

**CALLED MEETING  
MAY 10, 2019**

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Washington, Georgia, conducted a called meeting on Friday, May 10, 2019, beginning at 8:30 AM in the Council Chambers of City Hall to discuss recent developments with Novipax and to take possible action regarding same. Mayor Ames Barnett presided.

Present were: Mayor Barnett and Council members Armour, Armour, Mahoney, Scarborough and Tutt. Council member Cullars joined the meeting by phone. Also present were City Administrator Bailey, City Clerk Danner, Economic Development Director Janet Parker and City Attorney Fleming.

Visitors included: Willie E. Burns, Judy Anderson, Melanie Thomas, Debra Denard, Mattie Carson, Rev. Larry Hill and Sparky Newsome of the News Reporter.

Mayor Barnett advised that the city had received word that Novipax is closing the Washington plant. Mayor Barnett and City Administrator Bailey have talked with MEAG about what could be done. The City is under a contract to buy power from MEAG which was renewed in 2000. The extra power resulting in the closing of Novipax could be sold on the market at a loss. Mayor Barnett stated that MEAG should consider other options for cities dealing with scenarios beyond their control.

Economic Development Director Parker advised that she had met with Novipax officials and was told that they are consolidating their business in one plant because their buying market had changed. Their closing in Washington had nothing to do with city rates and that there was really nothing the city could do to prevent their closing.

City Administrator Bailey advised that Novipax bought some 8,053,000 kwh during 2018 with a sales figure of \$771,795, and water/sewer sales of \$263,871. The City would sell the excess power on the market creating approximately \$225,488 in sales which will mean a net total loss of around \$810,178 annually.

Mayor Barnett advised that he thought MEAG should figure out what to do with excess power. The current price per kwh on the open market is \$.028 and the city is committed to a cost of \$.08388 per kwh through the MEAG contract. The City will look into options for getting out of the excess power agreement with MEAG. The City could also consider selling some excess assets.

City Administrator Bailey advised that Novipax has been offered some incentives to stay through 2019.

Council members offered suggestions including cut all capital spending, cut everything not necessary to operation out, cut historical, museums, pool, Family Connections, put freeze on hiring, freeze on any pay raises, cut all overtime hours, consider selling Lake Boline land, Pope Center and the GA Tasc building.

Council also concurred in having Mayor Barnett talk with MEAG about possible contract re-negotiations.

On motion by Tutt, second by R. Armour, council approved adjourned at 9:11 AM 5 to 0.

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MAYOR  
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CLERK