Minutes of the Washington City Council

Monthly Meeting

Monday, June 12, 2023
12:00 p.m. at City Hall Council Chambers

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Washington, Georgia, held their regular monthly meeting on Monday, June 12, 2023, in Council Chambers, City Hall, 12 Noon.

Present were Mayor Bill deGolian, City Attorney Barry Fleming, City Administrator Jerry deBin, Council Members Andy Anderson, Nathaniel Cullars, Sr., Matthew Denard, Larry Hill, Maceo Mahoney, and Charles Wagner. Also present was Wanda Dingler, City Clerk.

The Invocation was led by Hill and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Anderson.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion was made by Hill and seconded by Denard to approve minutes of the May 8, 2023, Council Meeting. Wagner, Anderson, and Mahoney voted in favor. Cullars voted no. Motion passed on a 5-1 vote. By consensus, copies of minutes from December, January, February, March, and April meetings will be provided to Council by placing in their inbox at City Hall.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion to approve the agenda was made by Denard and seconded Hill. The agenda was approved by unanimous vote.

**Public Forum to address Council: (Speakers are asked to limit comments to 3 minutes)**

**MAYOR’S TOPICS**

1. Update on Washington Commons housing development
2. Confirmation that Washington has adopted GMA’s City of Civility Resolution
3. Reminder of GMA Convention and annual MEAG meeting. The motion was made by Anderson and seconded by Denard to skip the July meeting due to upcoming GMA and MEAG conferences. Motion passed unanimously.
4. Recap of June 3rd Free Fishing event at Lake Boline
5. Reminder of Juneteenth and Independence Day events upcoming
6. Ethics Complaints: A motion was made by Mahoney and seconded by Denard to address the existing ethics complaints through mediation led by the City Attorney. Hill, Anderson, and Wagner voted for the motion. Cullars opposed. This motion passed with a 5-1 vote. Two mediation meetings are scheduled for August 14th, at 4:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR TOPICS:**

1. Recommendation to approve letter to GDOT rerouting SR47. A motion was made by Denard and seconded by Anderson to approve a letter to GDOT pledging that the city will financially contribute to the feasibility study for our proposed rerouting SR47 south of the city. Wagner voted yes. Cullars, Hill and Mahoney opposed. Mayor deGolian broke the tie with a yes vote. Motion passed 4-3.
2. Approval of election qualifying fees. Recommendation to keep candidate qualifying fees at $108 for Council candidates and $216 for Mayoral candidates. The motion was made by Denard and seconded by Wagner. Hill and Anderson voted yes. Cullars and Mahoney voted no. Motion passed with a 4-2 vote.

**COUNCIL ACTION TOPICS:**

**COUNCILMAN ANDERSON**

1. Recommendation to allocate up to $500,000 annually for increased Sheriff’s Office patrols inside the city. The WCSO agrees to provide a monthly report highlighting law enforcement activities within the city limits. City Attorney Fleming will draft the agreement to operate on a month-to-month basis. Motion made by Anderson and seconded by Hill. Wagner and Denard voted in favor. Mahoney and Cullars opposed. Motion passed on a 4/2 vote.

**COUNCILMAN CULLARS**

1. Recommendation to offer annual lease of Reese Booker Center to Wilkes County Community Partnership (Family Connection). After discussion, Motion was made by Cullars and seconded by Mahoney to allow WCCP and WorkSource Georgia to share the Reese Booker Center for $1.00 per year. Motion was also made by Cullars and seconded by Mahoney to increase the city’s support of WCCP from $47,000 to $65,000 annually effective immediately. This motion passed unanimously.
2. Recommendation to eliminate $150 deposit and $55 penalty for disconnected utilities. The motion was made by Cullars and seconded by Mahoney. Hill voted in favor. Anderson, Wagner, and Denard voted no. Motion failed with a 3-3 tie.

A motion was made by Denard and seconded by Wagner to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 2:26 PM.

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Mayor City Clerk