

**MINUTES
COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 17, 2017
7:00 P.M.**

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Council Meeting was called to order by Mayor Robert Bridges at 7:02pm.

Members present were Mayor Robert Bridges, Council Members Gayle Steed, Betty Lyle, David Huth and Hattie Thrasher. Perry Barton was absent. Also in attendance was City Administrator, Michelle Irizarry, 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.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A. Council Meeting, September 19, 2017

Gayle Steed made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 19, 2017 Council meeting as written. David Huth seconded the motion. 4/0

3. PUBLIC HEARING:

A. Millage Rate for 2017 Property Tax

Mayor opened public hearing at 7:04pm and closed at 7:05pm.

4. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Millage Rate for 2017 Property Tax

David Huth made motion to approve millage rate for 2017 at 4.917. Gayle Steed seconded. 4/0

B. 1st Reading- Re-zone Property on Map Parcel ST03-006, NW Quadrant of SR 316 & SR 211 from R-1 to C-H (Barbara Jan Weatherford and Beverly Ann Jordon)

Randy Gordon explained there are three small parcel that owner is trying to re-zone to C-H on the side with the old Bethlehem Rd.

Betty Lyle made motion to waive 1st reading. David Huth seconded the motion. Gayle Steed abstained from voting. 3/1

C. Health Insurance Quotes/GMEBS Rates

City Clerk, Mai Chang stated that GMA has increased the insurance rate for the City. A spreadsheet was given to Mayor and Council to review at the Work Session. City can proceed to pay 100% for the employees or they can have the employees pay a certain percentage. Quotes have been received from two other companies however they did mention that GMA is offering the best rate for the City's small group. Mai made recommendation that City stays with GMA.

Gayle Steed made motion to go with the higher deductions and if employees want the lower deduction, they can do that by paying the difference. David Huth seconded. 4/0

5. NEW BUSINESS:

A. 1st Reading- Budget Amendment FY18

City Administrator, Michelle Irizarry stated as presented in the Work Session, she presented a balance budget for the General fund and Utility fund recognizing cost savings and freezing of two positions until the end of FY18.

Gayle Steed made motion to waive 1st Reading on Budget Amendment FY18. David seconded the motion. Betty Lyle and Hattie Thrasher voted no. Mayor Bridges voted yes breaking the tie. 3/2

B. Restructure Code Enforcement Under Police Dept.

City Administrator, Michelle Irizarry stated as discussed in Work Session to restructure the organization to put Code Enforcement under the Police Dept.

Randy Gordon stated that most Code Enforcement throughout the State are not under the Police Dept. He stated the biggest Code Enforcement in DeKalb County and Savannah is not under the Police Dept. Some contracted it out to independent agent. Randy also stated that the City has function well for 14 years with little problems. He is a people person and liked to resolve problems before going there. He sees the new trend is to nail them to the wall and don't worry about it. He stated the duty there is to treat people right and help instead of penalizing them. He thinks that it should not be put under the Police Dept.

Gayle Steed stated that nobody is trying to nail anybody to the wall like Randy stated. They just want it to work efficiently and to notify people and let them know. She think quiet frequently that it have not been happening because Randy have not been enforcing the codes. Several people have complained about things and it has not happened. They are trying to relieve a little off him because he had said he had too much on his plate.

Betty Lyle made motion to leave it as is because things are working good like they are. Hattie Thrasher seconded the motion. Gayle voted no. David Huth abstained from voting. 2/2

David Huth made motion to put it on agenda to discuss at the Work Session next month. Betty Lyle seconded the motion. 4/0

C. 1st Reading –Codification of Chapter 58- Solid Waste

City Administrator, Michelle Irizarry stated this is to revise Chapter 58 to come up to date on the contracted services for waste collections.

Gayle Steed made motion to waive the 1st Reading. Hattie Thrasher seconded the motion. 4/0

D. Tree Limbs- Turning Over to Waste Pro as Needed Basis

City Administrator, Michelle Irizarry stated this service will be \$7.00 a month for an additional 95 gallon container. It can be used for yard debris, tree limbs, or regular garbage as needed.

Betty Lyle made motion to table until further discussion, in the meantime to leave everything as is. Hattie Thrasher seconded the motion. 4/0

E. Swear Carole Amos as Code Enforcement Officer

City Attorney, Thomas Mitchell swore Carole Amos in.

F. Donald or Randy Jackson- Water & Sewer Tap Fees

Eddie Jackson spoke on their behalf that Mayor and Council can do what they got to do.

City Attorney, Thomas Mitchell stated that he spoke with Jerry Hood that the tap fees are set based on the bond and debt the City has with GEFA loan and other bond document with the Winder-Barrow Industrial Building Authority also making sure the City makes the payments. Under GEFA loan, all fees are assessed with the ability to impose taxes in order to pay it. It is not recommended by him that City do anything tonight.

Mayor Bridges stated that since 2012, payments has been made on the Sewer Bond.

Gayle Steed made motion to table it until further discussion. David Huth seconded the motion. 4/0

G. Stanley Thomas- Drainage Problem- 425 Sunset Dr.

Betty Lyle made motion to add Stanley Thomas to the agenda. David Huth seconded the motion.

Mr. Thomas stated he served 12 years on Madison Board of Commissioners. He had spoken to Steve here before and then another person after that regarding his problem. He has a major problem at his house, getting some water on the property is one thing but spending money because it's flooded, it becomes a different story. He passed out some pictures and described how water comes down to the house. He thinks he should not have to take water coming down the hill across the road and flooding his property. He stated incidents that had happened and the deductibles he had to pay.

No actions was taken.

6. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

David Huth made motion to go in executive session at 7:38pm. Hattie Thrasher seconded the motion. 4/0

David Huth made motion to out of executive session at 7:42pm. Gayle Steed seconded the motion. 4/0

7. ADJOURN:

There being no further business before the Council, Hattie Thrasher made a motion to adjourn. David Huth seconded the motion. 4/0

Meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.