

**REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 14, 2010**

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Washington, Georgia, held their regular monthly meeting on Monday, June 14, 2010, beginning at 6 PM at the Burns-Pope Conference Center. Mayor W. E. Burns presided.

Present were Mayor Burns, City council members Barnett, Cullars, Eaton, Pope, Rainey and Tutt. Also present were City Administrator Eskew, City Clerk Danner, City Attorney Fleming and City Police Chief Davis.

Visitors included: David Jenkins, Henry Harris, Jr., Noble Benefield, Kenneth Echols, Linda Echols, Ronnie Cofer, Rachel Jackson, Darius Jenkins, Karen Carter, John H. Edwards, Laverne Edwards, Judy Anderson, Norris Ware, Ronnie Huffman, Jane Owen, Barbara Riccuiti, Edward Franklin, Robert Geiger, Carol Cartledge, Cindy Bounds, Henry Anderson, Debbie Anderson, Charles Jackson, Barbara Bacon, Jena Hall, Patsy Winn, Ann Tanner, Bertha Sims, Tasha Johnson, Frederick Gartrell, Gail Boyd, Ted Bush, Bob Williams, Mildred Hudson, Mary Dorsey, Ida Jackson, David Hunter, Sims Dill, Jr., Annie R. Wilkinson, Jeanne Davis Blair, Barbara Burns, Sierra Quinn, Yoshe Jenkins, Rilla Spellman, Angie Strother, Olivia Jackson, Joe Willis, Johnny Crookham, Keith Smith and Kip Burke of the News Reporter.

The meeting was opened in prayer by Council member Pope followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES APPROVED

On motion by Eaton, second by Pope, council approved 6 to 0 the minutes of a Public Hearing held May 10, the regular meeting held May 10, a council retreat held May 21, and a called meeting held May 28, 2010.

AGENDA APPROVED

On motion by Eaton, second by Barnett, council approved 6 to 0 the meeting agenda as presented.

MAIN STREET UPDATE

Main Street Director David Jenkins gave an update on applications for a CHIP grant due July 1, 2010 and an URA Section 533 grant due June 28, 2010.

On motion by Eaton, second by Cullars, council approved 6 to 0 the following resolutions authorizing the submission of the two grants applications. Resolutions follow:

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE APPLICATION

WHEREAS, the governing body of the City of Washington authorizes the filing of a 2010 Section 533 Housing Preservation Grant to the Department of USDA Rural Development including all understandings and assurances contained therein; and,

WHEREAS, the governing body directs and authorizes the Mayor of the City of Washington to act in connection with the application and to provide such additional information as may be required; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Washington has provided citizens an adequate opportunity to participate in the development of the application by holding at least one public hearing in the locality before submission of the application; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Washington maintains files that contain documentary evidence that the hearing was held. Also, that the evidence includes a copy of the actual notice of public hearing; and,

WHEREAS, the citizen participation process meets the requirements of the USDA Rural Development regulations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and City Council of the City of Washington do hereby authorize the filing of a Section 533 Housing Preservation Grant to the Department of the USDA Rural Development, by the deadline of June 28, 2010. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor of the City of Washington is authorized to complete and sign all documents necessary to submit a full application for funding. Adopted this 14th day of June, 2010.

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE APPLICATION

WHEREAS, the governing body of the City of Washington authorizes the filing of a Community HOME Investment Program (CHIP) application to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA), including all understandings and assurances contained therein;

WHEREAS, the governing body directs and authorizes the Mayor of the City of Washington, to act in connection with the application, and to provide such additional information as may be required;

WHEREAS, the development of the application provided information on the estimated amount of funds proposed to be used for activities benefiting low and very low income residential persons, rating system for application, and plans to minimize displacement as a result of activities and plans to assist displaced persons;

WHEREAS, the City of Washington commits to partnering with other community organizations and agencies indicated in this CHIP application; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and City Council of the City of Washington do hereby authorize the filing of a 2011 CHIP APPLICATION to the Georgia DCA, before the deadline of July 1, 2010.

Adopted this 14th day of June, 2010.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Chief Davis presented the monthly report and advised that the department is still short staffed.

VOTING ENHANCEMENTS – DEBBIE ANDERSON

Debbie Anderson of the Voter Registrars Office advised of meetings to be held at the Mary Willis Library to update citizens on voting enhancements.

BARBARA BACON – REDEVELOPMENT PLAN MANAGER

Mrs. Bacon advised citizens again that the recent recommendation of a construction firm for Phase I of the Redevelopment Plan Area was scored by a four member team using approved DCA procurement standards.

CHAMBER UPDATES

Chamber Director Judy Anderson asked about the selection of ElbertonNet to handle the city's internet service requests. Ms. Anderson felt that there should have been a bid process to choose the service provider.

On motion by Barnett, second by Eaton, council approved 6 to 0 to have the City's 2010 Chamber dues of \$2000 paid in full immediately.

HENRY HARRIS JR. – CODE OF ETHICS

Mr. Harris asked when council would implement a Code of Ethics ordinance adopted in 2008. Council also discussed the possibility of work sessions prior to the regular meetings.

DDA MEETING

Council member Eaton advised that the June DDA meeting will be held on June 17, 2010, 8:30 AM at Farmers State Bank.

CITY ATTORNEY UPDATES

City Attorney Fleming advised that when using Federal monies the set guidelines must be adhered to in the evaluation factor and scoring process. Local contractors should educate themselves on the scoring criteria.

BEER & WINE LICENSE APPROVAL

On motion by Cullars, second by Rainey, council approved 6 to 0 a Beer and Wine by the Drink application for the Lucky Day Café by Trathaiddeius Gladmon and Cedrick Binns at 103 Alabama Street.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

CULLARS: Council member Cullars asked that the housing contractors in the Southwest Washington Redevelopment Plan area report once a month on local purchasing.

Cullars advised that measurements for the Austin Dabney statue have been taken by an Elberton granite sculptor.

Cullars advised that CHA is in the design process for the proposed pool.

Cullars advised that the Comcast airings of the council meetings are daily at noon and 7 PM.

Cullars commented that recent articles in the News Reporter alluding that Washington will soon be like Sparta is offensive to the citizens of Sparta.

RAINEY: Rainey asked the status of plans for a community center. CHA is also looking into grant/loan proposals for the building of a community center at or near Booker Park.

TUTT: Council member Tutt urged citizens to support new businesses like Fish & Chips in the Whitehall area.

Council member Tutt also expressed his interest in work sessions to talk about issues prior to the regular meetings of council.

BARNETT: Council member Barnett thanked citizens for coming to the council meetings and showing interest in the affairs of the city.

Barnett further thanked those who have worked hard to make the July fireworks event possible. Barnett also thanked Main Street Director David Jenkins and Redevelopment Plan Manager Barbara Bacon for their good and valued efforts.

EATON: Council member Eaton thanked city workers for planting begonias around the square.

Eaton also advised that many citizens had contacted her with concerns over the re-naming of the Burns-Pope Conference Center.

POPE: Council member Pope presented to Mayor and Council in the form of a motion a request that all items requiring a vote by council be presented to the City Administrator on the Thursday before the regular meetings, the City Administrator will then outline request in his memo to council, the request will be read as a first reading at the regular meeting and acted upon at the next scheduled regular meeting., second by Barnett, council voted 3-3 on the motion, with council members Cullars, Rainey and Tutt voting against the motion.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S UPDATES

City Administrator Eskew asked for council approval of the Flood Damage Ordinance as presented at the May 21 council retreat. On motion by Eaton, second by Pope, Council approved ordinance 6 to 0.

City Administrator Eskew asked for council approval of a request from the URA for tax relief on the Anderson Service Station property. On motion by Eaton, second by Barnett, council approved request 6 to 0.

On motion by Eaton, second by Barnett, council approved 6 to 0 a black powder rifle demonstration at the Robert Toombs house on July 3, 2010.

On motion by Eaton, second by Pope, council approved 6 to 0 the changing of the July meeting date to July 19, 2010, to allow Mayor and Council to attend the MEAG Annual meeting.

MAYOR’S COMMENTS

Mayor Burns advised that while honored with the gesture to change the name of the Conference Center to the Burns-Pope Conference Center, he had come to realize that the change is a major distraction. Council’s focus should be Economic Development, jobs for the citizens and making Washington a better place to live.

Mayor Burns asked that Council member Cullars make a motion to change the name of the Conference Center back to the Edward B. Pope Conference Center. On motion by Cullars, second by Tutt, council approved request 5 to 0. Council member Pope abstained and left the meeting at this time.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 7:58 PM.

_____MAYOR
_____CLERK