

MINUTES
WAYCROSS CITY COMMISSION PLANNING & INFORMATION SESSION
MONDAY, AUGUST 19, 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 on Monday, August 19, 2024, at 5:00 pm by Mayor James. The meeting was held in the Commission Chambers of City Hall. Present were Commissioners Diane Hopkins, Katrena Felder and Sheinita Bennett.

A. Invocation: Commissioner Diane Hopkins

Invocation led by James Smart, Director Public Works

B. Pledge of Allegiance

II. GUESTS:

Mr. Roy Lott, 612 Beville Street, Waycross Georgia, - spoke on the FY-2025 Budget

Mr. Stanley Evans, 1404 Roosevelt Street, Waycross Georgia, -spoke regarding his concerns about the FY-2025 Budget and the city moving forward with Beautification and Infrastructure needs as well as employee moral concerns.

Ms. Melissa Ingle, 506 Elizabeth Street, Waycross Georgia, - came to speak on the concerns she has with commission in her opinion using their position to hold up moving the city forward for personal gains.

Mr. Robert Hutto, 4057 Jamestown Road, Waycross Georgia, came to show support to his fellow co-workers and to the commission, by expressing a thank you to them both for there hard work and diligence but also to advocate on behalf of the younger employees the need to have better pay.

III. TRAVEL/TRAINING SCHEDULE AND REQUESTS

IV. PLANNING & INFORMATION SESSION

A. Bids: n/a

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

1. Finance Update:

a. Utilization of 80K accumulated from ARPA interest, city hall repairs and upgrades.

2. Infrastructure Update:
 - a. Prioritization of Capital gains projects.
 - b. Transportation plan shared cost with County 150K.
 - c. Research and select purchase of side arm mower, ARPA, or financed.
3. Date for Comprehensive plan (3hrs) review dates: 16, 17, 23, 24 September.
4. Watershed Protection Plan

After a brief discussion. The mayor opened up for a motion to place on tomorrow's agenda for a vote to place out for bid. There was **no consensus** with a vote of District-2, Commissioner Bennet-No, District 3, Commissioner Felder-Yes and District-4, Commissioner Hopkins-Yes.

C. Privilege Licenses Renewals: n/a

D. Privilege Licenses:

E. Proposed Ordinances: n/a

F. Proposed Resolutions:

1. A Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia, To Hold the City Commission Work Session Set for the Monday Before the First Tuesday in the Month of September 2024 on September 3, 2024; and for Other Purposes.

There was a consensus to place on Tuesday agenda for approval. District 2-yes, District 3-yes and District 4-yes.

2. A Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia for the Adoption of Policies and Procedures and Program Design for Community Home Investment Program (CHIP) Grant Number 2024-119, To Authorize the Mayor to Sign all Related Resolutions and Program Documents in Connection with said Grant Award, and for Other Purposes.

There was a consensus to place on Tuesday agenda for approval. District 2-yes, District 3-yes and District 4-yes.

G. City Attorney Report:

H. City Managers Report:

Announced the City Retreat to be held on October 11th and 12th at City Hall, 417 Pendleton Street.

I. Last Call

J. Adjourn to Executive Session

K. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:34pm

CITY OF WAYCROSS

BY:

Michael Angelo James

MICHAEL-ANGELO JAMES, Mayor

ATTEST:

Jacqueline Powell

JACQUALINE POWELL, City Clerk



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City Manager: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. It is time we had a traveling training schedule on request, and we'll be going into the planning information session. We don't have any bids at this time. We'll go through the agenda items. I'll start with the finance update. As you know, we have maintained the Arpa funds for a while now. They've been sitting in the bank. They have been accumulating some interest. The interest, -, was like ARPA has to be spent or appropriated. So, I'm asking the commission to do, -, some of the commission brought up that City Hall needed some repairs and some upkeep and updates. So, you see, it's actually about 82,000. I put it on there, but it's actually 82,000. -, I had the team go through, -, last week I looked at the cost for new floors, new carpet, new paint, things of nature. -, unfortunately, we can't do anything outside with this being a historical building without going through, -, a much higher cost. -, but that 80,000 would cover a lot of needs here. Some of the leaking that's going on in some areas that we could fix in this building. So, I'm requesting, -, from the commission to get a concession on using that accumulated interest to do some repairs and some beautification on City Hall.

City Manager: Let's move on to the infrastructure update. About four, four sessions ago, we presented the gains plan Project plan is about 48 water and sewer projects. And I had them grouped them into certain criteria, haven reflected on that and looking back at some of our past discussions and some things that slowed us down. I want to come to the commission today, and actually if they kind of can give me some guidance on the prioritization. -, two recommendations would be, -, that we only do one project per district. regardless of the priorities of the dean. -, we seem to have issues every time we go down that road. -, it has hindered us sometimes in, -, getting started on things. -, extra 60 to 90 days in some cases. So, I'm asking now to go ahead and, -, if they don't have that list, I'll resend it. -, we did send it back a while. -, a while back. -, and it's a lot of money on the on that list. I just want to kind of get some, some clear guidance on that, because I think it's important to move forward right now that we all agree on it as early as possible so we can go ahead and figure these things out. -, that way there's no misunderstanding later on., Next thing, Mr. Mayor also, about four meetings ago, we introduced a transportation plan that the county had presented, and it was just a flier at the time. -, having looked back at that as well, if they when you got the, -, the comp plan, you had a transportation plan built on it already. So, I know I said I would come back with this request. -, at this time, I don't think we need to do that. The 150 K. -, because that comp plan had a very detailed, much, -, abbreviated transportation plan, and we could utilize that for our decisions moving forward. However, if we need to, -, as a reminder to the commission, we did budget that \$250,000 for our own transportation plan. -, so, we could just we still could go in with the county to do updated plan and pay half of that. Or we could use that data from the comp plan to kind of create our own transportation plan. But I want to bring this back up. We said we would bring back up a few minutes later on.

City Manager: I pause for questions on that.

Mayor James: And responding to the transportation plan. You're making it clear that we had a certain portion, we could have played along with them in order to do.

City Manager: We still can, even if they would like to.

Mayor James: Commissioner, do you have any questions on the State Transportation Commission? No, sir. Mr. No. Thank you. Thank you.

City Manager: Next thing, Mr. Mayor, this is a request for the purchase of a sidearm and I go into the financing a little bit. As you know, we only have one sidearm lawnmower at this time. So that really hinders. -, Mr. Smart and his team's ability to get canals and alleyways, and we discussed this in the past. -, maybe potentially going through a splash or something like that. -, but because we did have some, some great under bids for opera, some of our software came in at low bid. -, we found

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other ways to buy equipment at a lower bid. So, we did have some money left over. -, that I would like to go ahead and put a flier to that side arm more, because it does, it would increase our capacity twofold, -, without canals and alleyways. -, and the funding source would be some of that Arpa money from the equipment that we had designated, or we could possibly finance it. -, Mrs. Moore has found some quotes, and they range from about, I think, 185,000 250,000. So, I'm going through that right now and we can bring that back. -, but we definitely need this, -, this equipment because we only have one machine now and it does go down sometimes. And you can see when it goes down because we definitely fall behind on that canal maintenance. -, and this gentleman spoke earlier, -, this last storm, because we had it running in full throttle. They did do a lot of good work and really helped out with the storm, but the additional machine will definitely go even farther. -, now with that, it will require another personnel to, to monitor to maintain it. So, -, James and Marissa are working on the details of maybe moving that position over, -, or awkward position. -, because I will be pulling somebody from one of the other teams to, to manage moving forward. But I want to go ahead and give the, -, concession to go ahead and, -, make that decision now so we can go ahead and take those steps, -, to get those bids out, to find the best, -, site that we can find. And I pause there for any questions on that matter.

Mayor James: Did you have a presentation that Mr. James may want to do? -.

City Manager: Do we have the quotes, James? Yeah! Go ahead and present those quotes for me really quick.

James Smart: Mr. mayor, commissioners, -, I spoke to several different people, companies that actually produce the bone mowers as we have, that cut the canal system. And what I'm trying to look at doing our boom that we have now is actually a 25 foot, what they call a machete cutter. And what I want to try to do with this other side arm is to go with a 30-foot reach, which gives us a little bit better where some of the canals we can't reach all the way to the bottom of them. This will help in it. And some, you know, we still won't be able to reach all the way to the bottom because of the depth of the canals. But we have a, -, what they call a more max machine that I've actually asked for prices on. It was \$237,000. -, another one would be Tiger Maw, and it's sort of built the same as we have now, just a different company with it. You're looking at 292,000 to 300,000, depending on the length of the cut on it, and actually got a price from, -, the Dixon New Holland over in Blackshear on the same type of mower that we have now. I'm not sure if they will make it in the 30, but I will get back with him. And just the one that we're looking at, like we have right now is a 206. So, we are looking, and you know, everything will have to be bid out and we'll have to go there. Some of our stuff is on a state contract, which will give us a better cost on that as well. We will have to pay what some of the farmers and stuff would have to do with that state contract. So that is a benefit to the city as far as saving money. So do you have any questions.

Mayor James: Commissioner, do you have any questions for Mr. Smart? two -No, sir. three -no and four

COMMISSIONER HOPKINS: Thank you, sir. They work very hard and thank you. And I look forward to the. Rest of our staff. The job hasn't 90 days and some hot season.

COMMISSIONER HOPKINS: To try to get through to keep our city looking good. So, thank you, Mr. Smart, for your leadership. Thank you, Commissioner.

City Manager: Thank you.

City Manager: Next, Mr. mayor, we're moving to the last meeting. I requested some possible dates for the comp plan. It's going to take about three hours. This is an annual requirement, and it has to be done before October. So, some of these dates are lined up with our meetings are already scheduled

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meetings and some are offset. So, the convention can kind of look at those dates and see if there's a time where everybody could be there ideally, we would want to do it before one of our actual

meetings. That would save some time. I need to let the southern region know as soon as possible so they can kind of coordinate their personnel to be here.

Mayor James: So, these dates are very similar to our dates? Yes. The 16th and the 17th seem to be one of our dates. And then the 23rd and 24th would be a different week than the week after? Yes. It seems like it probably would be more conducive for three-hour times for.

Mayor James: The Commission's decision. 24, 23 and 24. So that would be a better time, because the 16th and 17th would be the. Week of our Actual meeting.

Mayor James: Commissioner Hopkins, I think it.

COMMISSIONER HOPKINS: Really rushes us to. Go. And we thank goodness that early, very early and very early. And I think it forces us to have the time to go through the plan that we have to do our meeting day. So, my preference would be 23 to 24. That's not many days. Is that correct?

Mayor James: That's correct. Okay.

COMMISSIONER BENNETT: Yes, sir.

Mayor James: And Commissioner Felder, of course.

Mayor James: Would this be an either or both?

City Manager: An either or. Mr. mayor, you.

Mayor James: 23rd on a Tuesday. And 20, excuse me on the 23rd is on Monday and the 24th is on a Tuesday. Is there any. Preference of the commission on the 23rd and.

COMMISSIONER BENNETT: Either one is fine with me, Mr. Mayor.

Mayor James: If everyone's okay for the 23rd, would you say 24? Yes, sir. So 23rd of September.

Mayor James: We have consensus for all.

City Attorney: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Thank you.

City Manager: Last thing on the agenda list, Mr. Mayor. The commissioner asked for the watershed protection plan to be put back on there for a vote. I know we can have a discussion, but typically we just want to go ahead and get a vote for a bid, and we'll bid it out as soon as possible. If that's the desire of the commission.

Mayor James: Could we have? Do we have any. Presentation of any sort concerning this or.

City Manager: No, it's the same, same, same plan we've been talking about. But I know they were -, it was mentioned to be that we had to have concessions. So, I want to go and get that now to build it out and.

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Mayor James: Then take it to vote tomorrow. So, what we need in order for work to be done tomorrow, to be the consensus on put it out for bids. We'll start with District two. No, sir. District three-yes, and District four-Yes. You do not have a consensus.

City Manager: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. -, next man, we don't have any privilege license renewals or privilege licenses.

COMMISSIONER FELDER: Clarification. Yes. I reached out to the city manager's To the staff regarding three items to be added to the agenda for today. And they're not on the discussion items. Just to provide clarification why this is not on the agenda.

City Attorney: I didn't get an email on that.

COMMISSIONER FELDER: Yes, your staff did.

City Manager: Because you missed before. Commissioner, you can't talk to the staff. You know, you got to talk to me about that, so I'm sorry. Yeah.

COMMISSIONER FELDER: So, for clarification then when the staff sends out the agenda and there are items to be added to the agenda, you're saying to not respond to the staff.

City Manager: To reach out to me, I can put on to get some concessions from all y'all. And that was like a, you know, so I can get make sure it's added. And then we got to publicize it so I can get like on the Friday. It's kind of difficult at that point.

COMMISSIONER FELDER: So when would you like to receive additional items to be added to the agenda? Once the agenda is sent out to all y'all, y'all can let me know at any point in time. I just don't know after the fact. You mean talking directly to one of the city employees? I'm trying to avoid that, but anytime y'all want to, we'll add it to it. A simple phone call.

Mayor James: Thank you. And I'll go to our city attorney for just a statement. For clarity, it is generally our job as commissioner and mayor to talk to our city manager who talks to the staff.

City Attorney: That is correct.

Mayor James: So, if we ever step outside of that and they can't respond to them because they're under his tutelage or under his auspices. So, I mean, they could respond. But in reality, that's not true.

City Attorney: The charter, right? The city manager does have the responsibility of being responsible for making sure that the agenda is set. And so, any items that should be placed on the agenda should be brought to his attention.

Mayor James: That was just a point of clarity because I remember when we first started out, we were told that we were supposed to always make sure that we didn't have any ideas or thoughts that we wanted to share with, share with the city Council. He in turn puts them on the agenda based upon the time frame we do it. And most times the books are going out and the agenda goes to the public that we are meeting. And so, they have to be aware of what we're going to do before we do that.

City Attorney: There may be times when the city manager is unavailable out of town. He may designate one of his staff to receive information that needs to go on the agenda. But if he hasn't done that, then the information needs to come to the city manager.

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Mayor James: Thank you. Commissioner Felder wants to speak.

COMMISSIONER FELDER: So, Mr. City Manager, if you would, would you tell your staff in the future that when they do send out the agenda to the commission, that they include you in it, so that when a commissioner replies, all recipients will receive that reply so that you are aware maybe.

City Manager: You right Commissioner.

City Manager: Yes. We have no privileged licenses. No proposed ordinance is going to have two resolutions. -, my policy on the city attorney, if you want to speak on those two resolutions.

City Attorney: Mr. Mayor and commissioners, the first resolution is a resolution of the city of Waycross to hold the city commission work session that is set for Monday before the first Tuesday in the month of September, which is September the 2nd to hold that work session on the next day, September the 3rd, because September the 2nd is a Labor Day holiday. It's a holiday for the city of Waycross. It's a national holiday as well. And instead of having the work session on that Tuesday, the resolution proposes that the work session be held on instead of having a work session on that Monday. It proposes that the work session be held on Tuesday at 3 p.m., which is two hours before the regular meeting starts at 5 p.m. Okay, are there any questions about that?

Mayor James: Do you want me to get a consensus?

City Attorney: Yes, yes, yes.

Mayor James: So, we have our meeting also, including our work session on the third of the month of September. So, I'll start with district two. So, we're not going to do Labor Day because we're not going to be there. Yes, sir. Yes. Yes.

City Attorney: The resolution will be on the agenda for tomorrow for final adoption. The second resolution is a resolution of the city of Waycross, Georgia, for the adoption of policies and procedures and program design for the Community Home Investment Program. The Chip program for grant number 2024 119. And this resolution will authorize the mayor to sign all related resolutions and program doc-ents in connection with the 2024 Chip Grant Award. There are several resolutions in the package that we got from the Southern Regional Commission, which is administering the grant from the Department of Community Affairs. There are about 11 different doc-ents that you'll have to sign, including resolutions, section three plan and, -, and resolution with regard to making sure that the grant benefits moderate too low to moderate income individuals. Another document regarding language access, so that persons who speak Spanish, for an example, will be able to understand the program. -, there's also, -, the standard agreement between the city of Waycross and the Southern Regional Commission to be the administrator or administrator, I should say, of this grant. And instead of, -, having each one of those resolutions set forth, -, we have prepared one resolution that incorporates all of the resolutions, the forms, -, the contract and the doc-ents that will put into effect this, -, -, 2024 Chip Grant. And so by passing this resolution, -, the commission will agree for the mayor to sign all of the necessary doc-ents in order to approve the 2024 Chip grant.

Mayor James: Commissioner, do you have any questions. Of our city attorney for clarification before consenting? Yes, sir. Mr. District three. Yes, sir. Okay, so let's go back to go back to that and find out. Is there a consent to give the mayors the ability to sign the 11 documents. Commissioner two-Yes Sir. Commissioner three- Yes. And Commissioner four-Yes. Okay. Thank you.

City Attorney: With regard to the City attorney's report? I have no report. Mr. Mayor. Thank you.

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City Manager: Thank you, Mr. City Attorney. Mr. mayor, as far as my report received, my report and the email today to include the city reports. We did make a few modifications, but they're small and minor, one, as you'll see in there. -, the last thing to that in that report, you will see I did put the dates for the retreat. So we did agree upon the 11th and 12th of October, -, for those dates. And that's off my report at this time, Mr. Mayor.

City Manager: It's allowed one more time on the October for the actual city retreat will be the 11th and 12th. I know we had some confusion on ask me.

Mayor James: Any questions of our city manager for years? Three and four. Are there any other concerns or questions?

City Manager: Not that I'm aware of Mr. Mayor.

Mayor James: All right. This meeting's adjourned.