

**MINUTES
COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 18, 2017
7:00 P.M.**

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Council Meeting was called to order by Mayor Robert Bridges at 7:01pm.

Members present were Mayor Robert Bridges, Council Members Perry Barton, Gayle Steed, Betty Lyle, Hattie Thrasher and David Huth. Also in attendance was City Clerk, Mai Chang, City Attorneys, Amy Cowan and Thomas Mitchell, Public Works Director, Sam Powell and Building & Code Enforcement Officer Randy Gordon. Media was represented by Ron Bridgeman of the Barrow Journal.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A. COUNCIL MEETING, MARCH 21, 2017

Gayle Steed made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 21, 2017 council meeting as written. David Huth seconded the motion, unanimous.

3. NEW BUSINESS:

A. LOCAL EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN (LEOP) RESOLUTION

City Clerk, Mai Chang explained that according to Penny Clack with Barrow County, this is a required update that must be done every 4 years. It is still the same plan. The only changes are the updated contact information, critical facilities list and one change made of the ESFs which changed from District 10 Public Health to Barrow County Health Department.

Perry Barton made motion to approve the LEOP Resolution. David Huth seconded the motion, unanimous.

B. OLD PD BUILDING LEASE

Mayor Bridges stated that the lease for this building was looked at and do Council want to change it or leave it as is. Hattie Thrasher asked if there were any options. Gayle Steed stated there has been interest from other people and a matter of keeping the same rent or increasing the rent. Various question were asked and suggestion was made that City give customer 3 months from today, April 18, 2017 to open up a business.

Perry Barton made motion to give current customer on the lease a 3 months period from today to open up a business. Gayle Steed seconded the motion. Motion approved with Perry Barton voting yes. Gayle Steed voting yes. David Huth voting yes. Betty Lyle abstained and Hattie Thrasher abstained from voting.

C. 1. MOBILITE- Master Right-Of-Way Towers Agreement

Randy Gordon explained that GMA came up with a very good rate structure for Mobilite and that the City should accept that agreement before the City makes any other decisions further. He recommends that the City accept the rate structure then take any applications and then look at the locations where they want to put the poles/towers. Mayor Bridges stated that it won't obligate the City other than the rate structures.

Gayle Steed made motion to approve and adopt GMA's rate structure for Mobilite. Betty Lyle seconded the motion.

2. 1st READING: REZONING 1679 BETHLEHEM RD. (Chris Woods)

Gayle Steed made motion to waive 1st Reading on Rezoning 1679 Bethlehem Rd. David Huth seconded the motion, unanimous.

3. ROOFING PERMIT

Randy Gordon stated that City is to required residents to pull a permit for a roofing job but would not charge any fees. He stated that he has seen a lot of signs with roofing jobs done but he has no idea of who they are or where they are from. This so that City can inspect the work done.

David Huth made motion to approve the roofing permit. Gayle Steed seconded the motion, unanimous.

4. 1st READING-STANDARD UNSAFE BUILDING & ABATEMENT CODE

Randy Gordon explained that Thomas Mitchell has looked into the 1997 Stand Unsafe Building & Abatement Code and Randy recommended City adopt this code to add to the City's International Property Maintenance Code. It will give the City more kick on what the City can do when the City runs into situations that the law prohibits the City from moving but so far. Randy has researched and this is by far the best one. Thomas Mitchell also elaborated on why.

Perry Barton made motion to waive this as a 1st Reading. David Huth seconded the motion, unanimous.

D. STATHAM UMC-Water Damages-Storm Water Runoff

Rev. Greg Millwood explained and wanted to re-fresh everybody's memory from that day of the big rain that came in and flooded the church's basement. The church is asking 1) Council to share the cost of repairing the damage and 2) looking at engineering solution to the drainage problem of the water coming onto their property. He asked if Mayor and Council had any questions. No questions were asked, no suggestions and no comments were made. Mayor Bridges stated that he will have to get back with Rev. Millwood.

No action was taken.

E. MARVIN OSBORNE- Flooding Issues 1935 Lenox Dr.

Marvin Osborne thanked Mayor and Council for discussing flooding issues and it happens several times a year from the back yard when it rains. He had investigated that the water runs from Price St. and brings it to their side on Lenox Dr. area and floods into a property that is directly behind his and then it comes to his property. He is asking Council to consider some water diversion or re-direct the water to a retention pond with a simple solution. He is willing to provide the City with an Eastman for future benefits and maintenance and contribute some to assist with the solution. He would appreciate Mayor and Council to considered giving some type of diversion. The owner at 1945 Lenox Dr. is also willing to assist and work with the City as well and cooperate.

Mayor Bridges asked if Council had any questions or comments. No questions or comments made.

No Action was taken.

F. TIM TERILLI- Smoke Free Business District (Canceled)

4. CITIZENS CONCERNS:

A. KENDRA SEXTON- Absent

B. KELLY PICKENS (2996 Waters Rd., Atlanta)

1. Transfer Station- Kelly canceled this topic.

2. Marc Lofton: Kelly is asking that Lofton's use of force action be investigated. He has 8 listed on page but has 2 missing in a 13 month time span and that is high for a town this size. There's numerous times threatening females for no reasons. She explained all the reasons why he should be investigated and that citizens are on Facebook stating they're getting body cams. Kelly stated she would like for GBI to look at his use of force. She

stated that he initiates the violence and contexts. The concern citizens of Statham is requesting to ask GBI to look into the use of force with females in their middle age.

Mayor Bridges asked if Kelly is in the Statham Concern Citizens group and if she lives in Statham. Kelly stated that no she does not live in Statham but has two family members that lives here and some many good friends. She lives in the South side of Atlanta and gave her address out.

C. DWIGHT MCCORMIC (2123 Smith Dr., Statham)

1. **1921 Broad St. House & Audit:** Dwight stated last month he requested a public hearing on the City's intent to do with the 1921 Broad St. house and guessed the City opt out of having a public hearing. Mayor Bridges stated that the City have meetings every month and it is open to the Public and anybody can ask questions and the City will be glad to answer any questions. Dwight stated that he wants the questions and answers in a public forum so everybody can hear Mayor and Council's answers. Dwight asked various questions and Mayor Bridges replied back an answer to each of his questions.

Dwight asked if City is continuing to use the Prison labor on the house and how much it will cost to turn it into offices for City Hall. Mayor Bridges stated that DCA is going to help the City on the plans for the house. Dwight inquired about how much money was spent on the house and how much material has been purchased for repairs and etc. Mayor Bridges explained again that the sale of the Providence Rd. house and building permits fees covered the purchase of this house. Dwight also asked about the Audit issue which Mayor Bridges showed him the time line on when and who tried to contact Hawkins & McNair firm to get results. Thomas Mitchell also explained the situation on the Audit and that the firm cannot audit their own work.

D. MARY WILLIAMS (2545 Marixa Dr., Statham)

1. **Police Dept.:** Mary stated that she loves Statham and is proud to live in Statham. She passes thru this town and does not want her family to fear coming thru this town also. She stated that Lofton gave 63 false arrests and she is not asking the City to investigate but to terminate his employment. This is a beautiful town and she thinks everybody should feel safe passing thru. That's all she has to say.

E. DUKE DURESNE (231 Baker St., Statham)

1. **Police Dept.:** Duke thanked Mayor and Council for the opportunity to speak to them and the audience. Tonight, his purpose is to expatiate the positives of Statham from its governing body to the many fine employees including Fire and Police. As a resident of 40 years residing at the same location, has witnessed the City prosper and grow. It has been a wonderful leadership over the years and in all Departments but never better then how it's been managed by the current Mayor and Council, Code Enforcement, Water and Police Dept. They are dedicated, responsible and serious employees and have come under adverse scrutiny for doing what is expected of them. As a former volunteer Fire Fighter and Chaplin for 18 years, he has learned how the City and its government operates. He stated that the City has run efficiently and effectively with Mayor Bridges and the Police Chief Johnston. He truly believed the Council and the various departments served the residents of Statham and the City with the upmost respect and dignity. Everyone are blessed to live in a town with such devoted leadership and thanked each one.

F. Jim White (1900 Broad St., Statham)

1. **Police Dept.:** Jim stated that he enjoyed living in Statham and it's a small town and like it that way. He is here to show the Police Dept. support and thinks that they have not been getting any lately. His experiences with Chief Johnston and his Officers have been met with professionalism. They patrol the streets of the City to make it safe to ride your bike and walk up and down. He can't imagined not having the Police Dept. This town is small and with crime around, if left unchecked, the streets would not be safe like now.

Statham Officers and Barrow County are appreciated for their commitment and dedication to their job.

Mayor Bridges would like to add DCA's proposal to design the layout for the 1921 Broad St. house.

Gayle Steed made motion to add DCA's proposal to the agenda. Davit Huth seconded the motion, unanimous.

Mayor Bridges explained that the proposal design services would cost \$600 for the illustration of the porch addition and the plan view of the house.

Perry Barton made motion to approved and go with the proposal. Betty Lyle seconded the motion, unanimous.

Randy Gordon asked Mayor Bridges to add JPM Development, LLC to the agenda.

Perry Barton made motion to add JPM Development, LLC to the agenda as number 5 item. Hattie Thrasher seconded the motion, unanimous.

5. JPM DEVELOPMENT, LLC.

Randy Gordon recommended Mayor and Council to look at the packet that has been provided by JPM. They are interested and trying to bring in development to the City and are looking at various properties in the City. They are looking at a 55 and older community. Randy stated he has looked into this with the Fire Marshall and what is required. Glenn gave an example of Autry Pine in Auburn built for 55 or older community and that it has been in place for over a year and a half now. Glenn also urges Mayor and Council if anybody brings in this type of development. They need to look into what is that they want to serve, how they want to build it and how they want to manage it because it is the biggest thing. Randy stated that these people will be here next month to address it.

6. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

David Huth made motion to go into Executive Session at 7:56pm. Perry Barton seconded the motion, unanimous.

Gayle Steed made motion to go out of Executive Session at 8:02pm. David Huth seconded the motion, unanimous.

7. ADJOURN:

There being no further business before the Council, David Huth made a motion to adjourn. Hattie Thrasher seconded the motion, unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.