

**MINUTES**  
**WAYCROSS CITY COMMISSION PLANNING & INFORMATION SESSION**  
**MONDAY, JUNE 3, 2024, 5:00 P.M.**  
**WAYCROSS CITY COMMISSION CHAMBERS**  
*(417 PENDLETON STREET, WAYCROSS, GA)*

**I. CALL TO ORDER:**

The Planning and Information Session of the City of Waycross was called to order June 3, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. by Mayor Michael-Angelo James. The meeting was held in the Commission Chambers of City Hall. Present was Mayor James, Commissioners Katrena Felder, Sheinita Bennett and Diane Hopkins.

**A. Invocation:**

Invocation was led by James Smart, Public Works Director

**B. Pledge of Allegiance**

**II. GUESTS:**

Mr. Ken Taft, 1210 Shawnee Drive, Waycross Georgia,

What my proposal is, and when this Commission is considering its budget, is to consider presenting OATH with support in the amount of \$40,000 which would cover the salary of our Oath navigator. This amount represents less than one tenth of 1% of the proposed fiscal year 2025 city budget, much like the city pays for the salary of the Department of Corrections staff member to the city to serve the prison work detail. The city could use those funds to support the Oath and leverage the donations that oath receives for the services that it provides to the public. So, I ask that the commission give Commissioner, uh, excuse me, Chief Tommy Cox, some tools in his tool belt so that he can have a place to send these citizens who need housing, um, somewhere to go, rather than issuing citations, putting in, in jail, burdening, burdening our court system and our jails with a problem that really can't be solved by incarceration. So, thank you for your time. I appreciate your consideration and if you have any questions, please reach out to me and I would love to invite all the commissioners who haven't already done so to come see us at 115 Albany Avenue, where our office is located, to see the work we're doing.

**III. TRAVEL/TRAINING SCHEDULE AND REQUESTS**

**IV. PLANNING & INFORMATION SESSION**

**A. Bids: n/a**

**B. Discussion Items:**

1. Flynn Family Change of Funding

City Manager-

You should have in your packet a support letter that we sent to DCA based on a request made by the Flynn family regarding their home not being covered by the CDBG three years ago. I did send the letter up there. It was a joint letter joint letter. Unfortunately, it got kicked back this morning requiring additional information. I have had time to really assess what the information is, but as soon as I get a chance, we're going to sit down with Mr. Hawkins and figure out what that is and resubmit.

Once it's submitted as I stated in the previous email to you the request is basically asking, we only have two courses of action for the Flynn family. Either to resubmit for the CBC, and that will probably be another four-year process, or move some funding from the Chip fund that we just got approved for \$500,000. And that would cover I think the \$200,000 they require to rebuild their home. those are only two options we have currently.

Additionally, by answering that letter DC will be coming down and the Southern Region Commission to look at the other homes that were also supported by that grant, but they were not made up to professional standards. So, once we get this letter submitted, they can send it up to the top then they'll come down here and look at all those homes. I think it's four additional homes that are in question down there. I'm not sure of the actual face for those homes because that funding was done prior to the Flynn Family but that's the status of that right now.

2. Re-appointment to Post 8 of the Waycross-Ware County Planning Commission for July 1, 2024, and expire on June 30, 2027.

The appointee is Joe Skinner. And the request is for reappointment to that post. All three commissioners gave consent for approval.

3. Ryland Contract Renewal

Rylan came in and requested a rate change, and y'all gave me guidance to go back and negotiate that rate change. We sat down for two meetings and what they want is a contract renewal as soon as possible. So, I'd like to do now if you have a very favorable contract with Ryland, let's go ahead and do the contract renewal at the same rate.

All three commissioners agreed with a vote of yes to extend the Ryland contract.

4. Approval of Watershed Protection Plan

City Manager;

Next, we move into approval of the watershed protection plan. You should have got a copy of that last week in your packets. And y'all know that's just the company that does our environmental sampling and monitoring for our water quality. And this is an annual report that we must get signed and turn back in, yearly.

Commissioner Hopkins;

Did we bid that out?

Duke: I don't think we bid that out. And Dawn is not here. I can check on that. We have until June. We have to July 30<sup>th</sup> July to sign it. We don't normally bid it out.

They've been doing our sampling. It's not like a contract. They just do our water system for us.

Commissioner Hopkins;

I'd like to table it until you find out the information. If we get it out. And what's the amount?

Duke;

Alright.

There was a vote taken to table this item until further information can be obtained. District-2 Bennett-yes, District-3 Felder-yes and District-4 Hopkins-yes.

5. Ethics Board Update

City Attorney:

Mr. Mayor and commissioners, as you know, an ethics board or hearing board were formed over the last week or so to hear a complaint that was received by this commission. And since that time, as of last Friday, the complainant has withdrawn the complaint in its entirety. Because of withdrawing the complaint in its entirety, that renders the issue moot. There is nothing for the Board of Ethics to hear at this juncture, and so there is no need to proceed any further. Based upon the rules concerning the creation of a board of ethics, it is the complaint itself that generates the formation of the ethics board.

The number of individuals that are appointed by the commission constitutes the pool. And from that pool five people are selected for the board, plus two alternates. Then that is followed by training for purposes of the hearing. But given that the complaint has now been withdrawn there is nothing to prepare for in terms of a hearing. So, the issue is moot. And I've suggested to the city manager that we need to read into the records at tomorrow's meeting, the withdrawal of the complaint. So, we'll have that documented. You stop everything because we are doing the training for that particular board. And if another complaint comes in, then you must start over again by selecting, other individuals who would need to be trained.

6. Infrastructure City Road Projects Update

Charlie Bridges:

The three projects that I'm going to provide an update on for you today are our funded parks projects. Our TSPLOST paving projects and our dirt road paving project. So, I'll start with the park's projects first. We are nearing completion of the design. In the next week or so, we'll be selecting a bid date and putting those projects out for public bid. We finally got our electrical design back, and they're keeping items that I need to address with individual commissioners. And I'll get with you guys about details on bathrooms and siding and roofs and that kind of thing.

But we are done with the bulk of the design and we're putting it out to bid. So, I'll get Ms. Mamie and we'll pick a bid date. This one will probably be out typically you've got an advertised for four weeks. This one's a little complicated, so it'll probably be more out for like six weeks. And so that means we'll open bids at the

end of August. And we'll probably start construction in September on the parks project.

On the TSPLOST paving project, my asphalt contractor will be in town this week. If you see a truck that's stopping traffic coring holes in our roads, they are assessing the thickness of the asphalt and the condition of the base material. Once we receive the results from that, we'll complete our design on the road paving projects, and those will be out for bid towards the end of this month or possibly the beginning of July. The next project is the dirt road paving project. That one's actually being designed by John Huntley, who has done some of the paving projects before. That one is also scheduled to go out for public bid mid-July. It is a total of six dirt roads Boulevard, Georgia, Morehouse, Greenwood, Browns Alley, and East Hamilton.

7. Ossie Davis Highway Project Update:

Duke:

Mr. Mayor, we move into the added discussion item, the Ossie Davis Highway Project. I bring it to the to the board because I need to go ahead and place funding towards that right now. The bid was I think, 15,000 to 27,000. And that's still based off of what they find in the ground. And I'm going to let Mr. Anthony White speak on that. He is our project engineer for ESG. I think some of you have met him, down at the plant. And he is planning the project scope and scale. And while we got to kind of get on this right now with GDOT.

Anthony White-ESG Engineer:

Good afternoon, commissioners as well as mayor. -, I just wanted to quickly touch on this real quick. The road has started to cave in, and we realized that it was a sewer leak. We've been getting calls from GDOT every day, because they believe that it's possibly going to cause other areas of the road to cave in. So, we consider this to be an extremely urgent matter. And we would love any support we can get to get it done as soon as possible. I know it's 1100 Ossie Davis, also US-1 Colley Street. I'm new here, so I don't know the directions.

Duke;

Commissioners, right after you pass would be coming into town. I think that restaurant is called Potbelly's. And right in front of that, that church right there next to church on the right is right there. It's a big metal plate on the ground right now. I know we're getting calls about it possibly sinking in from GDOT. I do plan to speak with GDOT granted, it is Davis Highway one needs a lot of other work to it as well, and we're trying to figure out who responsibility is right now. -, understood that the infrastructure inside is on us. -, but the paving was probably not done in the ideal manner. That's why it's a bumpy road coming in from the county. I know ministers complain about that. So, I'm trying to work with them right now to do something about that as well. -, and if they do, that might be another opportunity for us to go in there. -, when they do have to, if they come back and repave it, they go in there and fix some other things that's wrong with the infrastructure inside it, all the way down to Dave. So hopefully, -, they understand the impact it's having on us right now. -, and they actually worked with us to get it fixed.

Commissioner Felder;

Mr. City Manager, can you supply a list of the roads for TSPLOST for dirt roads, as well as the water and sewer projects? City Manager-Yes, I will first thing tomorrow morning.

**C. Privilege Licenses Renewals: n/a**

**D. Privilege Licenses: n/a**

**E. Proposed Ordinances:**

1. An Ordinance of the City of Waycross, Georgia, To Amend and Update Waycross Code of Ordinance, Chapter 20-Health and Sanitation, Article III- Food Service Rules, Section 20-6-Adoption; To Set An Effective Date; To Repeal Conflicting Ordinances; and for Other Purposes.

There was a consensus to place this on Tuesday agenda.

2. An Ordinance of the City of Waycross, Georgia, To Amend and Update Waycross Code of Ordinances, Subpart B-Land Development Code, Chapter 103 – Buildings and Building Regulation, Article III. Minimum Standards Codes, Section 103-47. Minimum Standards Codes Adopted; To Set An Effective Date; To Repeal Conflicting Ordinances; and for Other Purposes.

There was a consensus to place this on Tuesday agenda.

3. An Ordinance of the City of Waycross, Georgia, To Amend and Update Waycross Code of Ordinances, Chapter 40 – Utilities, Article II – Sewers, Division 3 – Industrial Waster, Section 40-94. Private Wastewater Disposal; To Set An Effective Date; To Repeal Conflicting Ordinances; and for Other Purposes.

There was a consensus to place this on Tuesday agenda.

4. An Ordinance of the City of Waycross, Georgia, To Amend and Update Waycross Code of Ordinances, Chapter 20 – Health and Sanitation, Article IV – Tattoo/Body-Piercing Studios and Artists, Sections 20-85, 20-86, 20-99, To Set An Effective Date; To Repeal Conflicting Ordinances; and for Other Purposes.

There was a consensus to place this on Tuesday agenda.

**F. Proposed Resolutions:**

1. A Resolution Authorizing The Housing Authority of the City of Waycross To Issue Bonds To Finance Facilities Located in the City of Waycross, Georgia.

There was a consensus to place this on Tuesday agenda.

2. A Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia, To Approve The City of Waycross, Georgia, Watershed Protection Plan 2023 Annual Report; and for Other Purposes.

There was a consensus to place this on Tuesday agenda.

3. A Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia, To Extend Bid Contract To Ryland Environmental of Dublin, Georgia, For Garbage Collection, Disposal and Dumpster Services; and for Other Purposes.

There was a consensus to place this on Tuesday agenda.

**G. City Attorney Report:**

**H. City Managers Report:**

Thank you, Mr. Mayor, no official report at this time. I am once again restructuring the city report to reflect some of the requests from the citizens in regard to our training reflected in our mission. So, it's going to take a little while to do that, but we're putting that together. So, we'll show how our training directly connects to our decision making and our priorities here in the city. I should be done with that by the end of the week. And then we'll resubmit that to you for approval, and then we'll send it out next month.

**I. Last Call**

**J. Adjourn to Executive Session**

There was a motion made by Commissioner Hopkins to go into executive session for the Purpose of Personnel and Litigation. Second by Commissioner Felder. All voted in favor the motion passed at 5:48 pm to adjourn to go into executive session.

**K. Adjournment**

**CITY OF WAYCROSS**

**BY:**

*Michael Angelo James*  
**MICHAEL-ANGELO JAMES, Mayor**

**ATTEST:**

*Jacqueline Powell*  
**JACQUALINE POWELL, City Clerk**

