



CITY OF BOWMAN
Bowman City Hall
Monthly meeting
April 9th, 2025

MEMBER'S Present:

Mayor, Scott Harpold
Council Member, Mary Clark
Council Member, Jeff Spratlin
Council Member, Henrietta Williams
Attorney, Simon Williams

STAFF PRESENT:

City Clerk, Tiffany Verdell
Assistant city clerk: Kendra Jones

Media Present:

WSGC Radio
Elberton Star

Mayor Scott Harpold called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. The mayor asked Councilwoman Williams to lead the prayer, which was followed by the pledge.

Approval of minutes:

Council member Spratlin made a motion to approve December 11th, 2024, minutes. Councilwoman Williams seconded the motion. The mayor asked for a vote by show of hands. The motion passed unanimously.

The mayor asked for a motion to approve the February 12th, 2025, minutes. Council member Spratlin motioned to approve the February 12th, 2025, minutes, 2nd by Councilwoman Williams. The mayor called for a vote by show of hands. The motion passed unanimously.

Approve 2024 Budget through June 2025: Mayor Harpold asked for a motion to approve continuing to use the 2024 budget until June 2025 when the new budget would be ready. He stated the auditors were in the process of creating this budget a new budget for 2025. Councilwoman Williams motioned to continue with the 2024 budget until May's meeting, 2nd by Councilmember Spratlin. The mayor called for a vote by show of hands 2 agreed (Williams, Spratlin) and 1 opposed (Clark). Clark explained she opposed it due to no knowledge of a budget being presented to the citizens or voted on since 2023. Mayor Harpold assured her that a budget was prepared and approved and that he would get her a copy of it. Motion passed (2-1).

Decorum Ordinance: The mayor went over the details of the ordinance and stated this would be the 3rd and final vote to get this approved. The attorney interjected and stated that since the ordinance had failed several times, it was best to start the process over. Council member Spratlin made a motion to approve the 1st reading of the decorum ordinance, 2nd by Councilwoman Williams. Mayor Harpold called for a vote by show of hands. Motion passed 2-1 (Clark voted no)

Municipal Court: The mayor explained Cody Wessell was a candidate for the municipal court judge for Bowman. He had sent out information and a contract to the council about Mr. Wessell. Harpold explained what the judge would be doing, and that the city's charter also calls for this court. He opened the floor for discussion and questions. Councilwoman Williams asked, "Where would the funds come from to pay the judge?" The mayor replied from the general account and fees collected from fines. Councilwoman Williams asked, "How much will the judge be receiving for his work?" Mayor Harpold stated \$500.00 per session and confirmed with the lawyer this was amount was the average for this position. Councilwoman Clark asked, "Does the court not need an additional lawyer along with the judge?" Attorney Nelson responded yes, they will



need legal representation as well. Councilwoman Clark stated, “That’s additional funds” Councilmember Spratlin made a motion to table this matter until May to allow everyone to gather information and be prepared. 2nd by Councilwoman Williams. The mayor called for a vote by show of hands. Motion passed unanimously.

Audit: Mayor Harpold announced after much hard work from the city clerk and the assistant city clerk, the audit has been completed and turned in. As of April 9th, the city of Bowman is in compliance with the state of Georgia and can apply for grants.

Beer and Wine license approval: Mayor Harpold asked for a motion to approve the Beer and Wine application for the Bowman Market. Councilwoman Williams made a motion to approve the beer and wine application for the Bowman Market, 2nd by Council member Spratlin. The mayor called for a vote by show of hands. The motion passed unanimously.

Recall of council members: Mayor Harpold stated that the recall election had ended, and the results were the removal of Councilwoman Maxwell and Councilwoman Carey. He informed every one of the upcoming election to elect two new members to the council. Qualifying for this position would start on April 21st through the 25th at City Hall. Early voting would begin on the 5th of May until May 23rd, and election day would be May 27th, 2025. The cost to qualify is \$35.00, and the seat is short-term from June to November.

Big Iron Crank Up: The mayor asked for volunteers to help with the festival. Stated they are expecting lots of patrons and vendors for this event.

Building Ordinances: The mayor informed everyone that the zoning ordinances for Bowman are too strict and contradictory of itself. Some issues the city is facing are fence installations, storage buildings, subdivisions, variances, etc. Proposing a moratorium on building and zoning for 90 days. The attorneys drafted a resolution for the zoning moratorium. All submitted applications and projects in effect before this date will still be processed. Councilwoman Clark posed the question, “Would they be able to extend the moratorium, if need be, or end it early if need be. The attorney stated both situations would be handled by a simple vote to extend or end. The mayor asked for a motion to accept the zoning resolution created by the attorneys for a 90-day zoning moratorium. Council member Spratlin made a motion to accept the zoning resolution for a 90-day moratorium. Seconded by Councilwoman Williams. The mayor called for a vote by show of hands. The motion passed unanimously.



Mayor Report: The mayor stated he had several issues, the first being the pumping station. The station is overflowing and needs repair. The estimated cost to fix the station is \$10,325.00 for the motor and \$7,565.00 for the valve, bringing the total repairs to \$ 17,890.00. The funds would come out of water. The mayor asked for a motion to approve the estimate for the repairs to the pumping station. Councilwoman Williams made a motion to approve the estimate for the repairs to the pumping station, 2nd by Council member Spratlin. The mayor called for a vote by show of hands. The motion passed unanimously. Next on the list Mayor Harpold wanted to thank Julie Williams for her help in filling out the grant information for a portable generator for the city. The generator will be able to work on all wells and pump stations. Mayor Harpold spoke on the Archways program that is working with the city of Elberton/Bowman to help make the communities better. The program right now is trying to get everyone to fill out the survey to help the program. Mayor Harpold addressed the council about putting two fences at the park. One at the entrance and another at the beginning of the new road. The cost for these fences would be 1800 for the top and 800 for the bottom. Monies would come from the Splost account. The mayor asked for a motion to buy these fences using money from the Splost account.

Council member Reports:

Councilwoman Williams: Councilwoman Williams told everyone about bingo at the community center April 11th from 6-9pm. Senior Luncheon will be Tuesday April 15th starting at noon, and guest will be allowed to eat in the center. Elvis will be playing in the park on April 11th as well.

Councilman Spratlin: encouraged everyone to take a ride through the park and see all the improvements and hard work everyone has been doing. Council member Spratlin announced all roads projects have been completed, and all came in under budget. He stated he plans to start paving the roads once the city builds the funds back up to do so.

Councilwoman Clark: Council woman Clark told everyone she attended the Development Authority meeting on April 9th, 2025. She informed everyone that "During the Development Authority Meeting, Caitlin shared, "There are ninety-three (93) businesses in the county, averaging around 2,000 employees. An appreciation breakfast is being planned, for May 16th, to share helpful information for employers and show our gratitude for their service. She mentioned a function that is still in the works for helping businesses grow. Councilwoman Clark also informed everyone she reached out to Bureau Veritas seeking a monthly report on businesses denied permits and the rationale for those denials. Councilwoman Clark stated, "I don't understand why we can't get that information; we are paying Bureau Veritas for that service among other duties".

Council woman Clark recalled a conversation she had with Mrs. Asasi on the re-opening of her business. She explained she had reached out to Hal Chitwood for reports and still to her knowledge no reports have been submitted and hold up businesses from being able to open. City Clerk Verdell explained once Bureau Veritas takes on a project the communication then goes between the customer and Bureau Veritas. The city is basically just the middleman. Mayor Harpold also explained that the cost to get a report for everything would be very costly. Council member Spratlin explained as well that all inspection reports are available for viewing at City Hall. He explained these reports will show what needs to be done and what doesn't for each inspected property. Council Woman Clark wanted the community to know that the City Council did not vote to move Bowman's Spring Festival to Bowman's Park. The Special events committee made the decision to move it, and they did not have the authority to do so.

Attorney Report: Nothing to report.

Hospital Authority: see attached monetary report. Mrs. T. Dalton talked about the 5th annual duck derby. The Duck derby is a fundraiser for the hospital and the event will be held at the Granite City Walking Trail Rotary Pavilion from 10:30am-1:00pm.

Speakers:



John Clark (224 S. Segars Street) expressed his concerns about starting a municipal court system being very expensive for the city and costing the city to bring back city taxes. He wanted the city to research the court system cost and effectiveness and be watchful over the city's monies.

Executive Session: The mayor asked for a motion to go into an executive session. A motion was made by Council member Spratlin to go into executive session, 2nd by Council woman Clark. The mayor asked for a vote by show of hands. Motion passed unanimously. The mayor asked for a motion to return from the executive session. Motion made by Council Woman Williams to return from executive session, 2nd by Council member Spratlin. Mayor asked to vote by I's. I's have it. Mayor Harpold stated no decisions were made during the executive session and two litigation matters were discussed during the session.

The mayor asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion made by Council member Spratlin to adjourn the meeting, 2nd by Councilwoman Williams. The mayor called for a vote by show of hands. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned

Mayor

City Clerk

Tiffany Verdell