

**REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 10, 2018**

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Washington, Georgia, held their regular monthly meeting on Monday, September 10, 2018, beginning at 4:30 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 present are listed in the minutes of the Work Session held on September 10, 2018.

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

MINUTES APPROVED: On motion by Cullars, second by Tutt, council approved 5 to 1 the minutes of the previous meetings as submitted noting a correction to the Work Session minutes. Council member R. Armour voted against the motion.

AGENDA APPROVED: On motion by Tutt, second by T. Armour, council approved 6 to 0 the meeting agenda as presented.

CHAMPION OF GEORGIA CITIES – RECOGNITION: Mr. Tom Gehl of the Georgia Municipal Association presented to Attorney Fleming the GMA Champion of Georgia Cities Award. Attorney Fleming not only represents many cities in the capacity of city attorney but also represents them well as a State Representative and further works closely with GMA .

MAYOR'S TOPICS: Mayor Barnett commended Kyle Brown for planting the corn in the Community Garden. The corn was given to the Senior Citizens Center and also to God's Market Place.

VISITORS SIGNED TO ADDRESS COUNCIL:

Penny Warren: Penny Warren, owner of The Jockey Club, voiced concern with council allowing for the closing of the square for events; having incentives for new businesses, but not having incentive for existing businesses; working with businesses on utility payments and officials not supporting local businesses.

Joel and Kelli Eisler: Mr. and Mrs. Eisler, owners of Bee Southern, voiced concern with the lack of local support; the need for stronger leadership and the need for more engagement with elected officials.

Jeremy Frasier: Jeremy Frasier, owner of CJ's Pizzeria advised that there are merchants downtown who are struggling and are simply one day away from closing. Mr. Frasier also mentioned that his utility bills are high.

All of the business owners that spoke to council commended the job done by Main Street Director Elizabeth Elliott and stated that Director Elliott is approachable, listens well and comprehends their needs and concerns and is well liked. The Downtown Merchants Council meets the first Thursday of each month, but the next meeting will be Thursday, September 13, 2018 at 9 AM in the Council Chambers of City Hall.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT: Fleming advised council that it would be appropriate for council to authorize the Mayor to sign a letter inviting the county officials and officials of others cities within the county to a meeting for preliminary work on the SDSA which should be renewed during 2019. On motion by Tutt, second by T. Armour, council approved 6 to 0 to have Mayor Barnett send a letter to all other county officials inviting them to a work session on the SDS agreement.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS: City Administrator Bailey requested council approval of the 2018 tax millage rate of 8.863 mils. On motion by T. Armour, second by Scarborough, council approved 6 to 0 the 2018 tax millage rate at 8.863 mils.

On motion by Cullars, second by Tutt, council approved 6 to 0 the October 13, 2018, cancer walk on the square.

On motion by Tutt, second by Cullars, council approved 6 to 0 the October 20, 2018, Love Washington event on the square.

On motion by Scarborough, second by Cullars, council voted 6 to 0 to table the request for use of the city parking lot for a food truck fare on October 20, 2018.

On motion by Scarborough, second by T. Armour, council approved 6 to 0 the Jason Chapman 5K on the square on October 27, 2018.

Council member Cullars questioned the approved payment for purchase of football helmets for the Parks and Recreation Department. City Administrator Bailey advised that a deposit of \$7,000 was made and that the city requested a copy of the helmet invoice in order to make final payment. To date the invoice has not been received.

Council member Mahoney thanked business owners for voicing their concerns and assured them that elected officials are approachable.

ADJOURNMENT: On motion by Tutt, second by T. Armour, council approved 6 to 0 adjournment at 5:14 PM.

_____ MAYOR

_____ CLERK