

**REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 13, 2012**

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Washington, Georgia, held their regular monthly meeting on Monday, August 13, 2012, 6 PM at the Pope Conference Center. Mayor Ames Barnett presided.

Present were Mayor Barnett, council members Armour, Cullars, Harris, Rainey, Scarborough and Tutt. Also present were City Administrator Eskew, City Clerk Danner, City Attorney Fleming and Police Chief Glenn.

Visitors at the meeting are the same as listed in the work session held August 13, 2012.

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

MINUTES APPROVED: On motion by Harris, second by Scarborough, council approved 6 to 0 the minutes from the work session and regular meeting held July 9, 2012.

MEETING AGENDA APPROVED: On motion by Cullars, second by Harris, council approved 6 to 0 the meeting agenda; deleting the travel policy discussion and adding an issue on Foxwood Development for the City Attorney and a request for council chairs by the City Clerk.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: David Jenkins asked for council approval of the motions presented at the July meeting by Christian Lentz of the CSRA RDC to initiate pending subdivision regulation and zoning amendments.

On motion by Harris, second by Scarborough, council approved 5 to 1 to initiate amendments to Chapter 70 (Subdivisions) of the Washington Code of Ordinances to create alternative street standards for certain types of development, to provide for sidewalks and other pedestrian facilities, to incorporate other necessary administrative provisions and initiate amendments to Chapter 90 (Zoning) of the Washington Code of Ordinances adding building design standards to the CD-1 (Rusher Street Revitalization) zoning district, and adjusting associated administrative provisions. Council member Cullars voted against the motion.

Jenkins advised of a "Notify Me" program offered through the city website to notify local citizens of any emergencies and/or problems. Citizens may go to cityofwashingtonga.gov to sign up.

Jenkins advised that a Proclamation for the Black Patriots Memorial will be in the News Reporter and that the monument dedication was an excellent event and well attended.

MAYOR'S UPDATES: Mayor Barnett commended city departments for work done during the recent water main break. Mayor Barnett discussed replacing the water main from Skull Shoals plant to Lexington Avenue and the need for generators at both water plants in case of system wide power failure.

Mayor Barnett reported that the Recreation Department has begun planning for the annual Christmas parade, which again will be held at night. Mayor Barnett advised that the city will have a float in the parade.

TOURISM UPDATE: Tourism Director Erin Pollock advised of an upcoming Clarks Hill Partnership meeting to be held at Talk of the Town. Pollock also advised that visitors through July were well ahead of the numbers for 2011.

Council member Tutt thanked David Jenkins for the excellent Black Patriots Monument dedication event and encouraged that this historic monument be marketed outside of Washington.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

RAINEY: Rainey advised that the Council Committee of Rainey, Harris and Armour will work with the Historic Committee to develop plans for Callaway Plantation.

Rainey asked that budget details for Callaway, Museum, Pool and Pope Center be added to the budget information given to council.

Rainey discussed term limits for members of boards, committees and authorities. It was noted that some terms are set forth by state law. Rainey urged citizens interested in serving on various committees let it be known.

Rainey requested that construction of Booker Park restroom facilities or use of Porta Potties be considered.

Rainey made a motion to increase council salaries by \$100 per month for each level of GMA training achieved (42, 72, 120 and 204 hours) through Home Rule to become effective after the 2013 elections, second by Cullars, council voted 3-3-1. Voting against the motion were council members Armour, Harris and Scarborough. Mayor Barnett voted against the motion, breaking the tie vote.

CULLARS: Council member Cullars requested that all businesses with outstanding utility balances be cut off during the August cut off period. City Administrator Eskew will talk with a downtown business owner prior to the cut off period.

Cullars asked questions of Police Chief Glenn relating to a recent disturbance on Whitehall/Alabama Street. After discussion, a forum will be scheduled to educate citizens and businesses on police policy and procedure.

Cullars asked that Mayor Barnett give an accounting of his accomplishments and visions for the city since taking office. Mayor Barnett responded by stating that by working together council had reduced the OMI contract, the audit and liability insurance. Work needs to be done on old infrastructure and more attention to business development.

TUTT: Council member Tutt asked if the old high school property was part of the Southwest Washington Urban Redevelopment Area and if it was then suggested that the city refer this handling of this property over to the URA. Prior to the September meeting, City Administrator Eskew will send information to each council member outlining the pros and cons of the City and/or URA handling this property. City Administrator will also send out a RFP for auction of contents of the buildings only. There was discussion on the four mobile classroom units, and whether those units should be included in the auction or handled as real estate.

On motion by Scarborough, second by Harris, to advertise and sell the four mobile classroom units at a price of \$1500.00 each, council approved motion 4 to 2. Council members Cullars and Rainey voted against the motion.

CITY ATTORNEY/FOXWOOD DEVELOPMENT: City Attorney Fleming asked for council approval to begin abandonment proceedings for a street in the Pope Street region and abandonment of a cemetery which was not developed in the area, to allow Foxwood Development to move forward with housing for low to moderate income seniors.

On motion by Scarborough, second by Armour, council approved request 5 to 1. Council member Tutt abstained from voting.

CITY CLERK: City Clerk Danner requested council approval to purchase chairs for the council meeting desk not to exceed \$6000.00. After discussion, City Clerk was instructed to get prices and present at a later meeting.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES: City Administrator Eskew advised that he had received two responses to a RFP for collection of delinquent property taxes and recommended that council approve the proposal submitted by Appalachian Mountain Services Inc.

On motion by Cullars, second by Rainey, to accept the proposal from Appalachian Mountain Services for the collection of delinquent taxes stipulating that collection letters be mailed after January 1, 2013. Council approved motion 4 to 2, with council members Harris and Scarborough voting against the motion.

City Administrator Eskew advised that proposals for the city's health insurance coverage were reviewed by Mr. Walter Jones. Mr. Jones recommended that the city accept the proposal submitted by GMA.

On motion by Cullars, second by Tutt, council approved 6 to 0 the proposal submitted by GMA. Council funding for coverage will be addressed during the budget process.

City Administrator Eskew requested council approval of a contract with PinPoint Geo Tech at a price of \$19,000.00 for four units. This service will help in locating areas where debris should be picked up and other issues for street department maintenance and repair.

On motion by Harris, second by Scarborough, council approved purchase 3-3-1. Voting against the motion were council members Cullars, Rainey and Tutt. Mayor Barnett voted for the motion, breaking the tie vote.

APPOINTMENTS – SENIOR CITIZEN BOARD: Mayor Barnett requested approval of appointments of Sam Sims and Helen Zahran to the Senior Citizens Board. On motion by Harris, second by Scarborough, council approved appointments 3-3-1. Voting against the motion were council members Cullars, Rainey and Tutt. Mayor Barnett voted for the motion, breaking the tie vote.

ADJOURNMENT: On motion by Tutt, second by Harris, council approved 6 to 0 adjournment at 7:30 PM.

_____MAYOR

_____CLERK