

**MINUTES OF THE  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY OF AUSTELL  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2018**

Present: Marlin Lamar  
Valerie Anderson  
Ollie Clemons  
Randy Green  
Sandra Leverette  
Scott Thomas

Absent: Mayor Joe Jerkins

Also present were: Scott Kimbrough, City Attorney; Denise Soesbee, Finance Director; Bo Garrison, Public Works Director; Jim Graham, Community Development Director; Brandon Merritt, Assistant Fire Chief, Bob Starrett, Police Chief and Elizabeth Young, City Clerk

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Pro Tem Clemons called the meeting to order and Reverend Cindy Conner gave the Invocation and Mayor Pro Tem Clemons led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Pro Tem Clemons asked if anyone needed to add items to the agenda. Mr. Green stated he needed to add 9-C Surveillance Camera Contract to the Police Department.

*Mr. Green made a motion to approve the addition of 9-C to the Police Department. Seconded by Mrs. Anderson. Motion passed (5-0).*

Mayor Pro Tem Clemons asked Ms. Deborah Brown to come forward. He stated Deborah has been with the city for 10 years and is the 911 Supervisor. He stated Deborah is a big asset to the city and we appreciate all she has done during her 10 years. He thanked her for all her dedication and hard work. Mayor Pro Tem Clemons presented her with her 10 year plaque and pin.

**2. CONSENT AGENDA – INFORMATION AND UPDATE**

**(No Action Required by Council – See Specific Department Director before a Meeting.)**

**3. CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Approve Bills
- B. Approve Legal Bills \$1,779.18
- C. Approve Minutes of Regular Council Meeting October 1, 2018

*Mrs. Anderson moved to follow the recommendation of Mayor Pro Tem Clemons to approve the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Mrs. Leverette. Motion passed (5-0).*

**4. EXCEPTION TO CONSENT AGENDA**

## 5. CITIZENS REPORT

Mayor Pro Tem Clemons welcomed all the citizens and thanked them for coming to our Council Meeting. He stated we do have a contract with Taylor Mathis on the property on Luke Glenn Garrett Hwy but at this point we do not know who the end user is. Taylor Mathis is doing their due diligence to make sure they want to move forward with the purchase of the property. He stated they will be doing a spec build facility but at this point they do not have a tenant. Mayor Pro Tem Clemons stated there would be a berm around the Clarkdale area as well as a 17-acre buffer to protect the area. Mayor Pro Tem Clemons asked if anyone would like to speak on the proposed development on Luke Glenn Garrett Hwy. The following asked to speak regarding the potential land sale agreement behind Fire Station 2:

Ms. Perry-Jackson, Toddy Rudy, Chris Djonis, Todd Paris, Joe Devance, Robinson Efrem, Reginald Moore, Lyrika Holmes, Carlos Bickers, Ann Turner, Richard Grossman, Shondra Winfred, Alex Crowell, Debra Haines, Harry White, Kelly Harper, and Sondra Davenport. All of the above listed citizens spoke regarding their concerns & issues with the potential land sale agreement and contract.

Mr. Andrew Lunstrom from the Austell Business Association encouraged the citizens to reach out to the council and get to know them to have an open line of communication.

Pastor John Bailey from Gospel Nation Church wanted to thank everyone for coming out to the Legion Field for Halloween. He stated there was a huge turn out and that helped keep so many children safe and off the streets.

## 6. GAS SYSTEM REPRESENTATIVE

### JOE JERKINS

Mayor Pro Tem Clemons stated gas usage has been flat but hoping for an increase due to the weather change.

## 7. FINANCE DEPARTMENT

### OLLIE CLEMONS, CHAIRPERSON

#### Denise Soesbee, Finance Director

#### A. Financial Report

#### B. 2018-19 Budget Amendments

The purpose is to adjust the 2018-19 budget to reflect expenditures not included in the original budget. The following purchases were not included in the budget: 2- Street Radar Signs \$7,000.00, Replacement of 3 street lamps \$60,000.00, LED Sign for City Hall \$15,000.00, and a Metal Detector for Court \$3,500.00.

The purchases will be paid for with a portion of the increase in Cable Tax as a result of an audit \$55,000.00 and an increase in Insurance Premium Tax \$30,500.00.

The finance committee recommends that the council approve the proposed budget.

*Mr. Thomas moved to follow the recommendation of Mayor Pro Tem Clemons to approve the 2018-19 budget amendment. Seconded by Mr. Lamar. Motion passed. (5-0)*

## **8. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION**

**SANDRA LEVERETTE, CHAIRPERSON**

**Elizabeth Young, Director**

- A. No Report

## **9. POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**RANDY GREEN, CHAIRPERSON**

**Bob Starrett, Police Chief**

- A. Police Report

- B. Site View Surveillance Service Contract

The Police Committee request Council to approve a contract with Georgia Power to install LPR (License Plate Readers) surveillance cameras in the City of Austell. Mayor Pro Tem Clemons asked Chief Starrett to give more detail regarding the cameras. Chief Starrett has spoken with other cities that have the LPR's and it has made their city much safer. The way they work is if someone comes into the city, it reads their tag, if they have a violation of any kind it will come up on the computers in each Patrol car to alert the officers immediately. It will make our office much safer because our officers will know what we are stopping before we stop them. It will also bring in revenue as well for the city and will be a benefit for us. The contract and site locations are listed. The cost will be \$5,080.00 per month from the general fund. Mrs. Anderson asked how many cameras will there be and do these hold up in court? Chief Starrett stated 10 cameras and yes these do hold up in court because the violation already exists. Mrs. Leverette asked if all the cars that come through Austell will be targeted. Chief Starrett stated yes, all tags will be read, but we will filter out minor violations.

*Mr. Green made a motion to approve the LPR Cameras. Seconded by Mr. Thomas. Motion passed. (3-2)*

- C. Surveillance Camera Contract

The Police committee requests Council to approve a contract with Georgia Power to install surveillance cameras on Garrett Rd. The contract will be for 3 cameras at a location used regularly for dumping. The cost will be \$1,690.00 per month. The purpose of this purchase is to help apprehend persons dumping in this area. The money will be taken out of Contingency. This will

be a month to month contract. The Police committee is asking Council to approve this expenditure for a period of six months. After that time, we can evaluate the effectiveness of this program. The contract terms are the same as listed in Item B of this council material.

*Mr. Green made a motion to approve the Surveillance. Seconded by Mr. Thomas. Motion passed. (5-0)*

## **10. FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**MARLIN LAMAR, CHAIRPERSON**  
**Pat Maxwell, Fire Chief**

A. Fire Report

## **11. PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

**VALERIE ANDERSON, CHAIRPERSON**  
**Bo Garrison, Director**

A. Reduction of Sidewalk & Decel Lane on Westside Commons Project

It is the recommendation of Public Works Department to accept and approve the reduction of 100 ft. length of the sidewalk to 0 ft. and Decel lane from 80 ft. to 0 ft. on Westside Road at Westside Commons Project, due to the proximity of 155 feet from the stop sign. Mayor Pro Tem Clemons asked Mr. Garrison if this would impact safety in any way. Mr. Garrison stated no it would not, there is not enough room for someone to get that much speed up.

*Mrs. Anderson made a motion to approve the Sidewalk and Decel Lane Project. Seconded by Mrs. Leverette. Motion passed. (5-0)*

B. Second Water Supply Contract

It is the recommendation of Public Works Department to accept and approve the Second Water Supply Contract. The agreement between the City of Austell and Cobb County-Marietta Water Authority is for the next fifty (50) years.

*Mrs. Anderson made a motion to approve the Water Supply Contract. Seconded by Mr. Green. Motion passed. (5-0)*

## **12. PARKS DEPARTMENT**

**SCOTT THOMAS, CHAIRPERSON**

**Jim Graham, Director**

### A. Parks Equipment

The Parks Committee recommends approval for the purchase of a 6x12 carry on enclosed cargo trailer. All bids are attached with the lowest bidder being \$2,195.00. There will be a fee of \$400.00 for shipping added to the cost of the trailer. The total cost will be \$2,595.00. The funds for this purchase will come from SPLOST. Mayor Pro Tem Clemons asked Mr. Graham what will the trailer be used for. Mr. Graham stated it would be to carry the sound equipment and the new stage. It will keep it contained and in a safer place and will help from being moved so much.

*Mr. Thomas made a motion to approve the purchase of a new trailer for the Parks Department. Seconded by Mrs. Leverette. Motion passed (5-0).*

## **13.COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**

**OLLIE CLEMONS, CHAIRPERSON**

**Jim Graham, Director**

### A. Code Enforcement Report

Mrs. Anderson asked about 2985 Jefferson Street and what the status was. Barry Maxwell, Code Enforcement Officer, stated he is not sure if she is still living, he has left several messages and has not gotten a call back. Mr. Graham stated this address was on the Blight Tax, but that process is taking longer than expected so we will have to take a different direction. Mr. Graham asked Mr. Kimbrough how would we get someone for unkept property through the mail. Mr. Kimbrough stated we would serve her to all known addresses and we would advertise it as a petition to abate a nuisance. Mr. Graham asked if we would advertise it and then tear it down, Mr. Kimbrough stated yes. The next address is 6021 Bowden Street, the owner is Tina Lamar. Mrs. Anderson asked if we could reach out to her. Mr. Barry Maxwell stated yes. Mayor Pro Tem Clemons stated this one may need to be handled in the same manner because it has a Blight Tax against it also.

## **14. ATTORNEY, DUPREE & KIMBROUGH**

### A. Cobb Housing Authority Resolution

Mr. Kimbrough stated this is a resolution Cobb County Commission Chairman, Mike Boyce, has put into motion and started this program where people can get additional assistance for down payments on purchasing homes

and give greater incentive for families to do that. Each city within Cobb County has adopted this resolution and we have to do that in order to receive the funds from any of the home sales that take place within our jurisdiction. Mayor Pro Tem Clemons asked if this was targeting the workforce affordable housing. Mr. Kimbrough said that is correct.

*Mrs. Anderson moved to follow the recommendation of Mr. Kimbrough to approve the resolution. Seconded by Mrs. Leverette. Motion passed. (5-0)*

## **15. MAYOR'S REPORT**

### **A. A.A.C.I.C Requested Funds**

The Austell Area Community Improvement Committee (A.A.C.I.C.) met last week to discuss the funds that the proceeds from the interest on the Railroad money to be allocated to. Each year these funds go to help the schools, churches and needy families in the City of Austell and assist with maintenance on the cemeteries in Austell. That amount for this year is \$97,700.00.

*Mr. Thomas moved to follow the recommendation of Mayor Pro Tem Clemons to approve the A.A.C.I.C Funds. Seconded by Mr. Green. Motion passed. (5-0)*

## **16.ADJOURN**

*Mr. Thomas moved to follow the recommendation of Mayor Pro Tem Clemons to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mrs. Anderson. Motion passed (5-0).*