**Minutes of the Washington City Council**

**Special Called Meeting**

**December 29, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.**

**Edward B. Pope Conference Center**

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Washington, Georgia, held a special called meeting on Monday, December 29, 2022 at the Edward B. Pope Conference Center. Purpose of the meeting was to adopt the 2023 city budget and to adopt an electric rate price reduction.

Mayor William DeGolian presided. The mayor and Councilman Denard participated by phone. Councilmen Anderson, Cullars, Hill, Mahoney, and Wagner participated in person.

Councilman Cullars objected to Mayor deGolian presiding via phone. City Attorney cited GA law and opined that the mayor is permitted to do so. Councilman Cullars also questioned the legality of Councilman Denard participating based on GA law governing participation via teleconference. City Attorney cited GA law and opined that Denard’s attendance via phone is permitted. Councilman Cullars then left the meeting.

Meeting was called to order by Mayor deGolian. The invocation was given by Councilman Hill and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilman Wagner.

ADMINISTRATOR ITEMS

1. Recommendation to adopt the 2023 budget as presented. Motion by Wagner and seconded by Anderson. After considerable discussion, the motion passed on a 3-2 vote. (YEA = Anderson, Denard, Wagner; NAY = Hill, Mahoney; Absent: Cullars)
2. Recommendation to adopt the approximate 7% electric rate reduction as prepared by Electric Cities of Georgia: effective January 1, 2023. Motioned by Councilman Anderson and seconded by Councilman Denard. Councilman Mahoney left the meeting prior to the vote but stated he opposed the proposal. After considerable discussion, the motion passed 4-0. (YEA: Anderson, Denard, Wagner, Hill; Absent: Cullars, Mahoney)

The mayor called for a motion to adjourn. Motioned by Denard and seconded by Hill. Vote was unanimous and the meeting adjourned.

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Mayor City Clerk