

MINUTES
WAYCROSS CITY COMMISSION PLANNING & INFORMATION SESSION
MONDAY, JULY 15, 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 July 15, 2024, at 5:04 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 (in at 5:07)

A. Invocation: Commissioner Katrena Felder

Invocation was led by James Smart, Public Works Director

B. Pledge of Allegiance

II. GUESTS:

Mr. David White 1419 Marion Street, Waycross Georgia, spoke on his concerns regarding not having traffic lights in the areas of Garlington Avenue and Blackwell Street.

III. TRAVEL/TRAINING SCHEDULE AND REQUESTS

IV. PLANNING & INFORMATION SESSION

A. Bids:

1. Bid # WAYXL 24-02 Surplus Land Folks Street Parcel #WA0802 017

There was a consensus to place this on Tuesday agenda. There was no vote in opposition.

B. Discussion Items: **SEE ATTACHED DISCUSSION NOTES******

1. Approval of Watershed Protection Plan

There was a consensus to place on tomorrow's agenda.

2. Finance Update
3. Infrastructure Update

C. Privilege Licenses Renewals:

1. Torero Too Mexican LLC, K. Miravate, 2470 Memorial Drive. Waycross, Ga. 31501. Addition of Liquor, Consumption on premises.

D. Privilege Licenses: n/a

E. Proposed Ordinances: n/a

F. Proposed Resolutions:

1. Folks A Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia To Approve the Sale and Transfer of Certain Surplused Real Property Located on Street Consisting of 0.26 Acres, Map & Parcel Number WA0802017; and for Other Purposes.

There was a consensus to place this on Tuesday agenda

G. City Attorney Report:

H. City Managers Report:

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. Second by Commissioner Bennett. All voted in favor the motion passed at 5:52 pm to adjourn to go into executive session.

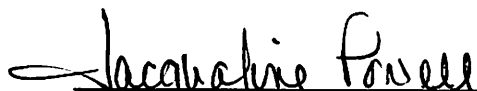
K. Adjournment

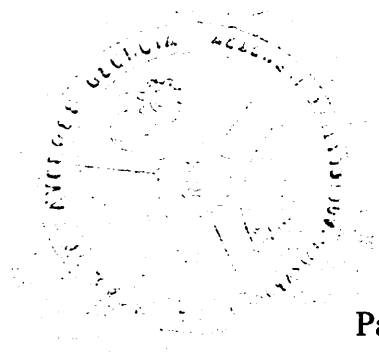
CITY OF WAYCROSS

BY:


MICHAEL-ANGELO JAMES, Mayor

ATTEST:


JACQUALINE POWELL, City Clerk



*****DISCUSSION NOTES*****

JULY 15TH -2024

W/S

Mayor:

Okay. Well, at this time, we turned the remainder of our agenda over to our city manager, Mr. Rayford.

City Manager:

Thank you, Mr. Mayor. At this time, we have no traveling or training schedule. We will move into the planning information session. We will start with the bids by Miss Jackson.

Purchasing Manager:

Mr. Mayor, Commissioners, Purchasing has one item before you. It is for a parcel of surplus land. This land was approved to be surplus by the Commission at the May 7th meeting. There was a bid put out as well as a public notice put in the paper. We received two bids for this property. It is located on Folks Street, right at Folk and Oak. Approximately behind the old theater. We received two bids. One for \$5,000.00, one for \$3,800.00 and we are asking that the Commission approve the highest bid of \$5,000.00 to sell this surplus property.

Mayor:

Do you have any questions of Miss Jackson?

Comm. Felder:

Yes, sir. For a bid of \$5,000, what is the intended use of the property?

Purchasing Manager:

I do not know the person's intended use of the property, but this particular person owns several parcels of land in that area.

Comm. Hopkins:

What is zoned?

Purchasing Manager:

I believe in R5. Is it C4? C4. This was a parcel of property back in, I believe 1979, the city received as part of the Tebeau Redevelopment Plan, and I believe we've had that property ever since. It was one of several properties that the city received in this redevelopment plan. I'm not sure of how many other parcels of property in this original plan we still have, but this was one of the ones that was included in that original plan.

Comm. Hopkins:

Mr. Mayor, I have one question. Have we surplused the garage?

Purchasing Manager:

Ma'am? I'm sorry.

Comm. Hopkins:

Have we surplused the garage?

Purchasing Manager:

Yes, ma'am. The garage has been surplused. It has not been listed yet.

Comm Hopkins:

Okay. Information on Grove Avenue.

*****DISCUSSION NOTES*****
JULY 15TH -2024
W/S

Purchasing Manager:
We have not had anything. We haven't had any offers.

Comm. Hopkins:
Thank you.

Mayor:
Okay, so having heard the bid that is before us. Commission, what is your pleasure? Will you consent for this bill to be okay'd for our agenda for tonight? I'll just call each District. District two.

Comm. Bennett:
Yes, sir.

Mayor:
District three.

Comm Felder:
Yes.

Mayor:
And district four.

Comm. Hopkins:
Yes.

Mayor:
Thank you. Mr. City Manager.

City Manager:
Thank you, Miss Jackson. We're moving to discussion items. We have three. I'll start first with the watershed protection plan. Mr. Mayor, I am bringing this back up for a few reasons. I'll start with I don't think everybody is clear on what that plan does. We did not take a vote the last time as to what our next step was. So my first request would be to vote if we're going to bid it out, then we get a vote on that. Two, because we're in this last phase of this plan. We already paid for the services of this plan. I'm asking again, we're engaging again to simply request that we go ahead and submit the last sample to avoid any penalties or late fees at this time, since we're still within the contract boundaries of the original contract. Also, Mr. Mayor, I will remind the Commission this contract is ten plus years, and any rebidding would mean that even the current contract holder would more than likely increase his prices because we're dealing with inflation. And I'll stand by for questions on this area. Mr. Mayor.

Mayor:
Commission, we have heard the concern of our City Manager regarding this. We have no vote on it to be one thing or the other, and it seems to be bid out. We are at the last phase of it and the service that was provided. We said that we needed to send the samples, since we've already paid the bills and we're under a ten-year contract with Tindall, and the note here would be that he, or anyone else who takes on this will possibly increase it due to inflationary documentation. So, we just need to have a statement to you to put it on the agenda tomorrow for the purpose of saying that we will bid it out, or that we will go ahead and send the samples or that we would be willing to. I think we talked about an RFP the last time. So what we need to do is just make a decision on it so we can move forward.

*****DISCUSSION NOTES*****
JULY 15TH -2024
W/S

Comm. Hopkins:

Mr. Mayor, I have one question. We talked about whether you paid 46 or \$47,000, but that was for 2012 to now, is that correct? I still haven't gotten that straight.

City Manager:

I didn't pay \$46,000. That was the total contract of the third phase, Commissioner. And each phase, each different month is different categories that they took out samples for. So, ranging from about \$1000 to \$1800 each month that we pay.

Comm. Hopkins:

\$1,800?

City Manager:

Yes.

Comm. Hopkins:

For every month?

City Manager:

It ranges from \$1,000 to 1800, depending on the sample requirement for that cycle. It's two collections that are done at that time. It was all in the report. So that's all we paid monthly.

Comm. Hopkins:

At one meeting where I asked. Did you write a check to him? And you said, yes. So that was a combination of all that together?

City Manager:

I never wrote a check to them Commissioner. We pay a bill to them each month, it's for a service \$1,800 for the samples they took. We're in the third phase of a three-phase approach that we're paying for. And the phase continues as he takes water samples. So that third phase cost that amount of money total that we agreed upon in the original contract. We're still under the original contract right now, so I'm simply requesting today, if you want to rebid it, then we need to vote on that so we can rebid it. If we want to request the information, I need some concession on that so we can do that. I was simply giving the Commission information and guidance. As we stated before, our engineers have already stated they couldn't get lower than what it is now. The closest person, based on my research, that will provide those services are in Augusta, Georgia, so that's a gas cost. I was trying to avoid the fine for being late and anything else EPD finds when it comes back to us because we've already collected the sample. We've already paid for the sample. So I was saying we should just put it in the sample to avoid any extra funding loss, because we don't have a lot of money to lose. Just trying to get some guidance on what I need to do.

Comm. Hopkins:

If we go ahead and approve it to do it just one year, it will be up next year and it will go out to bid. Correct?

City Manager:

Correct, that's what y'all tend to do Commissioner. One-year contracts. It goes year to year. We're bidding on phase three of the contract. It's a phased approach that rotates over every year because he's providing a service a yearly service requirement. He provides for a collection of water samples and presenting our water samples. So if we did bid it out, yes, the whole process would start over. And whoever coming in would have to go back a couple phases to catch up because he's doing the phase

*****DISCUSSION NOTES*****
JULY 15TH -2024
W/S

sampling right now. So that would be another incurred cost. We would have to incur if we started over, if that's what you're asking me, Commissioner, you can't just stop it.

Mayor:

So there's an extra point that the director wants to speak for clarity. Yes, you can say something. Come to the microphone, please.

Purchasing Manager:

The \$46,525 that you're asking about, that was paid in the original contract that we signed in 2012. The negotiated price for this was \$46,525, and it was based on how they phased the project. It was paid \$6,500 in FY 12, \$26,000 in FY 13, and \$14,025 in FY 14. That covered the first three phases, which was phase one when they came in to actually see and analyze and see what was going on and see what was needed. And then phase two was based on what their assessment was, is when they developed the water protection plan to be submitted to EPD. I'm sorry. Phase two was the watershed assessment based on the analysis that they got. Phase three was to develop the water protection plan to submit to EPD. We got the letter from EPD that the submittal was approved in 2019. So, the \$46,000 was for those first three phases. Phase four, which the City Manager is telling you about, is for the annual analysis that has to be done and it has to be turned in every June 30th per recommendation of EPD, so that we can stay in compliance. So the fees that we're paying now is for phase four, which is the annual analysis report that they have to turn in. So that we are compliant with EPD.

Comm. Hopkins:

Okay. So, if we approve this today for one year and put in the contract a 30-day clause in there to be renewed.

Purchasing Manager:

If this is for another year, we would have this year and they would have next year, which would give us this full year. But at this point, the RFP wouldn't be for this entire plan, because we've had the watershed analysis and the assessment, and the plan has been approved by EPD. So at this point, we need somebody that will do that annual analysis for us. So that's what we would be charged for that. And your analysis is done. Is it due every June 30th per EPD. That is their recommendation.

Comm. Hopkins:

Okay. So we can still approve this one for 2025. And put a clause in there for 30 days will either renew it or submit bids.

Purchasing Manager:

Yes, ma'am. And I will call surrounding counties to see how they handle that, because this was the plan that they came up with.

Comm Hopkins:

Who came up with the plan?

Purchasing Manager:

Tindall. The assessment plan that was submitted to EPD and then part EPD. They recommended that we do the annual analysis so that we stay in compliance.

Comm. Hopkins:

But that should be included in the bid. Am I correct?

*****DISCUSSION NOTES*****
JULY 15TH -2024
W/S

Purchasing Manager:

If we decide to do another bid in a year. But it would only be for that annual analysis. It wouldn't be for this entire assessment and water protection plan because we have one now.

City Manager:

Just hold on. I'm confused. If we rebid this, you know, you can't just start taking new samples. So you got somebody to come in and start over the whole phase four. So it will be starting over for the sample. We can't just go from one company to the next company. So you know them.

Purchasing Manager:

They have to do their own individual assessment.

Comm. Bennett:

Have there ever been a problem with Tindall from 2012 to now? So why are we trying to rebid this in the middle?

Purchasing Manager:

We don't have to. And that's the question that we have before you. We don't have to. We can continue with the contract as it's written.

Comm Bennett:

My personal experience, we have not had a problem with them. Let's continue to move forward.

Purchasing Manager:

And it's just speaking with other agencies and the past purchasing director, they have not had any issues, but that final decision remains with the Commission.

Comm. Felder:

Question.

Mayor: Comm.

Felder.

Comm. Felder:

How often is a new watershed plan required?

Purchasing Manager:

That I don't know, but I can find it out for you.

Comm. Felder:

Thank you. Okay.

Mayor:

Thank you. So for tomorrow, it's my understanding, and also for the Clerk and those who are writing agendas, are we going to bring this up tomorrow for a vote and then at a given time, come back to this? All we need to do now is okay for a signature to give this process over to the EPD and then make sure that if we want to rebid this out as you want, you can hear how we want to do it after that other work is done. But it sounds as if we will set ourselves up for having to get another company to do the same work that has already been done, and then giving us another price for that same exact thing.

*****DISCUSSION NOTES*****

JULY 15TH -2024

W/S

City Manager:

If I may. This is because it's going to start over. It's. They can't come in on Tindall's watershed plan and take it out. They have to start all the way over so we will pay a bigger cost coming in. And like I say, this is a new contract. It will be built in with inflation. The closest company that provides this service is Augusta, Georgia. That's 3.5 hours away. So we're building in a few here, a few back, and just want to make sure the Commission is aware of the associated costs that will be with that program. Also, if we bid it out again, Mr. Tindall could raise his prices too at that point in time. I'm just talking from an economic aspect. Nothing's wrong with the contract right now. We all know right now; how poor the water is. Definitely the sampling and collection for my sister cities. Just something I don't know. We can be playing with each other at this point in time, so I just want some clear guidance on that.

Comm Hopkins:

Mr. Mayor, I have one question. Mr. Spearman have you looked over this contract?

Huey Spearman:

Yes, ma'am. I have looked over the contract.

Comm Hopkins:

I've never had anything with that Satilla Water while we had them. We always had a clause in there for a 60-day notice that we either would renew it or we would send it out to bid. And you don't always know what you're going to get for the money. It may go up. It may go down. You can't sit here and say it's going to stay the same, and it's going to be the best price because you don't bid it out since 2012. So that's the reason I'm saying give it to him one more year since he since we've since we've already beat this horse to death about the deadline to rebidding it. And now we've waited till the 12th hour and so we hadn't rebid it like we talked about back in May. So we can still at the end oput a clause in there 30 days prior to the renewal, we can tell him we're going to send it out to bid or if I knew.

Huey Spearman:

The anniversary date is May the 7th of every year, and the contract currently provides for a 60 day notice of termination prior to the termination date, so that would have to be March 7th.

Comm Hopkins:

I've already got that.

Huey Spearman:

Right. But you still can terminate the contract even after the anniversary date, provided you still give us 60 days notice. But they would be entitled to any compensation. They would be entitled to compensation for any services rendered up to the date of termination.

Comm. Hopkins:

Okay.

Mayor:

So we'll bring this to our agenda tomorrow. Is that agreed? District two?

Comm: Bennet:

Yes.

Mayor:

District three?

DISCUSSION NOTES
JULY 15TH -2024
W/S

Comm. Felder:
Yes.

Mayor:
And district four?

Comm Hopkins:
Yes. Okay.

Mayor:
Thank you.

City Manager:

Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Next, we'll move into the finance update. We only have one item for updating. As you know, we attended the GMA conference a few weeks ago and part of the main conference. One of the main points for the city manager was to talk about insurance and inflation associated with it. This is a quick presentation I'm going to provide to the Commission. I am trying to get GMA to come down here and brief this thoroughly, because I think it's very important to understand some of the challenges we're going to face moving forward with our insurance across the board. And this is one of those areas when I talk about building in some type of buffer for inflation that we don't currently have. We really need to sit down and figure this out sooner than later. So I'll start here.

Like I said, Mr. Mayor, I actually have GMA coming down here because I think it's very important that they come down here and read it in detail. But there's a few points I did want to highlight here. I could see the 2024 insurance market conditions and some of the things that affected it. And I'll go into more detail, especially those inflections as far as socioeconomic will drive the cost up. That's the green there in March. And then some of the other things that contribute to the market drastically change as far as insurance. A few seconds to read that if you didn't get a chance to read the packets over the weekend. Like I said, this is mainly in reference to Georgia. You will see parts here for other parts of the country, but mainly Georgia, because last year probably was the highest, as far as natural disasters we ever had in the state, and we're still paying for those costs. This next slide just kind of shows you some of the rest of the country and some challenges they're facing. As you see it says billion-dollar weather and climate disaster events 2023. The most we've ever had in a one-year time period increased. So this is really impacting how companies insure cities. On this next slide, just kind of showing you the weather disasters again, and you can look at things going up from last year from the 80s. There's another graph once again showing disasters.

And this is where it kind of gets into the state of Georgia. But the other thing we have going on as far as severe storms and things of that nature, the flooding, high temperatures, heat, temps, all those things that insurance companies are trying to figure out how to mitigate. And in doing so, they also strengthen their market and what they actually cover. They let us know kind of now as far as GMA, what's headed down or down the pipeline. So, they're telling all the cities to kind of start preparing for those changes. That should be coming pretty soon.

The one thing I want to talk about, and I think everybody speaks about this challenge already. If automobile insurance hasn't went up over the last year, you've been very lucky. In regard to cities, it's been shown we do the most damage to our public works vehicles and our police vehicles. So some of those coverage areas are going to change during the next couple of years. Much like the the bigger cities of New York and California, it's already changed there. So that's something we've got to kind of take a look at. Chief Cox actually has a good plan in place as far as our drivers training for us, because we've got to show something that we're mitigating if anything happens to our cars.

DISCUSSION NOTES

JULY 15TH -2024

W/S

This is the next slide coming up. I've thought about this many times before about the consumer price index. As you see, as far as inflation is at 22% since 2020 and continues to go up. Same thing as far as inflation, cost of materials, supply chains, wage inflation. I did not discuss this during the budget hearings, but this is a big factor coming right now that we all need to be prepared for. As many of our employees search for that next dollar and wages around the country. They're going to leave when they see an extra dollar. And that's something that most cities or organizations or companies got to start building in into their budget because it will become an issue where we're constantly changing out people and we change out people, we change our experience and performance at the same time. Then you see the rise in insurance costs, administrative costs, and then the risks and impacts capacity. Social inflation, this was a big topic at the GMA conference. There was a time when those of us over a certain age took pride in certain things. But now cities are getting sued at the highest rate ever. Things that normal people kind of walk off on, we no longer do that, and it's starting to affect the bottom line of the insurance companies. Hence, they're going to raise their prices for the many lawsuits they have to mitigate are constant right now. So you see some of these things contributing to that increase in attorney advertising, expectation of higher compensation. There's a lot of factors in there that's dealing with the social inflation, but they want to put this out to our commission to be aware of these changes that are coming. Because if you don't build those buffers in, it's going to be hard to pay for these extra costs.

And once again, this [slide] is showing some of the things that's happening across the board. Just like I said, this is all mainly Georgia increasing propensity to sue, court juries favoring plaintiffs, growing distrust of large corporations and cities, litigation financing, aggressive, well-organized plaintiff bars, changes in regulatory guidance and legal environment, all factors to raising insurance.

It's talking about lines of coverage. We have automobile liability here. Physical damage to property because these are some of the big areas that are affecting cities. They want us to be aware about and do a better job of managing. You see the other areas there as well.

And these are some of the premium considerations. Like I said, the claims frequency has doubled over this last year. The severity of the claims is doubled and then the insurance expenses is kind of reaching capacity. I know we've kind of talked about these things off and on, in other, other meetings and settings, but I just think it deserves a quick look. Because like I said, we haven't built anything in right now into our system to prevent all this, and we should do so as soon as we can. Let me go on this one just to talk more about municipalities and all the lines. You can see his upper trend. Liabilities by law enforcement, omissions, errors. Again, upper trend. Total account more frequent trends again up again. And then this other slide here. This last close out the last few slides is just talking about the average cost per claim. You can see that's kind of the areas where it's going up at or it's been going up at and they've been rising. The one good thing that, you know, Covid kind of slowed certain things down, but, uh, now we're back into upward trends on those cost per claims. It's the one I'm going to skip over this one because it doesn't really apply to us. But I'm going to close this slide. These were some of the people that spoke, some of the lawyers from GMA that spoke. And of course, they'll do a better briefing than I will, but I just wanted to bring this out because like I said, we haven't really talked about these things in detail. And I've mentioned it a few times before, but at some point, Mr. Mayor, I do think we should have a discussion, retreat or whatever about how we start looking at our insurance and our premiums. And I pause there for any question they might have.

Mayor:

Commissioners, do you have any questions from our city manager?

Comm. Hopkins:

We still, Mr. City Manager, do we still have insurance with Sports and McNeil?

DISCUSSION NOTES

JULY 15TH -2024

W/S

City Manager:

We haven't changed any insurance at this time, Commissioner.

Comm Hopkins:

So they currently still have. They have y'all looked at the plan with them, what they're going to submit, or have you gotten that from them?

City Manager:

Yeah, It is time. We are talking about it. Because like I said, our premiums are going up. The warning has been put out there that the premiums will be adjusted. So we're all looking at certain things. The good thing is our workman's comp kind of went down this year coming up. But I mean, the things that are going to cover, like I said, they're trying to holistic look at it. Certain things were covered before, I think maybe ten years ago. How they don't want to beat the police cars up, but those, you know, typically want to get damaged the most. They might look at not covering those anymore depending on what the actual incident is. So, you know, we've had a few incidents with our police cars here in the past. So just some things they want us to be aware of because they're probably not going to cover certain items anymore. So I haven't had a thorough discussion with the insurance company at this time, but I plan to in the near future.

Mayor:

Any further questions?

Comm. Hopkins:

No, sir.

Mayor:

District three?

Comm. Felder:

No

Mayor:

Okay. Thank you,

City Manager:

Next, we will move into the infrastructure update. We're still revising the report, so I wanted to give the Commission's an update on some of the projects going on in the City right now as far as infrastructure. As you know, with the water leaks the team has created a tagging system, a flagging system for the water leaks. I know many times citizens come up on a leak, and they assume that we're not addressing the leak, but they are. They are identified, but there are other things that need to happen once they get identified. Finding locators, getting permits, and things of that nature. So what we're going to do now is once that leak has been identified, we're going to tag it. That way, citizens and the Commission know that we are aware of that leak. Right now, we're dealing with leaks at 1048 Grove Avenue, Lee Avenue and Glass Street, 1505 Georgia Avenue, 305 Center Street, 1401 Cherokee Drive. 502 Pentagon Street, and these are some more of our major leaks. There might be some small leaks happening, but these are the major ones ESG is dealing with right now. Next, I want to talk about some of the major rehab projects going on. As you know, the Commission passed the emergency request for funding for the Sweat Street sewer rehab. The primary sludge line rehab. The Ossie Davis sewer rehab. And the US 1 sewer main replacement. We did have a few issues with GDOT that we're currently working through right now. They should be resolved tomorrow, and then we'll start the total rehab of those four main

*****DISCUSSION NOTES*****

JULY 15TH -2024

W/S

projects. Moving on to speed studies. We had some requested speed studies for certain districts. Chief Cox, I think he just finished his speed study for Ava and Magnolia Streets. He just completed that study. And for the Commission, we're going to start doing what this initiative is. Each time we get complaints, we're going to do a speed study to kind of justify whatever decision is made in that appropriate area. I know in the past we just stuck out a stop sign or there's certain things that didn't really slow down the speeding, so we have increased tickets. I know for a while we were giving out a lot of warnings that that didn't help either, so we're going to pick up the ticketing to slow down those persons they want to go, excessively beyond the speed limit. These speed studies are important to give us that data that we need to kind of determine what can best rectify the situation. Our safety studies are ongoing on Corridor Z and Memorial Drive. GDOT did request a support letter for some of their recommendations that I mentioned a few months ago. Some of the recommendations will be some of the curve slowing techniques raised medians, some of the speed bump in some locations on the highways, stop light placement, some of the things of that nature. But I do want to get a support letter as they feel in the past, they tried to work with the City and they did not get the support they felt they needed. So I am requesting today that I do write that support letter to GDOT expressing our willingness to partner with them after their speed study is completed, and do what it takes to help our City remain safe. As one of the citizens briefed today about the stoplights, if they come back and say they recommend stoplights, what would they recommend? As far as the calming effects? I do want them to see that we want to partner with them in these efforts to make the City safe and not be in a situation where a side feels like we're not serious or committed to slowing down traffic.

Mayor:

Mr. City manager, what is it that they're saying as far as their timetable to address these issues?

City Manager:

So the safety study should be done by the end of the month, and then they'll come back with recommendations on what they. We talked about these recommendations a few times already. Definitely the raised medians, the raised curbs. I think they're talking about moving one of the crosswalks. They mentioned the lights, but if the study justifies it, then that would be something possible. I'm not sure of the results of the study yet, and when I say the raised medians and they was talking about all the way down Corridor Z through Memorial, through uptown. So that was that was one of the questions they had, and a few other issues they want to do as far as common techniques. So when I say speed bumps, I don't mean the actual speed bumps. The tables And looking at putting tables out there. I know there has been discussions on not doing it in the past, so that's what he asked me. We do support anything they want in writing, versus anything else. So once that study is done, they'll come back with recommendations, and I'll come to the Commission with the recommendations and then from there, I'm going to go ahead and draft the support letter, because the support letter will state that we're equal partners and I'll get this prepared, and hopefully, if the Commission accepts their plan and we can move forward on some of those techniques that they want to implement.

Mayor:

The one question I had was, again, when we think about the fire department, when there are incidences in certain areas, would this be an impediment for them or will they be able to work through this.

City Manager:

So it's going to be pros and cons regardless. I did talk to other city managers while I was down at the conference about that. I know each commissioner and yourself travel, so y'all see that most cities do use the speed bumps versus the speed tables. I did inquire about the liability that may be associated with that. Also about some of the concerns of the fire chief on those situations with those speed bumps. You know, they can be placed in a manner that we're aware of the fire truck is not affected. Same thing with the speed tables. It can be the same way where it only affects the cars. So I don't think that would

DISCUSSION NOTES

JULY 15TH -2024

W/S

be an issue. I think initially when we had that conversation about speed bumps, it was the old school speed bumps that went all the way across the road that would impact, you know, the truck regardless. Like I said, I haven't seen the actual study yet, those that go on Corridor Z and Memorial Highway, you see the cameras up there so you can see they're doing a study, but once they come back with all that stuff, I present it. I do think it's important that we do whatever they come with, we meet them halfway as much as possible. Because I feel like in the past, we just haven't been equal partners on this. I know safety is important to the Commissioners. Each Commissioner expressed their desire to do something about Corridor Z and other places in the community. So whatever they elected to do, I would like to do, and once they put their speed tables in place, that will be something that we go back and look at from the City and then look at the speed tables within the park areas and some of the other streets that we can't seem to get people slow down on. But that might be one of the tactics we use as well.

Mayor:

Commissioners, any questions?

Comm. Hopkins:

I talked to an engineer out in Jesup three years ago, and we were making changes by Ellianos has the worst intersection in Waycross, and he assured me that his software was having to match the one across the city is. And he told me within six months, come out and looked at it with me, took a picture with us. They came out and looked at it and they all looked and they were supposed to put up change of light out there where we had a left turn straight and right turn so that it wouldn't hold that traffic when they're trying to sneak in when they go across to get to where they're going over that way. And I had not heard one word back from them. So, have you heard from them? Come back.

City Manager:

So now in that particular situation, Commissioner, I think the raised median down through Memorial, that whole area down there, I think that's part of the plan to keep vehicles from crisscrossing and jumping through. That would deter that a little bit, but I'll check on that. I'm not sure, I spoke to him a couple of times. I asked him to go out there this week because we do need to hurry this up. As far as what we're going to do. But I'll check on that location.

Comm Hopkins:

Well, I want to talk to our board member because she's their boss.

City Manager:

Yes, ma'am.

Comm Hopkins:

Anything done yet? I know she I know she'll get something done, but I'm going to call her and talk to her tomorrow about it. It's been way too long. The same way with stadium, they were going to get new hardware ran for that light. Because now with all the train traffic stopping, it's stopping the traffic on Memorial Drive headed towards Kroger, and they come up and they turn right, the right turn. There it is, backing up so far down because the trains have got tracks across its nose and stadium and all the debris going all the way down. So it's making a big traffic jam there. And they do that because they're holding that right hand lane turn to go across the railroad tracks to the stadium and holding it with tremendous amount of force at lunchtime.

City Manager:

Yeah, I think too, when they those raised medians that's going to stop a lot of that, because as long as people are allowed to cross over wherever they want to, it's always going to be problems. But I'll check with that Commissioner, because like you said, it's been some years, but I speak to them regularly on

*****DISCUSSION NOTES*****
JULY 15TH -2024
W/S

this. I did reach out to the senior engineer. I reached out to Atlanta. We try to have two touch points a month. This safety study is supposed to go beyond the normal scaling scope. Because, you know, when we did the first one, we didn't get the latter that we needed, so they did some more stuff like near misses and traffic accidents. So those cameras have been capturing like bumper-to-bumper stuff. They've been catching near misses, and they've been calculating all those numbers. So like I said, I feel good about it this time because they got the raw data. They can see a bigger picture; they have more clarity of the picture. So it's not just about the cars speeding. It's maneuverability. It's the timing. It's everything, so I feel good about it. They said it should be done by the end of this month, and once it is, I'll bring it back. I just want the Commission to know that we're working. That support letter is going to be critical because they can just as easily come back to us and say they recommend stuff in the past. And we've turned it down. So I just want to make sure that the Commission is aware of that, that requirement for that support letter, regardless of what decision is made.

Okay, next I'm moving to state of infrastructure, parks, street and core samples have been submitted and collected, and the bids should go out later this month, with work hopefully starting in August. For all those areas. So that means the 2014 TSPLOST road projects, 2018 SPLOST Paving Road projects and then the LMIG 2023, 2024 projects. As you know, some of those streets have overlays. So once the bids come back and we get an actual cost, I'll come back to the Commission because we might have to make some changes. I use an example of Isabella, Palmetto and Oak. There are different funding sources, so it might be able to cover something in one area and move the money somewhere else. So once the bids come back, I have a clear picture of what we actually might need to move if we need to move anything, because we want to know where those were at, and finally, with the infrastructure update will not finally, but the last point you should have provided a memorandum dated May 31, 2024. It came from ESG/Inframark team and it's just them going a summary of the media situation. As you know, we've been trying to figure that out since I've been here. We've been unsuccessful so far, and everything we've done with the meters up to this point now. I did circle back with Trey, and I think Charlie is still here, so we had discussed we're going to take another shot at maybe making a few more adjustments to the meters. Because I know how important this is to the Commission, and the citizens. And just hoping that figures it out. One thing we are doing, though, within the city, we are putting all the meter boxes out. That was a concern of the citizens. We are checking the meter boxes as we check the legs, so we're about 50% complete with that. That's giving us some more data about the meters and stuff, so I don't have an answer right now. What we're going to do next, we're going to meet with the team next week. They reached out to some other cities that were having not as many problems as us with our meters. But this meter is a problem across the southeast. It's not just here and nobody has really cracked the egg on how to fix it. Outside of going back to the analog meters and doing the manual drive-bys, and that would require more personnel. I know we don't want to go backwards like that, but we're all trying to figure out what's the next step or course of action that you can see. Give you that summary, we've done a lot to try to figure this out, but unfortunately, we just haven't been successful at getting it resolved. I just want the Commission to know where we stood with the meters.

Mayor:
Thank you for that.

City Manager:
Mr. Mayor, that will complete the discussion items as far as the watershed protection plan and the finance update and the infrastructure update.

*****DISCUSSION NOTES*****
JULY 15TH -2024
W/S

City Manager:

If you move into the privilege license renewals, we have one. And as far as we have no privilege license, we have no proposed ordinances. We have one proposed resolution. And we'll go ahead and move into the city attorney's report if you have one.

Huey Spearman:

Mr. Mayor, the only report I have is that you probably noticed in the newspaper the ad regarding the special election is coming up in November. We are running that ad every week up until the date of qualification, which starts on the 23rd. So it's been running for two weeks now. It has another week to run.

Mayor:

Any questions or comments? I guess in this case it's just reports.

Huey Spearman:

Just a report.

Mayor:

And uniquely, when we're talking about this, this will be next week. So it's going to be interesting for two districts.

Huey Spearman:

That's correct.

Mayor:

Any comments about concerns maybe for district one or district five that may need to be talked about regarding locality.

City Manager:

So there's one concern, Mr. Mayor. And I think, you know, the elections board put this out. But there will be different locations. I know typically district one because it's technically not only primary, I mean, so it wouldn't be in the auditorium, it would be in another location. Because the primary will be in the auditorium, and you do want citizens to kind of be aware of that as they move around or take the day off to vote. They might have to go to two locations to vote, where it might be one location. I think they're going to put that out here next week, so everybody's aware of that. But we'll reinforce that we don't want anybody to go somewhere and not see somebody's name on the ticket, and then not vote and then have an issue later on. So we'll try our best to support the team over there with the elections committee. Hopefully, all will get the information out the right way.

Mayor:

Thank you, Mr. City Attorney.

City Manager:

Mr. Mayor, I have been pretty much covered everything during discussion items. We do have an executive session for personnel.

Mayor:

With that being said, if there's nothing else, we can entertain a motion for adjournment to executive session.

Comm. Hopkins: I make a motion.

*****DISCUSSION NOTES*****
JULY 15TH -2024
W/S

Comm. Bennett: Second.

Mayor: We have a motion from Commissioner Hopkins to move into executive session for personnel, along with second from Commissioner Bennett. We'll take a vote. All in favor? Aye.

Comm. Bennett: Aye.

Comm. Felder: Aye

Comm. Hopkins: Aye.

Mayor: All opposed? Motion carries. We will move to the executive session. Thank you, everyone, for coming.