

**REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 13, 2010**

The Mayor and City Council held their regular monthly meeting on Monday, December 13, 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, City Financial Coordinator Bailey and City Police Chief Davis.

Visitors present were the same as listed in the Public Hearing held December 13, 2010.

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

MINUTES APPROVED

On motion by Eaton, second by Pope, council approved 6 to 0 the minutes of the regular meeting held November 8, 2010, committee meetings held November 12, 13 and 15, a called meeting held November 22, 2010 and a Public Hearing held December 6, 2010.

AGENDA APPROVED

On motion by Eaton, second by Barnett, council approved 6 to 0 the meeting agenda as presented.

2011 CITY BUDGET APPROVED

Council member Barnett made motion to approve the budget as presented, taking out the purchase of a pole truck for the electric department and the purchase of transformers for the Rusher Street development project and; further, to hold electric rates at the current level (some \$195,000.00 taken out of budget), second by Eaton, council voted 3-3-1 with Mayor Burns voting for the motion breaking the tie vote.

Budget highlights include: no electric rate increase; a 7% increase in water and sewer rates (there will also be a 7% increase in water and sewer rate in 2012 and 2013 to meet GEFA debt obligations); a \$.50 increase in residential garbage rates, a 1.14% increase in the OMI contract, and a 2.5% increase merit promotion pay increase.

Council member Tutt advised of a budget need for the Mary Willis Library computer purchase. Tutt was advised to have Library Director Crowe go through the proper channels to have this budget item considered.

Council member Cullars asked that the need for a canine officer be evaluated.

MAIN STREET – DAVID JENKINS

Main Street Director David Jenkins advised that the GEFA Energy Audit program is ongoing and that those interested should contact Mildred Hudson through the City Business Office.

Mr. Jenkins also advised council of the GMA Georgia Cities Foundation Heart and Soul Bus Tour which will be through Washington on April 14, 2011.

Mr. Jenkins also reported on four conferences scheduled for early 2011 in Washington: January – DCA Opportunity Zone Conference; February – Department of Health and Human Services; March – Federal Reserve Bank; and, April – a DCA Rusher Street project conference.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Chief Davis and Capt. Glenn presented the monthly report and advised that the Toys for Tots Christmas program is going well and invited council members to be present on December 22, 2010, when the toys are distributed.

DAVID TOBUREN – COMMUNITY CONCERNS

Mr. Toburen thanked the Public Works Department for doing such a good job in collecting garbage in a timely manner and leaves and limbs pickup.

Mr. Toburen suggested providing council members with a business email address which can be used by the citizens to contact council members.

Mr. Toburen expressed a need for a community pool and further suggested a Lexington Avenue location.

TAALIYAH BOOKER – POOL

Ms. Booker, a fifth grade student at Washington Wilkes Elementary School, requested that council support the building of a pool for a place for children to learn to swim and have fun.

RILLA SPELLMAN – POOL

Ms. Spellman requested that council consider the building of a year-round pool for use in teaching citizens to swim, athletic training and senior exercise.

BEER & WINE LICENSE – E50 – TRODONDRIC ANDERSON

On motion by Cullars, second by Rainey, council approved 6 to 0 a beer and wine license for 2011 for Trodondric Anderson for a business operating as ES0 at 202 Whitehall Street.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

RAINEY: Council member Rainey thanked citizens for the comments on the need for a pool. Rainey apologized that there was no more that could be done to lower utility rates.

POPE: Council member Pope advised of the success on the Historical Foundations weekend Christmas Tour and dinner.

BARNETT: Council member Barnett thanked city workers for their assistance with the “Snow on the Square”.

TUTT: Council member Tutt thanked fellow council members and Mayor Burns for work done during 2010.

Tutt commented on some brutal remarks contained in letters in the News Reporter regarding the building of a pool. Tutt said that the council needs to fight for a pool for the children of Washington.

CULLARS: Council member Cullars remarked that the groundbreaking for the pool is scheduled for March 2011.

Cullars passed along an invitation to Council to attend the Senior Citizens Christmas luncheon on December 23, 2010 at 12:30 PM.

Cullars reported a problem in the Tate Street cemetery. Cullars also asked for clarification on the business cutoff reconnect fee policy and an update on the status of credit card payments.

EATON: Council member Eaton thanked citizens for their continued attendance and assured those present that the pool issues will be worked out.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR’S UPDATES

City Administrator Eskew asked for council approval of the Georgia State Minimum Standard Codes which will become effective January 1, 2011. On motion by Eaton, second by Barnett, council approved updated codes 6 to 0.

Codes adopted are:

- International Energy Conservation Code with GA Amendments – 2009 Edition
- National Green Building Standard with GA Amendments – 2008 Edition
- GA Amendments to the 2006 Edition of the International Residential Code
- GA Amendments to the 2006 Edition of the International Plumbing Code
- GA Amendments to the 2006 Edition of the International Mechanical Code

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT – LAZARUS PROJECT

City Administrator Eskew asked that council approve an intergovernmental agreement with Wilkes County, the City of Washington, and Lazarus. In the agreement the bank will not require that ownership of equipment be used as collateral.

On motion by Eaton, second by Tutt, council approved agreement 6 to 0. A copy of the agreement is on file in the Office of the City Clerk and also on file in the Office of the Financial Coordinator.

ADJOURNMENT: On motion by Barnett, second by Eaton, council approved 6 to 0 adjournment at 7:02 PM.

_____MAYOR
_____CLERK