

**City Of Bowman  
Monthly Council Meeting  
February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
Minutes**

**MEMBERS PRESNET**

Mayor, Scott Harpold

Council Woman Mary Clark

Council Member Jeff Spratlin

Council Member, Henrietta Williams

Council Member, Leah Carey

Council Member, Betty Jo Maxwell

**MEDIA PRESENT**

Mark Berryman, 105.3 Radio station

Rose Scoggins, Elberton Star

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Assistant City Clerk, Savannah Ivester

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm. A prayer was said by Council Woman Henrietta Williams.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said after our prayer

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES (O.C.G.A 50-14-1(e)(2))**

Mayor Harpold asked for a motion to approve the amended minutes from the November 27<sup>th</sup> meeting. Council Woman Henrietta Williams made the motion. Council Woman Mary Clark seconded. Motion carried.

Mayor Harpold asked for a motion to approve the called meeting minutes from January 22<sup>nd</sup>. Council Woman Henrietta Williams made the motion. Council Jeff Spratlin seconded. Motion carried.

Mayor Harpold asked for a motion to approve the called meeting minutes from January 25<sup>th</sup>. Council Woman Mary Clark made the motion. Council Woman Henrietta Williams seconded. Motion carried.

Mayor Harpold asked for a motion to approve the called meeting minutes from February 9<sup>th</sup>. Council Woman Mary Clark made the motion. Council Woman Henrietta Williams seconded. Motion carried.

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**REZONING REQUEST – MARK CAREY:**

Mayor Harpold stated that after looking over Mark Carey's rezoning request, he did not see a reason why the council should not allow him to change from Agriculture to R-3 at this time.

Mayor Harpold asked for a motion to allow Mr. Carey to rezone his property. Council Woman Mary Clark made the motion. Council Woman Betty Jo Maxwell seconded. Motion carried.

**STATEWIDE MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT:**

Elbert County EMS Director, Chuck Almond spoke to council about the mutual aid agreement that allows resources to come into Bowman if we were declared a state of emergency, a man made or natural disaster *were* to occur.

Mayor Harpold asked for a motion to sign this agreement. Council Woman Mary Clark made the motion. Councilman Jeff Spratin seconded. Motion carried.

**SOLAR PANEL ORDINANCE:**

Mayor Harpold stated that the city does not currently have any solar panel ordinances and the city was given a direct copy from Elbert County of their solar panel ordinances that they *gave* for us to *rewrite* and adopt. He stated that these ordinances will help protect the city. Mayor Harpold also stated that these ordinances will not allow solar farms within the city due to limited space.

Mayor Harpold asked for a motion to do the first reading of the solar ordinances. Council Woman Henrietta made the motion. Councilman Jeff Spratin seconded. Opposition from Council Woman Betty Jo Maxwell. Motion carried.

**PERMIT INSPECTOR:**

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Mayor Harpold stated that he would like to hire Bureau Veritas for our permit and building inspections.

Council Woman Mary Clark explained that since we do not have any buildings being erected right now, we can always come back to this offer. Mayor Harpold replied and said there are 10 building permits for homes that *she* approved when she was Mayor pro-tem. Mr. Harpold then stated that there have been many issues with the chicken houses and our ordinance, and this is what is going to help protect the city. *There were side conversations with council members about building permits.*

Mayor Harpold asked for a motion to hire Bureau Veritas. Councilman Jeff Spratlin made the motion. Council Woman Henrietta Williams seconded. Council Members, Betty Jo Maxwell, Leah Carey and Mary Clark voted no. Motion failed.

**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:**

Councilman Jeff Spratlin stated that they are still conducting interviews for the city clerk position.

**MAYOR PRO-TEM:**

Council Woman Betty Jo Maxwell made a motion for Council Woman Leah Carey to be Mayor pro-tem. Council Woman Mary Clark seconded. No other council agreed. Mayor Harpold broke the tie vote with a no. *Mayor Harpold told Council that no one can vote on themselves if it involve a pay in.* Motion failed.

Mayor Harpold stated that the council now has to make a motion to nominate someone else.

Council Woman Henrietta Williams made a motion to nominate Councilman Jeff Spratlin as Mayor pro-tem. No council person seconded. Motion failed.

Councilman Jeff Spratlin made the motion to nominate Council Woman Henrietta Williams as Mayor pro-tem. She declined.

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**ALCOHOL LICENSE:**

Mayor Harpold stated the city has received two alcohol license applications. The first one is a beer and wine store on the square owned by Mike Royston. Mr. Harpold asked for a motion to approve their license. Council Woman Henrietta Williams made the motion. Council Woman Mary Clark seconded. Motion carried.

The second alcohol license application is from the Snider's, owners of LG'S Diner. Mr. Harpold asked for a motion to approve their license. Council Woman Henrietta Williams made the motion. Council Woman *Mary Clark* seconded. Motion carried.

**MAYORS REPORT:**

Mayor Harpold reported that the city has a few bills that are past due which include a GMA bill that is over two years past due, over a year past due for water tank service, and new attorney fees. Mayor Harpold asked for a motion to pay these out of the APRA fund. *Council Woman Mary Clark* ask for the balance in APRA account and how much would remain after payment of past due bills. Council Woman Mary Clark made the motion. Council Woman Henrietta Williams seconded. Motion carried.

Mayor Harpold also stated that the city received the LMIG grant back in 2018 that we have not spent anything out of yet, and if we do not use the money, they'll take it back unless we use it immediately. Mr. Harpold stated that the plan is to use it to work on the road to the park, but he has a one estimate but wants to wait until he gets a few more to vote on this. *Council Woman Mary Clark* asked if we were repairing city streets before making a park road.

Mayor Harpold also stated that right now the city has one estimate to patch all the potholes in the roads. He stated that we have about \$430,000 in our TSPPOST account to put towards this project, but the plans are to patch all the holes first then prioritize paving the roads as the come along.

**HOSPITAL AUTHORITY REPORT – Tammy Dalton:**

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The hospital had an average daily census of 15.7 patients in January 2024. Total average length of stay was 6.1 days. Emergency room visits decreased to 735 in January from 823 in December 2023. Gross patient revenue was \$3,412,870.00 in January 2024 versus \$2,932,850.00 in January 2023.

**DEVELOPMENTAL AUTHORITY:**

No report.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS REPORT:**

Council Woman Mary Clark reported *she was called by Elbert County officers to report gym door unlocked to MECHS ajar, nothing was damaged*, that the Bowman Resource Center has been vandalized a couple weeks ago: She stated the Mr. Wiley has a group of *students* that will help clean things up where the vandalism took place.

Council man Jeff Spratlin reported that the roof on the stage at the park has been fixed and also that he as bid for the electrical work that needs done.

**SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE – Henrietta Williams:**

Council Woman Henrietta Williams reported that the spring festival applications are now available and also that the Big Iron Crank up will be the same day as the festival. Mrs. Williams also mentioned that the special events committee is taking volunteers to join the committee.

**CEMETARY REPORT – Betty Jo Maxwell:**

Council Woman Betty Jo Maxwell stated she would like to use some of the funds donated to the cemetery fund by to paint and clean up some of the monuments.

**PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT REPORT:**

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No reports.

Mayor Harpold stated that he had been given some good suggestions and estimated on supplies needed.

**SPEAKERS:**

Terri Lunsford – Terri Lunsford asked questions regarding concerns she has with Mayor Harpold.

Heather Thompson – Heather Thompson also spoke on concerns she has with Mayor Harpold.

Angie Harpold – Angie Harpold also spoke on concerns about the community supporting Mayor Harpold against the chicken houses.

**ADJUREDMENT:**

*Mayor Scott Harpold asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Council Woman Mary Clark made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Council Woman Henrietta Williams seconded. Motion passes. Meeting Adjourned.*