**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

**May 9, 2022**

**Edward B. Pope Conference Center**

**6:00 PM**

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Washington, Georgia, held their regular monthly meeting on Monday May 9, 2022, at 6:00 P.M. at the Edward B. Pope Conference Center.

Mayor William DeGolian presided.

Pledge of Allegiance by Andy Anderson

Invocation by Councilman Larry Hill

Approval of Meeting Agenda motioned by Cullars seconded by Hill was unanimously approved.

Joint Public Hearing for 2022 CDBG Application: City Washington/Wilkes Co. The Wilkes Co. BOC was represented at the council meeting by Charles Jackson and recognized by the City Administrator. Anne Floyd stated the reason for the public hearing was required was due to the use of federal funds being used for the city and county for water improvement in Jackson Heights and Lexington Avenue. $1 million dollars for infrastructure and the city matches the grant by $47,500 the county does not have to match. Motioned by Hill and seconded by Cullars to approve the CDBG Application with the City of Washington/Wilkes Co. BOC.

**ADMINISTRATOR TOPICS**

1. Approval of CDBG Application to be approved which was approved by all council after Anne Floyd gave the information for the public hearing. The Intergovernmental Agreement with Wilkes Count for the Joint CDBG Application would need signatures from the Mayor, City Clerk, County Clerk, and Commissioner Chair. City Attorney Fleming explained federal grants conflict of interest of any council or city employee that live in the target area a request for exception would be needed. The city has an electric department employee that does live in that area and the exception would be approved with no problem.
2. Approval of Solicitor- the city administrator removed this item until next meeting.

Approval of minutes-minutes were approved unanimously with two corrections needed.

Mayor and council approved to go into executive session for discussion of the real estate and personnel matter.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

1. Angela Booker addressed council to think about helping to cut the additional fees with utilities again.
2. Eric Luke addressed council about the electric rates.
3. Val Rodgers addressed council about helping fund her AAU basketball team “Wilkes Traveling Tigers” with a 3-day trip to North Carolina July 8 costing $8750. She has two teams ranging from ages 10-15. Council requested a break down of charges and Valerie stated that she would get the requested information to the city clerk.
4. Albert Moore addressed council about his concerns for the old school on Gordon Street.

**MAYORS TOPICS**

1. YMCA Danny McConnell addressed council about the school on Gordon Street with information about the possibility of a YMCA. Danny stated that there are grants for renovation and the YMCA could work with the city to help find the proper grant if chosen to use the old gym as a location. The old gym would be the best to incorporate a YMCA due to its size.
2. Juneteenth celebration by museum planning to have an event on June 17, 2022, from 5-7pm. Mahoney questioned why it was being held and the museum. Hill stated that the museum wanted to coincide with the activities taking place that weekend. Anderson & Wagner stated that the museum was being used because the proclamation was signed at the museum which kicks off the activities for the Juneteenth Celebration.
3. Enhancing Lake Boline for public outdoor use with a park area and boat ramp. Denard and Hill were appointed by the Mayor to be on the committee to start the process.
4. Appointment of Robert Vick to Historic Preservation Committee nominated by Janet Parker. Mayor called for vote motioned by Anderson seconded by Wagner. 4 in favor of the nomination were Mahoney, Anderson, Hill, Wagner; 1 opposed Cullars; Denard did not vote. Robert Vick was appointed to the Historic Preservation Committee.
5. Approval of WeSolar using the land of the county dumpsite as a location and approval of the MOU. Mayor called for a motion. Denard called for motion seconded by Wagner. 5 in favor Wagner, Denard, Hill, Mahoney, Anderson; 1 opposed Cullars. Passed that WeSolar use the county dumpsite and approval.
6. Amendments to Ordinance Section 2-12/-67/2-69 would be discussed at next month's meeting. Council did not have enough time to review.

**COUNCIL DISCUSSION TOPICS**

1. Councilman Mahoney
   1. Ingle’s parking lot was paved based on profits from the company. Mahoney stated that putting information in the newspaper was not the correct way to handle the situation. Mahoney felt that a call should have been made to the manager or corporate. Mahoney requested that Ingles be given an apology. Mayor stated he would write the CEO an express his gratitude.

COUNCIL ACTION TOPICS

1. Councilman Mahoney
   1. Debris removal from the barn was addressed by the city administrator that the process was coming along. Items are being labeled for surplus and a notice would be placed in the newspaper. The grinding of debris has started with a company that is charging $650 per hour for the machine and labor. Councilman Cullars questioned how many days it will take for the process due to the amount per hour. City Administrator stated 3 days and with 8hrs a day.
   2. Mahoney requested that Juneteenth be a paid holiday for city employees beginning in June of 2022 to coincide with the federal and state holiday for Juneteenth. Motioned by Hill seconded by Cullars and unanimously approved 6-0.
   3. Councilman Mahoney wanted to know with the revenue generated last year of $1 to help relieve the $22 rate. City Administrator stated the money was used for fund depreciation basically a “raining day” account divided between departments for emergencies. Motioned to have the $22 removed from the electric bill for citizen relief seconded by Cullars. 3 in favor Mahoney, Hill, Cullars; 3 opposed Anderson, Wagner, Denard. Vote was a tie and did not pass.
   4. Recommendation of a mid-year budget work session in August. Motioned by Mahoney seconded by Anderson and unanimously approved. City Administrator offered to get with Mahoney and Anderson to come up with having ECG or MEAG come and do a workshop on how the budgeting process works for city government.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion to adjourn for executive session to discuss a real estate & personnel matter by Hill and seconded by Anderson a unanimous vote. Executive session began at 8:46pm motion and executive session ended at 9:10pm. Council returned Mayor asked for a motion which was given by Councilman Denard to end regular council meeting seconded by Mahoney. Unanimously approved to end meeting at 9:15pm.

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MAYOR

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City Clerk Lesley Crawford