

**WORK SESSION
JANUARY 12, 2018**

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Washington, Georgia, held their regular monthly meeting on Friday, January 12, 2018, beginning at 3 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 Adam Nelson.

Visitors included: Kendra Dill, Richard Crabbe, Charles Jackson, M.V. Booker, Charles Wagner, Blake Thompson, Clara Sutton, Loretta Fanning, Cathy Armour, Ashley Barnett, Porter Barnett, Michael O. Horgan, Deputy Gene Amos, Deputy Johnnie Crookham and Sparky Newsome of the News Reporter.

Mayor Barnett advised that during the regular meeting he intended to make appointments and re-appointments to boards and commissions. The full listing of the appointments was included in the council packets for council review. New appointments are: Council member Cullars to 911 Board; Council member Tutt to the Parks and Recreation Board; Marcus Dill to the Tree Board; and, Council member Mahoney and Janet Parker to the Cemetery Committee.

Council member Tutt advised that currently the Parks and Recreation Board meets at 10 AM and with his work schedule he would have to decline the appointment. This appointment will be addressed at the February 2018 meeting of council.

City Administrator Bailey advised that she would seek approval from council to extend the health insurance coverage for a long time city employee for a two month coverage period (March and April 2018). The employee is currently out of work due to illness but his doctor has advised that he should be able to return after his recovery period with no job limitations.

City Administrator Bailey updated council on the status of the 2017 budget. As it stands now, it is expected that the 2017 actual budget numbers will be under what was actually budgeted for the year. Bailey did not think that current numbers will change as the 2017 audit progresses.

City Administrator Bailey advised council that the city had applied for some \$98,000 in FEMA funds for the Hurricane Irma expenses. It is expected that about 75% (\$73,500) will be returned to the city as reimbursement of expenses. Council member Cullars asked if there was funds budgeted in the 2018 budget for shelter opening expenses. At this time, any disaster expenses would be paid from the general fund. EMA Director Blake Thompson advised council of a Red Cross meeting to be held on January 22, 2018; from 10 AM until 4 PM on how to prepare for the opening of disaster relief shelters.

City Administrator Bailey advised that she would seek approval of a resolution adopting the County's current Debris Management Plan.

City Administrator Bailey also advised that she would seek approval of a contract with CSRA Probation Services for the city's Municipal Court. This contract has been reviewed by the Municipal Court Judge.

City Attorney Nelson reviewed with council the renewal contract between the City of Washington and the City Administrator. Attorney Nelson advised that the education requirement has been fulfilled. Council member Cullars asked about the performance evaluation as discussed in Section 10 of the contract. The contract states that the evaluation shall be done annually in December; however, that will be changed to January to cover the previous twelve months. Council member Cullars also asked that the employer listed in Section 16 be changed to read Mayor and City Council. City Attorney Nelson will see that these changes to the contract are made.

Council member Mahoney requested that council consider removing from the current city employment application the box which indicates if an applicant has been convicted of any crimes. This will be studied and addressed at the February meeting of council. It was noted that the city would still be able to run a criminal history on an applicant before offering a position to an applicant.

Mahoney also asked that the city consider removal of the late payment fees and reconnection fees on utility accounts. It was noted that bills currently are received on the first of each month; due on the 15th of the current month, penalized on the 26th of the current month and then disconnected for non-payment on the 4th day of the following month (for any balance over \$150.00 not paid by 5 PM on the 3rd day of the following month). Council member Cullars stated that he thought all accounts should be

paid in full by the 3rd day of the following month, services disconnected on the 4th day of the following month, and then payment in full before restoring utility services with no fees. This will be addressed at the February meeting of council.

ADJOURNMENT: Work Session adjourned at 3:47 PM.

_____ MAYOR

_____ CLERK