

## REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

May 9, 2016  
MINUTES

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** RONNIE DIXON, RAYMOND TURNER, CECIL THOMPSON, KAILEY DEES, LISA CHESSER, AND EDDIE TYSON

**NON-MEMBERS PRESENT:** BILL TORRANCE – CITY MANAGER, BILL BEDINGFIELD, FINANCE DIRECTOR/CITY CLERK, MELISSA MOORE - ADMIN ASSISTANT, REID THRELKELD – CITY ATTORNEY, FRANK WAITS –VPD, ZACK FOWLER- VIDALIA COMMUNICATION, ROBBIE AKINS – ESG, JAMES O’NEAL – ESG, BRIAN SIKES – FIRE CHIEF, NICK OVERSTREET – ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER, KATHY HILT – THE ADVANCE, CHRIS BLOXHAM – REPUBLIC SERVICES.

MAYOR DIXON BROUGHT THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 6:00p.m.

THE INVOCATION WAS GIVEN BY: REV. CHESTER PROCTOR

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** - Wendell Dixon thanked Bill Torrance for filling in at the last minute as the Kiwanis program last week. He stated that with no lead time Bill did a fantastic job, and the club really enjoyed the program.

**DVA:** - Paula brought the Council up to date on activities of the DVA. She thanked the Council for their support during the Onion Festival. She reported that the DVA made \$5985.85 selling onion rings and souvenirs. She invited everyone to the grand re-opening of KE Butler and Company at 11:00 o'clock on Tuesday. The store is located in the Palmer Shopping Center.

**VCVB** – Alexa Britton gave an update of the activities of the Convention and Visitors Bureau. She reported that the Pal Committee will have a meeting with the architects on Wednesday at 3:00 o'clock at City Hall. She also asked the Council to approve the closing of Church Street from Hwy 280 East to Meadows Street at 12:00 o'clock to facilitate putting up the stage, and then closing from Meadows to Hwy 280 West at 3:30. This is for the Fox Theatre program scheduled for this Saturday the 12<sup>th</sup> of May. Councilwoman Chesser made a motion to allow the closing of the streets as need, to ensure the least disruption of parking for the downtown merchants. Councilman Tyson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Ms. Britton also presented an application for a one day alcohol permit for the upcoming May 27<sup>th</sup> event at the City Park. Mr. Torrance reported the application is complete and has been signed by the appropriate departments. Councilman Tyson made a motion to approve the application. The motion was seconded by Councilman Turner. The vote was unanimous. Councilman Thompson abstained from voting citing business reasons. Ms. Britton also requests the closing of Durden Street from the Ameris Bank parking lot entrance to Hwy 280 west for the May 27<sup>th</sup> event. Councilwoman Chesser made a motion to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilman Tyson. The vote was unanimous.

**ONION FESTIVAL** – No Report

**TOOMBS MONTGOMERY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE** – Bill Mitchell brought the Council up to date on activities of the Chamber. He reported that the Showcasing Toombs–Montgomery Tailgating event we be held this Friday night at the Community Center. He hopes that everyone will attend. He also reported on several grand openings that are taking place this month.

**FINANCIAL REPORT - BILL BEDINGFIELD** - Mr. Bedingfield gave the financial report for the month of April. A motion was made by Councilwoman Dees to approve the report. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** -A motion was made by Councilman Turner to approve the minutes from the April 11, 2016 meeting. Councilwoman Chesser seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

## AGENDA

1. **Housing Authority Board Appointment** – Mr. Torrance presented a request, from Housing Authority Director Josh Beck, to have Darrien McClellan fill the unexpired term of board member Stan Yancey. A motion was made by Councilman Tyson to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilman Tyson. The vote was unanimous.
2. **United Way Golf Tournament** – Mr. Torrance presented a request from United Way to have the City place a team in this year's golf tournament. The cost is the same as last year, which is \$500.00 for a four man team. A motion was made by Councilman Tyson to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous.
3. **Vidalia Communications Senior Salute** – Mr. Torrance presented a request from Vidalia Communications to have the City participate in their annual High School Senior Salute to the graduating class of local schools. The total cost is \$185.00, with ads running multiple times on all three stations. Also there is a salute to the Armed Forces that will run at a cost of \$75.00. A motion was made by Councilman Turner to approve the request for both salutes. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous.

## CITY MANAGERS REPORT –

Bill Torrance brought a request to participate with the City of Lyons and Toombs County in the donation of \$20,000.00 each to help in the renovation of the Chamber of Commerce building. Mr. Torrance stated that if we participate we could make a donation through the Development Authority. A motion was made by Councilman Thompson to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Chesser. The vote was unanimous. The money would come from fund balance.

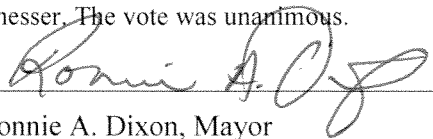
Mr. Torrance informed the Council of the Plan First Program that is being administered by the DCA. Nick Overstreet gave an overview of what the program entails, and what the implications are. He stated that by participating we would be recognized statewide for community achievement. We would also qualify for reduced interest rates from GEFA, the Employment Incentive Program, and the Downtown Development Revolving Loan Fund. He also informed the Council that we could apply annually for CDBG grants rather than every two years. Councilman Tyson made a motion that we participate in the Plan First Program. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous.


Mr. Torrance informed the Council that the City had been contacted by School Superintendent Garrett Wilcox in reference to hiring a Resource Officer and splitting the cost. Mr. Torrance stated the split would be 50/50 with the school. A motion was made by Councilwoman Dees to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson. The vote was unanimous. Councilwoman Chesser abstained from voting citing business reasons. Mr. Torrance informed the Council that we would be seeking a grant for this if available.

Councilwoman Chesser asked that all current and future street closings be put on our website and on Facebook.

Councilwoman Kailey Dees wanted to thank all the volunteers that help to make this one of the most enjoyable Onion Festivals ever. She stated that she really appreciates the hard work and dedication that go into making the Onion Festival successful.

A motion was made by Councilman Turner to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Chesser. The vote was unanimous.

  
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Ronnie A. Dixon, Mayor

  
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William E Bedingfield, City Clerk

