Weapons from ED'S Public Safety, Inc. of Stockbridge, Georgia; and for Other Purposes.
5. A Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia, to Approve the Sale and Transfer of Certain Surplused Real Property Described Herein and Located Between Albany Avenue and Brunswick Avenue; and for Other Purposes.
6. A Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia, to Approve Financing Terms for Newly Purchased Pierce Saber Fire Pumper Truck with Cogent Bank of Orlando, Florida; and for Other Purposes.
7. A Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia, to Approve the Increase in Contract Price for the Albany Avenue Resurfacing Project Awarded to East Coast Asphalt, LLC; and for Other Purposes.

L. City Attorney's Report:

M. City Manager's Report:

1. Department Report: None. Due to time.

Motion to go into Executive Session.

N. Last Call and/or Adjourn to Executive Session

O. Adjournment



ATTEST:


JACQUALINE POWELL, City Clerk

CITY OF WAYCROSS

BY: 
MICHAEL-ANGELO JAMES, Mayor