

**REGULAR MEETING
JULY 19, 2010**

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Washington, Georgia, held their regular monthly meeting on Monday, July 19, 2010, beginning at 6 PM at the Pope Conference Center. Mayor W. E. Burns presided.

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

Visitors present were: Barbara Bacon, Henry Harris, Jr., Cindy R. Bounds, Susan H. Pope, Judy Anderson, Norris Ware, David Toburen, Ashley Asbell, Molli Asbell, Mildred Hudson, Archecia Cullars, Betty Hamilton, Hattie Callaway, Martha Coulter, Ed Anderson, Sr., Kathryn Anderson, Demetrice Porter, Ann Tanner, Norma Hopkins, Patsy Winn, Mike Scarborough, M. V. Booker, Rachel Moreland, Annie R. Wilkinson, Theron Wilkinson, Cassandra Campbell, Patty Durham, Gwen Davenport, Sim Dill Jr., Felecia Hampton, Rosemary Hopkins, Billy Hopkins, Ashley Barnett, David Gay, Travis Armour, Betty Armour, Carrington Tutt, Shameco Tutt, Stephen Carter, Joseph R. Willis, Jaqvetta Bady, Rev. and Mrs. Finch, and Kip Burke of the News Reporter.

The meeting was opened in prayer by Rev. Anderson followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES APPROVED

On motion by Eaton, second by Pope, council approved 6 to 0 the minutes of the regular meeting held June 14, 2010, pending correction of a Council Report item brought up by Council member Pope.

AGENDA APPROVED

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

MAIN STREET UPDATES – DAVID JENKINS

Main Street Director David Jenkins reported that the Rusher Street project is on schedule, but, that the home builder has not begun at this time.

The GEFA Energy Audit grant has begun and the URA is considering input from public meetings held on July 15, 2010.

A granite company in Elberton is working on a design for the Austin Dabney statue. A soil test at the pool site has been completed and the USDA has everything needed for a pre-application package on the proposed Community Center.

BADY CHARTITIES

Ms. Jaqvetta Bady introduced herself and Bady Charities to council. Bady Charities has programs established to help at-risk teens meet educational goals. Bady Charities works closely with the Department of Juvenile Justice. Bady Charities is seeking mentors from the local community.

SAMARIA TEMPLE – REV. FINCH

Rev. and Mrs. Finch of Samaria Temple on Hospital Drive introduced themselves to the community and invited the community to worship with them and gave a schedule of the services at Samaria Temple.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Asst. Police Chief Glenn presented the monthly report and answered questions about a recent stabbing off Lexington Avenue which had been reported in the local paper as being in the Whitehall community.

HENRY HARRIS – AUSTIN DABNEY

Henry Harris advised council that Kinsey Branham, a renowned local artist and sculptor would be a great asset in the design on the Austin Dabney statue.

DDA MEETING

Council member Eaton advised that the next meeting of the DDA will be held on July 22, 2010, 8:30 AM at Farmers State Bank.

COUNCIL REPORTS

RAINEY: Council member Rainey commented on the results of a recent survey of city employees relating to direct deposit of payroll. Council was advised that direct deposit would not incur any additional fees; likewise, it would not save any monies.

Rainey was further advised that the RFP for a website allowing payment through credit cards should be received during October 2010.

EATON: Council member Eaton asked if the DVD's of council meetings were edited before submittal to Comcast for broadcast. The only edit of the DVD is to post the date and time of meeting.

Eaton also expressed concern with traffic flow around the square.

CULLARS: Council member Cullars thanked visitors Ms. Bady and Rev. and Mrs. Finch for their presentations.

Council member Cullars asked about the possibility of hotel/motel taxes for the city. This matter was tabled until the fall retreat.

Cullars asked that an out-of-town retreat be scheduled for council members.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S UPDATES

City Administrator Eskew asked for council approval of the recent SPLOST negotiations. A copy of the agreement was provided to each council member with their meeting packet.

On motion by Eaton, second by Pope, council voted 3-3-1 to adopt the SPLOST Intergovernmental Agreement between Wilkes County and the Municipalities of said county for a period beginning July 1, 2011 and ending June 30, 2017. Council members Cullars, Rainey and Tutt voted against the motion. Mayor Burns voted for the motion breaking the tie vote.

Action on a request from the Wilkes County Board of Commissioners seeking approval of the Senior Citizens Advisory Board as tabled until after the September meeting of the Advisory Board.

City Administrator Eskew advised that spraying for mosquitoes will begin July 26, 2010 in the late evenings.

Council member Rainey asked if it were possible to get meeting packets earlier than the Friday before the scheduled Monday meetings. This discussion was also tabled until the August meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

On motion by Cullars, second by Rainey, council approved 6 to 0 to enter executive session at 7:05 PM to discuss a pending legal issue.

On motion by Eaton, second by Cullars, council approved re-entering open session at 8:14 PM.

City Attorney Fleming reported that one pending legal issue was discussed with no final action taken.

On motion by Cullars, second by Rainey, council approved 6 to 0 to have Mayor Burns sign an executive session affidavit.

Motion by Eaton, second by Pope, to adjourn meeting. There were not enough council votes to adjourn.

Cullars asked to make motion to rescind previous council action concerning Rusher Street Project. Mayor Burns did not recognize any motions.

ADJOURNMENT: On motion by Eaton, second by Pope, council approved 6 to 0 adjournment at 8:15 PM.

_____MAYOR

_____CLERK