

**MINUTES
COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 20, 2017
7:00 P.M.**

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Council Meeting was called to order by Mayor Robert Bridges at 7:05pm.

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 Attorney, Thomas Mitchell, Public Works Director, Sam Powell and Building & Code Enforcement Officer Randy Gordon. Media was represented by Ron Bridgeman of the Barrow Journal.

Tommy Jennings from Barrow County Chamber thanked Mayor and Council Members for letting him come. Tommy stated that they are delighted to be here and appreciate the work that they do and the cooperation the City have between the Chamber and encourage the businesses to be all that they can be. We know we are only successful if they are successful. We want to focus on their prosperity, profitability and their growth. We encourage them to do whatever they can.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A. COUNCIL MEETING, May 16, 2017

Betty Lyle made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 16, 2017 council meeting as written. Gayle Steed seconded the motion, unanimous.

3. PUBLIC HEARING:

A. Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Budget

Mayor Bridges asked if anybody had any questions. No comments were made. Public Hearing was opened at 7:07pm and closed at 7:09pm.

4. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Budget

Mayor Bridges stated that the budget has been gone over pretty well with all Council members and they all have been working on it since April 2017 and it is what it is.

Gayle Steed made a motion to approve the fiscal year 2017-2018 budget with 5% salary increase for the employees. David Huth seconded the motion. Motion passed with Gayle Steed, David Huth and Perry Barton voting yes. Betty Lyle and Hattie Thrasher voting no.

B. Credit/Debit Card Transaction/Convenience Fees

City Clerk, Mai Chang stated that she checked into the current credit card vendor and there is no fee to cancel the current vendor if it is done by July 29, 2017. The new convenience fee with the new software will need to be decided by Council to pay all the fee or pass it all to the customers the 3.53%.

Questions were asked by Perry Barton, Gayle Steed and David Huth. 1) When will the new fee start? 2) Will there be down time? 3) Will auto draft still be available for customers? City Clerk replied with answers: The new fee will start when we go live with the new software. Yes there will be down time for about 2 months. Yes, auto draft are still available for customers.

Perry Barton made motion to approve and pass the convenience fee of 3.53% to the customer at the time the new software goes live. Gayle Steed seconded the motion. Motion passed with Perry Barton, Gayle Steed, David Huth and Betty Lyle voting yes. Hattie Thrasher voted no.

5. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Georgia Dept. of Corrections Contract Renewal 2017-2018

Mayor Bridges explained the contract is the same as last years and if there were any questions.

Gayle Steed made motion to approve the contract renewal. David Huth seconded, unanimous.

B. Georgia Jewel, LLC. Dba Sunflower City General Store & Café (Beer & Wine)

City Clerk, Mai Chang explained the business and that the background check is cleared to open their business with the alcohol license.

David Huth made motion to approve the license. Perry Barton seconded the motion. Motion passed with Perry Barton, David Huth and Gayle Steed voting yes. Betty Lyle and Hattie voted no.

C. 1st Reading- Rezoning R1 to C-H, 1773 Atlanta Hwy, SE (Christopher Perkins)

Randy Gordon explained that the owner is still going forward with the rezoning. The rezoning sign has been up and nobody has contested to it yet.

Gayle Steed made motion to waive 1st Reading. Betty Lyle seconded, unanimous.

D. Tree City USA-Seth Hawkins/Tree Arborist

Seth Hawkins stated he is a Tree Arborist and explained what a Tree City is. This is a national recognition program for National Tree Arbor Day Foundation. It's a free program and straight forward and the City can designate Public Works Dept. as the "Tree Dept." Seth stated the City will need a Tree Ordinance and he gave Mayor and Council some samples. He also explained that a Tree Ordinance basically states the City owns trees in the right of ways and people can't remove them, trim them or trench around them. City would have to do tree planting on Arbor Day celebration. The fourth standard is a \$2 per capita of documentation on tree care activities like brush and tree limb pickups. If City decides to go forward, the City will get City Limit signs, plaques for City Hall and also bonus points if applied for Planting or Street Scape grants. Each year, an online renewal will need to be done with pictures from the Arbor Day and budget for that year.

Seth asked if there were any questions on the trees that he had assessed and then explained to them the results. A few questions were asked from the public.

Mayor Bridges thanked Seth for being here. No action was needed.

E. RFP Proposal Award: Solid Waste Collection & Recycling Svcs

City Clerk, Mai Chang explained that the rates were reviewed last week and everything is going to be turned over to the contractor to bill, collect and perform the service. The current contract expires July 1, 2017.

Gayle Steed stated that rate chosen is the one with the bi-weekly recycling cart with the rate of \$16 per month. Question on what days will be picked up was asked. Jerry Harrison from WastePro answered the questions asked.

David Huth made motion to approve with the rate of \$16 per month with the bi-weekly recycling. Gayle Steed seconded the motion, unanimous.

F. GEFA- Second Modification of promissory Note & Loan Agrmt

City Clerk, Mai Chang stated that Jerry Hood was not here for the meeting but as mentioned from him, the amount of the loan does not change except the date.

Perry Barton made motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the loan modification. Betty Lyle seconded, unanimous.

6. CITIZENS CONCERNS:

A. Tim Moore (Rate Analysis) --Absent

B. Kelly Pickens (2996 Waters Rd., Atlanta)

FOIA/Open Records Request & Budget and Raise Received by Chief Johnston

Kelly Pickens stated that she will pass on her turn.

C. Matt Turner

Repairs to City Streets

Matt stated his reasons for being here is that he has concerns about road conditions mainly on Broad and Eight Streets. He has travel up and down the streets and had to dodge the manhole covers and poor repairs around the pot holes. There was a repair that was done on Broad and Eight street several times now but it is starting to sink in again. He stated that it's a safety issue and it's bad on our car tires. He wants to know what the City is going to do about re-surfacing.

Mayor Bridges explained that DOT comes down and explains what need to be done and normally provide the funds for the repairs and mention that the paving on 8th Street was done for \$54,000. Mayor Bridges also stated that he has been working with Barrow County on paving Commercial Drive due to the bad situation there. The City will provide the materials only and will be saving the City about \$16,000.

Matt's concern is that a lot of people travel through Statham and don't want to drive them away and would like to see improvements.

D. Dwight McCormic (2123 Smith Dr., Statham)

1921 Broad St. House & Audit

Dwight thanked Mayor and Council for letting him speak. He is still trying to get answers and he email the City Clerk the questions. How much money was spend on the house? Mayor Bridges replied back with the amount. How long is it anticipated for the renovation of the house? Who is doing electrical, HVAC, plumbing?

Mayor Bridges stated Randy Gordon is a certified electrician so he will oversee that. The City employees will take care of the plumbing. The \$50,000 budget will be covering the renovation but it might go over. There are a lot of possibilities for the function of the house on what is going to be there. Mayor also stated his long term goal is to build a building for City Hall, Police Dept. and all the other departments together and then sell the current buildings in downtown area to businesses.

Mayor Bridges stated that on the status of the audit, the City will hire a City Administrator with accounting background to take care of it. City Clerk also stated that Jimmy is currently getting it ready for Hawkins and McNair to do the audit for FY15.

7. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Gayle Steed made motion to go into Executive Session at 7:55 pm. David Huth seconded the motion, unanimous.

David made motion to go out of Executive Session at 8:09 pm. Gayle Steed seconded the motion, unanimous.

8. 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 8:12 p.m.