

MINUTES
WAYCROSS CITY COMMISSION MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 16, 2021
5:00 PM

The Commission of the City of Waycross held their Regular City Commission Meeting on Tuesday, March 16, 2021 in the Commission Chambers of City Hall. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Mayor Michael-Angelo James. Members in attendance were: Mayor Michael-Angelo James, Mayor Pro Tem Henry Strickland, Commissioners John Threat, Diane Hopkins, and Marian Solomon-Gaines. Commissioner Norman Davis was absent.

Commissioner Threat asked Carlos White, Kingdom Dominion Ministries, to offer the opening invocation. The Invocation was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor James.

Police Department Chief Cox introduced Kenneth Rollin, Police Department, as the Employee of the Month.

City Attorney Rick Currie request for a public hearing to be schedule for April 20, 2021 concerning signs.

During the City Manager's & Mayor's Report, City Manager Tonya Miller announced Joint Comprehensive Plan Meeting with County and City on March 22, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at the County Administrative Building. Mayor James discussed the scheduling of appoints for COVID-19 vaccines. The location to receive the vaccination is the local mall parking lot and appoints are scheduled online.

There were no public remarks on official action.

Mayor James presented the Consent Calendar as read by Acting City Clerk China Williams Agu for consideration of official action as follows:

Approval of Minutes: Waycross City Planning and Information Session Monday, March 1, 2021, 5:00 pm; Waycross City Commission Meeting Tuesday, March 2, 2021 pm.

The following Ordinances was presented for second reading:

ORDINANCE NO. 21-06

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA, TO AMEND THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF WAYCROSS; TO INCREASE THE SALARY AND COMPENSATION OF THE MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS; TO PROVIDE FOR SEVERABILITY; TO PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

ORDINANCE NO. O21-07

AN ORDINANCE OF THE WAYCROSS CITY COMMISSION TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA; TO AMEND CHAPTER 2 – ADMINISTRATION, ARTICLE VI – DEPARTMENTS, DIVISION I – GENERALLY, BY ADDING A NEW SECTION 2-263 TO ALLOW FOR DONATIONS; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO PROVIDE FOR SEVERABILITY; TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; TO PROVIDE FOR RENUMBERING OR RELETTERING; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

ORDINANCE NO. O21-08

AN ORDINANCE OF THE WAYCROSS CITY COMMISSION TO AMEND THE ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA; TO REZONE THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED HEREIN LOCATED AT THE CORNER OF K STREET AND ALBANY AVENUE FROM R-50MH RESIDENTIAL TO C-2 HIGHWAY COMMERCIAL; TO SET AN EFFECTIVE DATE; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Consent Calendar was approved by motion from Commissioner Diane Hopkins, and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

The following Privilege Licenses was presented to the Commission for approval 2021.

1. Food Lion, LLC DBA Food Lion #2844, Michael L Hoyle, 1312 Plant Avenue, Waycross, GA 31501, Package Sales, Beer and Wine

The Privilege License was approved by motion from Commissioner Diane Hopkins. Commissioner Marion Solomon-Gaines second the motion. The motion was approved.

Ms. Linda Jones, Purchasing Director, presented Bid Vehicle Equipment Purchase- New Police Durangos to the Commissioners. The Waycross Police Department will be receiving lightbars and equipment for the 6 new Durangos in the next few months. Purchasing is requesting to purchase them from Dana Safety in the amount of \$17,687.78. Dana Safety is an approved vendor of Federal General Services Administration. The bid is the best and lowest bid. Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines made the motion to approve to award bid to Dana Safety in the amount of \$17,687.78; Commissioner Diane Hopkins second the motion. The motion was approved with an unanimous vote.

Ms. Jones presented Bid #FY21-15 Website Redesign to the Commissioners. Purchasing issued request for proposals for Website Redesign. After staff review and evaluation, it is the recommendation to award the bid to 365 Degree Total Marketing of St. Simons Island, GA for \$30,875.00, and the second and future years will be \$3,800.00 annually. Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines made the motion to approve award the bid; seconded by Commissioner Diane Hopkins; and approved with a unanimous vote.

Linda Jones Purchasing Director presented Consideration – Architect for Armory to the Commission. It is staff's recommendation to use Doug Neal for the Architect for the Armory in the amount not to exceed \$34,000.00. Mr. Neal did the architect work on Public Works Building and Fire Station Building. Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines motioned for approval of Consideration – Architect for Armory bid to be awarded to Mr. Neal in the amount not to exceed \$34,000.00. Commissioner Diane Hopkins seconded the motion. After conversation, all present voted in favor.

Ms. Linda Jones present Consideration – Lamar Johnson Construction to Enclose 2 Offices to the City Commission. Public Works Department new facility used to house building maintenance and traffic control. Cost is to be paid as a contingency line item in the amount of \$51,225.00. It is staff recommendation to us Lamar Johnson Construction for the amount of \$51,225.00, and all of Public Works Department will be moved to the building. Commissioner Diane Hopkins motion for approval of the bid. Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the bid.

Ms. Jones presented bid for Emergency Purchase – Wastewater Plant Primary Clarifier Primary to the Commission. No work has been completed on the clarifiers since 1997. The purchase has to come from Brentwood because item is a sole source item. It is staff recommendation to approve bid to Brentwood in the amount of \$10,505.03. Commissioner Diane Hopkins motion for the bid approval to be award to Brentwood in the amount of \$10,505.03. Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the bid's approval.

An Ordinance was presented for first reading to the Commission:

ORDINANCE NO. 021-09

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA; TO AMEND CHAPTER 111 – SIGNS, ARTICLE I. – IN GENERAL, BY ADDING NEW SECTION 111-1, PERTAINING TO THE PLACEMENT OF SIGNS ON PUBLIC PROPERTY; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO PROVIDE FOR SEVERABILITY; TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; TO PROVIDE FOR RENUMBERING OR RELETTERING; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

A Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia to Approve Purchase of Light Bars and Necessary Equipment for Newly Leashed Police Vehicles for the Waycross Police Department was present to the Commission for approval.

RESOLUTION NO. R21-16

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA, TO APPROVE
PURCHASE OF LIGHT BARS AND NECESSARY EQUIPMENT FOR NEWLY
LEASED POLICE VEHICLES FOR THE WAYCROSS POLICE DEPARTMENT;
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

WHEREAS, the City of Waycross has approved funds to purchase light bars and assorted, necessary equipment for newly leased Dodge Durango police vehicles; and

WHEREAS, the City of Waycross Purchasing Department is requesting approval of purchase from Dana Safety Supply, Inc. which is the approved vendor of the Federal General Services Administration (GSA); and

WHEREAS, this equipment to be purchased has already been bid by GSA and the City of Waycross is using this contract, being GSA Contract # GS-07F-0512T, at a total cost of not more than \$17,687.78; and

WHEREAS, said matter having been considered.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Commission of the City of Waycross that the contract for purchase of light bars and assorted, necessary equipment for six (6) newly leased police vehicles for the Waycross Police Department be awarded to Dana Safety Supply, Inc., at a cost of \$17,687.78, and to be paid for from the Fleet Management Program funds and Waycross Police Department budgeted funds.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor, City Manager, City Clerk, City Finance Director and City Director of Purchasing be authorized and directed to execute any contract or documents on behalf of the City of Waycross, and to do all the acts and things necessary in order to carry out the purposes and intent of this Resolution.

SO RESOLVED, this 16th day of March, 2021.

CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA
BY: MICHAEL-ANGELO JAMES, Mayor

ATTEST:
MICHELLE LOVE, City Clerk

Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines made the motion to approve Purchase of Light Bars and Necessary Equipment for Newly Leashed Police Vehicles for the Waycross Police Department. Commissioner Diane Hopkins seconded the motion. All voted in approval, and the motion passed.

A Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia to Approve Douglas A. Neal Architect, Inc. of Saint Simons Island, Georgia for Preparing Architectural and Engineering Design Plans for Waycross City Armory was presented for approval.

RESOLUTION NO. R21-17

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA,
TO APPROVE DOUGLAS A. NEAL ARCHITECT, INC. OF SAINT SIMONS ISLAND,
GEORGIA, FOR PREPARING ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING DESIGN
PLANS FOR WAYCROSS CITY ARMORY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

WHEREAS, the City of Waycross has a need for an architectural firm to provide a proposal and plans for full architectural and engineering design services, to produce construction documents and provide bidding and construction administration services for the renovation of the City armory facility before the WPD Criminal Investigations Unit can relocate there; and

WHEREAS, the City of Waycross has previously utilized the services of Douglas A. Neal Architect, Inc. as the architect for the new Fire Station # 4 and the Public Works Facility; and

WHEREAS, it is the staff's recommendation to again utilize the services of Douglas A. Neal Architect, Inc. for the above-described project; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.1 of the Charter of the City of Waycross gives the City of Waycross the power and authority to "enter into contracts and agreements with other governmental entities and with private persons, firms and corporations"; and

WHEREAS, said matter having been considered.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Commission of the City of Waycross selects, and will utilize, the architectural services of Douglas A. Neal Architect, Inc. for the City Armory renovation project at a cost not to exceed \$34,000.00 and to be paid from available S.P.L.O.S.T funds.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor, City Manager, City Clerk and City Attorney be authorized and directed to execute this Resolution on behalf of the City of Waycross, and to do all the acts and things necessary in order to carry out the purposes and intent of this Resolution.

SO RESOLVED, this 16th day of March, 2021.

CITY OF WAYCROSS

BY: MICHAEL-ANGELO JAMES, Mayor

ATTEST:
MICHELLE LOVE, City Clerk

Commissioner Diane Hopkins made the motion to approve Douglas A. Neal Architect, Inc. of Saint Simons Island, Georgia for Preparing Architectural and Engineering Design Plans for Waycross City Armory. Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines seconded the motion. All voted in approval, and the motion passed.

A Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia to Approve the Retirement, Sale and Adoption of "LOBO" a Retired Police Dog was submitted for approval.

RESOLUTION NO. R21-18

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA,
TO APPROVE THE RETIREMENT, SALE AND ADOPTION OF "LOBO",
A TRAINED POLICE DOG; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

WHEREAS, the City Commission and the City of Waycross Police Department have recognized the sacrifices made by public safety officers who have served a number of years with the City; and

WHEREAS, "Lobo" has been a loyal and faithful police dog for many years and is now ready for retirement since his time in the field has come to an end; and

WHEREAS, WPD Sergeant Ashley Howell (hereinafter “Purchaser”), has been the handler for said police dog and is very familiar with “Lobo”; and

WHEREAS, “Lobo” is not trainable to serve any other police officer or any other capacity; and

WHEREAS, the City (hereinafter “Seller”) is concerned about the threat of liability because trained police dogs can cause injury and damage which may result in liability; and

WHEREAS, Seller is selling said police dog, and Purchaser is purchasing/adopting “Lobo” upon the condition that Purchaser release Seller from any liability from Purchaser’s purchase/adoption of “Lobo” and indemnify and hold Seller harmless with respect to any claim which may arise thereafter with respect to “Lobo” and

WHEREAS, Seller is executing and delivering to Purchaser a Bill of Sale transferring ownership of “Lobo” to Purchaser and as part of the compensation package of Sergeant Howell; and

WHEREAS, said matter having been considered.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Commission of the City of Waycross that the City of Waycross does hereby transfer its interest in and to “Lobo” to his handler, Sergeant Ashley Howell.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor, City Clerk, City Manager and Police Chief of the Waycross Police Department are authorized, empowered and directed to transfer ownership of said Lobo, execute said Bill of Sale, said Release and Indemnity Agreement (a copy of which is attached hereto as exhibits and incorporated herein as if fully set out) and any other document necessary to accomplish the transfer of ownership of “Lobo” to Sergeant Ashley Howell as part of her compensation package for handling “Lobo”.

SO RESOLVED, this 16th day of March, 2021.

CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA

BY: MICHAEL-ANGELO JAMES, Mayor

ATTEST:

MICHELLE LOVE, City Clerk

Commissioner Diane Hopkins made the motion to approve A Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia to Approve the Retirement, Sale and Adoption of “LOBO” a Retired Police Dog. Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines seconded the motion; all voted to approve the motion as presented.

A Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia to Authorize Agreements with Employers for Costs of Peace Officer Standards and Training as presented.

RESOLUTION NO. R21-19

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA, TO AUTHORIZE AGREEMENTS WITH EMPLOYEES FOR COSTS OF PEACE OFFICER STANDARDS AND TRAINING; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the Waycross Police Department has offered positions of employment to the following persons and they have accepted a scenario under which the employee will be required to become a certified police officer under the laws of the State of Georgia in order to retain said employment:

- (1) Kenneth O'bara;**
- (2) Samara Perez; and**
- (3) Timothy Miller**

WHEREAS, the City is providing this opportunity to said persons in anticipation of them continuing to work for the Waycross Police Department for at least two (2) years after his / her successful completion of P.O.S.T. mandated training and said formalized training requirement so that the City will recover some of the benefit of the investment in said training or otherwise, will be required to reimburse the City; and

WHEREAS, each above-named employee has executed and signed a Waycross Police Department Training Reimbursement Agreement, a copy of which is attached hereto and hereby made part of the public records of the City of Waycross, Georgia; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.1 of the Charter of the City of Waycross gives the City of Waycross the power and authority to “enter into contracts and agreements with other governmental entities and with private persons, firms and corporations”; and

WHEREAS, said matter having been considered.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Commission of the City of Waycross that the City Commission of the City of Waycross hereby approves the agreements with Kenneth

O'bara, Samara Perez and Timothy Miller upon the terms and conditions as fully set forth in the Waycross Police Department Training Reimbursement Agreement, a copy of which is attached hereto and hereby made part of the public records of the City of Waycross, Georgia.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and City Clerk be and are hereby authorized and directed to execute the Waycross Police Department Training Reimbursement Agreement, containing the terms and conditions as heretofore set forth.

SO RESOLVED, this 16th day of March, 2021.

CITY OF WAYCROSS

BY: MICHAEL-ANGELO JAMES, MAYOR

ATTEST:

MICHELLE LOVE, City Clerk

The Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia to Authorize Agreements with Employees for Costs of Peace Officer Standards and Training was approved as presented by motion from Commissioner Marion Solomon-Gaines. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Diane Hopkins. All voted favorably, and the motion was approved.

A Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia to Award Contract to Great Southern Publishers/ 365 Degree Total Marketing of St. Simon's Island, Georgia, for the City's Website Redesign was presented for approval.

RESOLUTION NO. R21-20

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA, TO AWARD CONTRACT TO GREAT SOUTHERN PUBLISHERS / 365 DEGREE TOTAL MARKETING OF ST. SIMON'S ISLAND, GEORGIA, FOR THE CITY'S WEBSITE REDESIGN; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the City of Waycross has a need to redesign the City's website; and

WHEREAS, the City of Waycross Purchasing Department issued Requests for Proposals for said Website Design project and ten (10) proposals were submitted and received; and

WHEREAS, after staff review and evaluation, it is the recommendation of the evaluation committee and the purchasing department to award contract for the City's Website Redesign to Great Southern Publishers / 365 Degree Total Marketing of St. Simon's Island, Georgia, at a cost not to exceed \$30,875.00 for the first year, and with the second year and future years being at an annual cost of \$3,800.00; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.1 of the Charter of the City of Waycross gives the City of Waycross the power and authority to "enter into contracts and agreements with other governmental entities and with private persons, firms and corporations"; and

WHEREAS, said matter having been considered.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Commission of the City of Waycross that the Contract for the City's Website Redesign project be approved and awarded to Great Southern Publishers / 365 Degree Total Marketing of St. Simon's Island, Georgia, for one year at a cost not to exceed \$30,875.00, and to be automatically renewed each year thereafter unless terminated by either party at an annual cost of \$3,800.00 for second and subsequent years, and to be paid from budgeted IT Department funds.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor, City Manager, City Clerk and City Attorney be and are authorized and directed to execute said contract on behalf of the City of Waycross, and to do all the acts and things necessary in order to carry out the purposes and intent of this Resolution.

SO RESOLVED AND ADOPTED, this 16th day of March, 2021.

CITY OF WAYCROSS, GEORGIA

BY: MICHAEL-ANGELO JAMES, MAYOR

ATTEST:

MICHELLE LOVE, City Clerk

Commissioner Marion Solomon-Gaines made the motion to approve the Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia to Award Contract to Great Southern Publishers/ 365 Degree

Total Marketing of St. Simon's Island, Georgia, for the City's Website Redesign. Commissioner Diane Hopkins seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

Mr. Tim Peacock, 906 Euclid Avenue, Waycross, Georgia addressed the Commission about the letter sent about the statues and monuments. Wondering if the Commission thought it would be the end of the City's dealing with the removing of the statutes and monuments. Mr. Peacock wanted proof that Daughters of Confederacy was sole owners of statute. Mr. Peacock stated is it the intent to use taxpayer's money for the removal of this statute. Mr. Tim Peacock suggested for the Commission to get ready for litigation or whatever legal process if removal of statute with taxpayers' money. It is a shame for taxpayer's dollars to be used for removal. It would be a huge financial lost to remove the statute. City voters are being denied to have a voice in the matter.

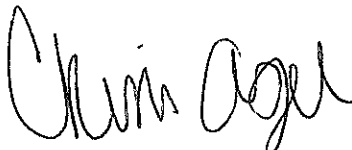
During Last call, Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines addressed the weather which came our way. Chief Eddins informed everyone on possible high strong winds along with rain on Thursday, and he suggested potted plants and loose items be put away. Commissioner Solomon-Gaines congratulated City Manager Tonya Miller on her engagement. Mayor Pro Tem Henry Strickland thanked everyone for coming out.

After last call, Commissioner Henry Strickland made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Marian Solomon-Gaines seconded the motion. All voted in favor and Mayor James adjourned the meeting.

CITY OF WAYCROSS

BY: 
MICHAEL-ANGELO JAMES, Mayor

ATTEST:


CHINA WILLIAMS AGU, Acting City Clerk