

**REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 13, 2018**

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Washington, Georgia, held their regular monthly meeting on Monday, August 13, 2018, beginning at 3:46 PM at the Edward Pope Conference Center. Mayor Ames Barnett presided.

Present were Mayor Barnett and Council members Armour, Armour, Cullars, Mahoney, Scarborough and Tutt. Also present were City Administrator Bailey, City Clerk Danner and City Attorney Fleming.

Visitors are listed in the minutes of the Work Session held on August 13, 2018.

City Attorney Fleming opened the meeting in prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES APPROVED: On motion by T. Armour, second by R. Armour, council approved 6 to 0 the minutes of previous meetings as presented.

MEETING AGENDA: On motion by Scarborough, second by Cullars, council approved 6 to 0 the meeting agenda as presented.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS: Mayor Barnett requested council approval of the re-appointment of Thomas Mills, Sr. to the Board of Zoning Appeals and the appointment of Elizabeth Orr to replace Laura Toburen on the Board of Zoning Appeals. On motion by R. Armour, second by Mahoney, council approved appointments 6 to 0.

Mayor Barnett requested that council approve contacting UGA to complete a study on Consolidation of City/County Governments. This action, if also approved by Wilkes County, would allow UGA to give a quote on the cost of the proposed study. Any findings and recommendations brought forth by the study would then be presented to the voters.

Council member Tutt questioned the timing of this request and council member Mahoney requested a town hall meeting to let citizens voice their opinions.

On motion by T. Armour, second by Scarborough, to let UGA give a quote to proceed with the consolidation study, if agreed upon by Wilkes County, council voted 3-3-1. Voting against the motion were council members Cullars, Mahoney and Tutt. Mayor Barnett voted for the motion, breaking the tie vote.

Mayor Barnett commended those involved in 2017 audit process. Barnett further noted the \$266,000 gain in net position from 2016 to 2017.

STREET CONDITION – OLD SKULL SHOALS ROAD: Ms. Jeanelle Ashmore advised council that the condition of Old Skull Shoals Road is very bad after the recent CDBG sewer line work in that area. Ms. Ashmore asked when the street would be re-paved. City Administrator Bailey advised that retired GA DOT employee Jerry Stover had been over every city street and graded them on a need based scoring. Old Skull Shoals Road is on the list to be re-paved but not near the top of the list; streets will be re-paved as TIA funds become available.

COUNCIL SUBMITTED TOPICS”

SCARBOROUGH: Council member Scarborough requested that council fund the purchase of 140 football helmets for the Parks and Recreation Department for a cost of approximately \$100.00 each. On motion by R. Armour, second by Cullars, council approved 6 to 0 the purchase of 140 helmets at a total cost of approximately \$14,000 to be taken from the capital reserves account.

CULLARS: Council member Cullars asked for an update of the Community Garden. City Administrator Bailey advised that a total of 17 plots were utilized. A corn field has been planted to benefit God's Marketplace and over the past weekend a pumpkin patch was planted for children to use this fall. Bailey further advised of different contests and goals that individual gardeners benefited from.

Cullars asked for a status on Berry Global. City Administrator advised that Berry is still operating, but usage is down about 35%.

Council member Mahoney asked about whether the PDA is planning to hire a new Economic Developer and Council member Tutt advised that there are still about 30 positions to be filled at the new YDC.

Council member Cullars requested further detail breakdown on the cost of the new fire station living quarters.

Council member Cullars requested that Mayor Barnett resign his position as mayor. Mayor Barnett advised that though he owns properties elsewhere, he resides currently at 302 Sims Street and further that he would finish out his current term. Council member Cullars then made a motion to ask Mayor Barnett to resign immediately, second by Council member Tutt. Council voted 3-3-1 on this motion. Voting against the motion were council members Armour, Armour, and Scarborough. Mayor Barnett voted against the motion, breaking the tie vote.

TUTT: Council member Tutt asked about the financing of the fire department rebuild. City Administrator Bailey advised that the engineering fees totaled some \$200,000 which has already been paid through professional services in the budget. The \$975,000 Bricks and Mortar payment to BB&T will be paid through each annual budget at \$86,000 for 15 years. It was noted that the \$86,000 has been budgeted for the last two years.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR TOPICS: City Administrator Bailey reviewed with council problems with the old fire station living quarters: mold and asbestos issues and living and bathroom issues. The new rebuild will allow for future growth and allow for female firefighters. Bailey also reviewed in detail the current ISO rating and how that affects residential homeowner and commercial businesses. Bailey also advised that some materials had been donated for the rebuild.

Bailey reported a request that was present by Sharon Jones at the June meeting of Council, asking for a land swap with the URA at the Gordon Street School property. On motion by Cullars, second by Scarborough, council voted 4 to 2 to swap .51 acres containing the fieldhouse to the URA for .76 acres that contain the tennis courts. Council members Mahoney and Tutt voted against the motion.

City Administrator Bailey reported that LOST had increased some 8% over two years.

Bailey also reported that all FEMA and GEMA funding relating to Hurricane Irma have been received in the amount of \$101,250.39.

Bailey reported that recent Community Garden ribbon recipients were: Margaret Ray- first place; Charles Davis – second place; David Toburen and Kyle Brown – third place. Bailey also thanked Mr. Pope for all his help and knowledge sharing.

ADJOURNMENT: On motion y R. Armour, second by T. Armour, council approved 6 to 0 adjournment at 4:38 PM.

_____MAYOR

_____CLERK