



**MINUTES
WAYCROSS CITY COMMISSION MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 4, 2022
5:00 P.M.**

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The Planning and Information Session of the City of Waycross was called to order January 4, 2022 at 5:00 pm by Mayor Michael-Angelo James. The meeting was held in the Commission Chambers of City Hall. Present was Mayor James, Norman Davis, Sheinita Bennett, Katrena Felder, Diane Hopkins, and Henry Strickland.

- A. Invocation
Chief Eddins offered the invocation.
- B. Pledge of Allegiance

The decorum was read by City Clerk, China Agu.

II. EXECUTIVE DUTIES:

- A. Swearing-In Ceremony for Newly Elected City Commissioners:
Attorney Rick Currie administered the Oath of Office.
 - 1. City Commissioner District 1 – Norman Davis
 - 2. City Commissioner District 2 – Sheinita Bennett
 - 3. City Commissioner District 3 – Katrena Felder
- B. Election of Mayor Pro Tempore' for the Year 2022
Henry Strickland nominated Diane Hopkins; Sheinita Bennett seconded. All voted in favor and the nomination was approved.
- C. Pronouncement of City Officers (Presented by Mayor and Confirmed by Commissioners)

<i>City Attorney</i>	<i>Rick Currie</i>
<i>Assistant City Attorney</i>	<i>Huey W. Spearman</i>
<i>Official Organ:</i>	<i>Waycross Journal-Herald</i>
<i>City Depository:</i>	<i>Ameris Bank</i>
	<i>Waycross Bank & Trust</i>
<i>City Auditor:</i>	<i>Mauldin & Jenkins CPAs</i>
<i>City Engineer:</i>	<i>ESG Engineering</i>

Solicitor General: Joseph R. Johnson Jr.
Municipal Court Judge Judge Douglas W. Gibson
Municipal Court Judge Pro-Tempore' Adrienne Gibson
Insurance Agents: NFP Health Insurance Broker
 McNeal Sports & Wilson Risk Advisers Insurance
 Cigna Health, Anthem Vision, New York Life & AD&D
 Gallagher Insurance
 Travelers Liability & Workers Comp
City Election Superintendent: Ware County Board of Elections and Registration

Diane Hopkins made the motion; Henry Strickland seconded. All voted in favor and the motion was approved.

D. Appointment to Executive Positions (One-Year Appointments) Recommended by Mayor and Confirmed by the Commission:

Downtown Waycross Development Authority: Mayor Michael-Angelo James

Library Board of Trustees: Ex-Officio:
Commissioner Henry Strickland

Southern Georgia Regional Commission Mayor Michael-Angelo James

Transportation Planning Coordinating Committee: Mayor Michael-Angelo James

Ware County Health Board: Mayor Michael-Angelo James

Waycross and Ware Co Development Authority: Mayor Michael-Angelo James

Waycross-Ware Co Chamber of Commerce: Mayor Michael-Angelo James
(Mayor and/or City Manager are Automatic Appointees to the Southern Georgia Regional Commission, Waycross-Ware Development Authority, Transportation Planning Coordinating Committee, Waycross-Ware County Chamber of Commerce, and Downtown Waycross Development Authority)

Pension Committee for Retirement Fund* *(Recommended by Mayor and Confirmed by City Commission)(Mayor, City Manager, City Attorney, and Personnel Analyst & Risk Management Employee are Automatic Appointees:*

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| a. Mayor | Mayor |
| b. City Manager | David Eddins, Interim City Manager |
| c. City Attorney | Rick Currie, City Attorney |
| d. Finance Director | China Williams, Finance Director |
| e. City Commissioner | Diane Hopkins, Commissioner |
| f. Department Head | Marissa Hendrix |

Diane Hopkins made the motion; Sheinita Bennett seconded. All voted in favor and the motion was approved.

Board of Zoning Appeals

Three-Year Terms Beginning January 1, 2022 and Ending December 31, 2024

- a. Post 5: Doug Lee
- b. Post 6: Larry Lockey

Waycross-Ware County Planning Commission

Three-Year Terms Beginning July 1, 2022

Housing Authority of the City of Waycross (*Appointments take office March 21, 2022*)

Diane Hopkins made the motion; Katrena Felder seconded. All voted in favor and the motion was approved.

- E. 2021 Employee of the Year:
Chief Cox presented Carla Nipper as the Employee of the Year for 2021.
- F. 2022 January Employee of the Month:
Chief Cox presented Lt. Chad Zauner as Employee of the Month.

III. OFFICIAL REPORTS:

- A. City Manager's Report:
David Eddins, Interim City Manager spoke briefly about the Annual Retreat, and a survey sent out by GMA concerning the upcoming Cities United Summit.
- B. Mayor's Public Service Announcements
Mayor James did not have any announcements.

IV. PUBLIC REMARKS ON OFFICIAL ACTIONS

No remarks on official actions.

V. CONSIDERATION OF OFFICIAL ACTIONS:

- A. Consent Calendar:
 - 1. Approval of Minutes: 1.) Waycross City Commission Meeting, Tuesday, December 21, 2021, 5:00 p.m.
 - 2. Ordinance Second Readings: n/a
 - 3. Privilege License Renewals: n/a
- B. Privilege Licenses: n/a

Diane Hopkins made the motion; Katrena Felder seconded. All voted in favor and the motion was approved.

C. Bids:

1. Bid # FY22-23 SCBA Fill Station

Norman Davis made the motion; Diane Hopkins seconded. All voted in favor and the motion was approved.

D. Ordinances:

1. An Ordinance to Amend the Waycross Zoning Ordinance; To Amend Article VII – Requirements By Districts, Section 704.2 By Adding Barber/Beauty Shops as a Permitted Use in M – Medical District; To Provide for Codification; To Provide for Renumbering or Relettering; To Provide for Severability; To Repeal Conflicting Ordinances; To Provide an Effective Date; and for Other Purposes.

Diane Hopkins made the motion; Henry Strickland seconded. All voted in favor and the motion was approved.

2. An Ordinance to Abandon and Close a Portion of Pendleton Street Right-of-way Between Riverside Drive and West Oneida Street; To Authorize Quit Claim Deeds; To Establish an Effective Date; To Repeal Conflicting Ordinances; and for Other Purposes.

Diane Hopkins made the motion; Sheinita Bennett seconded. All voted in favor and the motion was approved.

E. Resolutions:

1. A Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia, To Approve Purchase of a Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus Fill Station from Municipal Equipment of Orlando, Florida, for the Waycross Fire Department; and for Other Purposes.

Norman Davis made the motion; Diane Hopkins seconded. All voted in favor and the motion was approved.

2. A Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia, To Amend 2018 City Employee Handbook By Approving and Adding Additional Holiday; and for Other Purposes.

Norman Davis made the motion; Diane Hopkins seconded. All voted in favor and the motion was approved.

3. A Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia, To Approve Holiday Calendar for Calendar Year 2022; and for Other Purposes.

Commissioner Diane Hopkins made the motion; Commissioner Katrena Felder seconded. All voted in favor and the motion was approved.

4. A Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia, To Hold the City Commission Work Session Set for the Monday Before the Third Tuesday in the Month of January 2022 on Tuesday, January 18, 2022, and for Other Purposes.

Commissioner Diane Hopkins made the motion; Commissioner Sheinita Bennett seconded. All voted in favor and the motion was approved.

VI. GUESTS:

- Larry Lockey spoke briefly about the National Guard Armory. He also inquired about the status of the removal Confederate Monument.
- Marian Solomon-Gaines stated her address and thanked the City for her retirement celebration. She informed the citizens about the MLK Celebration, and the redistricting process.
- Michael Hargrove stated his address. He inquired about the people who are being nominated to boards.
- King Goree stated his address and provided an update on the Mayor's Youth Commission.
- Shawn Taylor stated her address and spoke briefly about the use of the National Guard Armory.

VII. LAST CALL and/or ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

- Norman Davis addressed the redistricting discussion. He also expressed his concerns about the National Guard Armory.
- Sheinita Bennett agreed with Commissioner Davis.
- Katrena Bennett agreed with Commissioner Davis.
- Henry Strickland congratulated the new Commissioners.
- Diane Hopkins thanked everyone for coming out. She also welcomed the new commissioners aboard. Hopkins also stated that there were 524 people added to our community.
- Mayor James thanked everyone for coming out. He explained the rules for citizens speaking and the commission not responding to questions. He also congratulated Mayor Pro Tempore' Diane Hopkins
- Commissioner Davis asked to put on the floor to re-evaluate the use of the Armory.

The Mayor entertained a motion to place discussion of the Armory on the next work session agenda. Davis made the motion and Felder seconded. The vote carried with a 4 to 1 vote.

VIII ADJOURNMENT

Davis made the motion and Hopkins seconded. The meeting was adjourned.



ATTEST:

City Clerk

CITY OF WAYCROSS

BY:

+ *Michael-Angelo James*

MICHAEL-ANGELO JAMES, Mayor