

**REGULAR MEETING  
APRIL 12, 2010**

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Washington, Georgia, held their regular monthly meeting on Monday, April 12, 2010, 6 PM at the Edward Pope Conference Center. Mayor W. E. Burns presided.

Present were: Mayor Burns, 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 present included: Henry Harris, Jr., Robert Aiken, Claudell McClendon, Janice Quinn, Hattie Callaway, Henry Anderson, Debbie Anderson, Annie R. Wilkinson, Betty Hampton, Linda Echols, Kenneth Echols, Norris Ware, Warren Crawley, Archeia Cullars, Jerry Hackney, Sr., Mildred Hackney, Ann Tanner, Patsy Winn, Judy Anderson, Louise D. Burt, Lavinia Henderson, Brian Henderson, Peggy Booker, Kim Evans, Mozelle Doughty, Keyona Wynn, Joylita Booker, Jessica Booker, Andrew Jackson, Mildred Hudson, Gwen Gartrell, Curtis Grant, Marie Tolbert, Althea Harden, Stephanie Walton, M.B. Booker, Gloria Freeman, Rachel Jackson, Charles Jackson, Tom Wells, Rosemary Hopkins, Marshall Waters, III, Bill Steed 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 Cullars, council approved 6 to 0 the minutes of a called meeting held March 5, 2010 and the minutes of the regular meeting held March 8, 2010.

**AGENDA APPROVED**

On motion by Eaton, second by Rainey, council approved 6 to 0 the meeting agenda as presented adding an executive session to follow the regular to deal with personnel issues.

**CHAMBER UPDATE – TY STAPLES**

Chamber of Commerce representative Ty Staples requested that council approve the use of city personnel to assist with fire protection, square clean up and police protection during the scheduled July 4<sup>th</sup> fireworks event to be held on July 2, 2010. On motion by Tutt, second by Eaton, council approved request 6 to 0.

**MAIN STREET UPDATE**

Main Street Director David Jenkins updated council of the CHIP program, the Rusher Street project and the 2010 CDBG application to assist with energy audits.

Council member Cullars asked the status of the current RLF. Jenkins advised that the previous business owner is in default on payments and that the current owner has not at this time assumed the loan payments.

**RESOLUTION – GA CITIES WEEK**

On motion by Eaton, second by Cullars, council approved 6 to 0 the following resolution honoring Georgia Cities Week, April 18 through 24, 2010.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WASHINGTON RECOGNIZING GEORGIA CITIES WEEK, APRIL 18-24, 2010, AND ENCOURAGING ALL CITIZENS TO SUPPORT THE CELEBRATION AND CORRESPONDING ACTIVITIES.**

WHEREAS, city government is the closest to most citizens, and the one with the most direct daily impact upon its residents; and

WHEREAS, city government is administered for and by its citizens, and is dependent upon public commitment to and understanding of its many responsibilities; and  
WHEREAS, city government officials and employees share the responsibility to pass along their understanding of public services and their benefits; and,  
WHEREAS, Georgia Cities Week is a very important time to recognize the important role played by city government in our lives; and  
WHEREAS, this week offers an important opportunity to spread the word to all the citizens of Georgia that they can shape and influence this branch of government which is closet to the people; and  
WHEREAS, the Georgia Municipal Association and its member cities have joined together to teach students and other citizens about municipal government through a variety of different projects and information; and  
WHEREAS, Georgia Cities Week offers an important opportunity to convey to all the citizens of Georgia that they can shape and influence government through their civic involvement.  
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITY OF WASHINGTON DECLARES APRIL 18-24, 2010 AS GEORGIA CITIES WEEK.  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE CITY OF WASHINGTON ENCOURAGES ALL CITIZENS TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO ENSURE THAT THIS WEEK IS RECOGNIZED AND CELEBRATED ACCORDINGLY.  
PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 12 DAY OF APRIL, 2010, BY THE WASHINGTON CITY COUNCIL.

#### **POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Police Chief Davis distributed to council the monthly department report. Davis advised that the Georgia State Patrol re-construction unit is investigating an accident that occurred on Skull Shoals Road.

#### **GREEN GREASE PROJECT**

Mr. Warren Crawley updated council and citizens present of the proposed Green Grease project for Washington. The grease recycling project will start with a call center and evolve into a bio-diesel facility over time. At this time there is an estimate of 30 to 50 job creations.

#### **GED PROGRAM UPDATE**

Mrs. Corey Miller, Wilkes County facilitator for Athens Tech, gave council an update of the GED program in Wilkes County. The facility is located in the old Wilkes Village shopping center behind McDonald's. There are currently 83 students enrolled in the program. There have been 9 GED completions. The classes are free but there is a fee of \$95.00 for testing.

#### **ANNIE R. WILKINSON – CHARTER CHANGES**

Mrs. Wilkinson advised council that her 8 year old grandchild would like answers as to why the proposed charter changes were not approved giving the Mayor Veto powers.

#### **WHITEHALL STREET CLEANUP REQUESTED**

Ms. Jessica Booker requested help in cleaning up the area on Whitehall Street near Gartrell's Café of litter and loitering persons.

#### **COUNCIL UPDATES**

Council member Eaton advised that the DDA meeting will be held on April 15, 2010, 8:30 AM at Farmers State Bank.

#### **CITY ATTORNEY UPDATE**

City Attorney Fleming responded to council questions concerning the charter changes by stating that the local legislative delegation to his knowledge did not present a bill to the General Assembly supporting proposed changes to the City Charter giving the Mayor Veto powers.

### **CITY CLERK REPORT**

City Clerk Danner presented to council three requests for use of city facilities:

On motion by Eaton, second by Barnett, council approved 6 to 0 the use of the Square on May 8 for the Spring Cruise In sponsored by the Memory Lane Cruisers.

On motion by Eaton, second by Barnett, council approved 6 to 0 the use the Square on May 23 for a Christian Bank Concert and Speaker.

On motion by Eaton, second by Tutt, council approved 6 to 0 the use of Ft. Washington Park on June 18-20 for the Class of 1990 reunion.

### **COUNCIL REPORTS**

POPE: Council member Pope asked an estimated completion time of work on water lines. The Water Street work should be completed within the next 10 days.

RAINEY: Council member Rainey asked about the status of a Community Center project. This item will be added to the May retreat agenda.

On motion by Rainey, second by Cullars, council approved 6 to 0 to seek funding for a statue of African American Revolutionary soldier Austin Dabney.

TUTT: Council member Tutt reminded those present to get to know those persons seeking political office and to know who you are voting for.

CULLARS: On motion by Cullars, second by Rainey, council approved 3-3-1 to appropriate \$250,000.00 for a swimming pool project. Council members Barnett, Eaton and Pope voted against the motion. Mayor Burns voted for the motion breaking the tie vote.

### **CITY ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES**

City Administrator Eskew reminded council of the upcoming GMA District 7 listening session to be held in Thomson on April 27.

City Administrator Eskew reminded those present of the flushing of the water lines by the Fire Department beginning on April 19.

City Administrator Eskew requested council approval of the awarding of the Rusher Street water and sewer project to Robert M. Anderson, Inc., of Covington. On motion by Eaton, second by Pope, Council approved 6 to 0 contract award to Robert M. Anderson, Inc.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

On motion by Eaton, second by Barnett, council approved 6 to 0 entering into a previously approved executive session at 7:28 PM to receive information on two personnel issues.

Council member Eaton departed the meeting at this time due to family illness.

On motion by Pope, second by Cullars, council approved re-entering open session at 7:59 PM.

City Attorney Fleming gave a report that two personnel matter were discussed with no final action taken.

On motion by Cullars, second by Rainey, council approved 5 to 0 the signing of an executive session affidavit by Mayor Burns.

**ADJOURNMENT:** On motion by Cullars, second by Barnett, council approved 5 to 0 adjournment at 8:00 PM.

\_\_\_\_\_MAYOR

\_\_\_\_\_CLERK