

**CITY OF BOWMAN
MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 23, 2020**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Roberta Rice
Council Member Wade Bridges
Council Member Rachel Felice
Council Member Henrietta Williams

MEDIA PRESENT:

Linton Johnson, WSGC Radio
Rose Scoggins, Elberton Star

STAFF PRESENT:

Crystal Duck, City Clerk
Richard Campbell, City Attorney

Mayor Roberta Rice called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. She read the poem “Prayer for our Land” and all those present said the Pledge of Allegiance.

- **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
 - Mayor Rice requested removing the approval of the minutes for the February meeting. She also asked to have Mr. Dobbins and Mr. Gunter speak before the Mayor’s report. She removed Just-in-case procedures (Coronavirus) under New Business and 2020 Budget under Unfinished Business. Lastly, she added Executive Session for personnel. Councilwoman Williams made a motion to approve the agenda with the changes, seconded by Councilman Bridges and the vote was unanimous.

- **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
 - Greg Gunter, Chairman of the Economic Development Authority for the City of Elberton, the City of Bowman and Elbert County, gave some background information on the EDA and stated the City of Bowman could begin making its contributions for 2020 and was not asking the City to make payments for prior periods. That amount is \$1,250 quarterly, whereas the CoE and EC contributes \$60,000 each yearly. Daniel Dobbins, President and CEO, for the EDA stated he was already working with existing businesses and would add the City of Bowman’s L.B. Berryman building to the inventory list for incoming businesses. He further stated the website should be up and running within 90 days.

- **MAYOR’S REPORT**
 - Mayor Rice stated Tammy Dalton had requested, via email, for the council to support the Advantage Behavioral Mental Health Candlelight Vigil on Sunday, October 4, 2020 on the square. Dalton stated she would take care of the event coordination. Councilwoman Felice made a motion to approve Dalton’s request, seconded by Councilwoman Williams and the vote was unanimous. Mayor Rice stated there were 74 applications from Indeed.com and 8 at City Hall for the Interim Assistant Clerk position. The personnel committee, consisting of Mary Clark, Larry Teasley and

Clerk Duck would begin going through them. Mayor Rice stated the lockbox for comments was installed at City Hall. Mayor Rice requested changing the switch fee for landlords from \$20 to \$50. Councilwoman Williams made a motion to accept her request, seconded by Councilwoman Felice and the vote was unanimous. Lastly, Mayor Rice stated she had the lease for the Georgia Blaze in her Mayor's report. However, Attorney Campbell informed her that Mr. Ray wanted to talk to the Mayor so she postponed discussing the issue.

- ATTORNEY'S REPORT
 - Attorney Campbell reminded the council the election for city council was tomorrow.
- COUNCIL MEMBER REPORT
 - Councilman Bridges stated there was a man filling up a big plastic tank on his truck with water from the city's water hose next to the well on the square. He contacted Mayor Rice and then the sheriff's office after speaking with the man. Mayor Rice stated it was now locked.
- CITY CLERK REPORT
 - Clerk Duck verified with the Mayor that the appointment to the Personnel Committee was made. She mentioned the packet of information the council members received. There were several mentioned Federal and State mandated changes concerning employees, including paid leave due to COV-19 and expanded sick leave. Effective March 23, the Elberton library decided to close their facilities and pay employees for at least 2 months. This meant the Bowman library would also close and the council needed to decide whether to pay Vivian Barnes or file unemployment for her. She also asked for a decision on how to handle late fees and disconnections on services going forward. She recommended waiving late fees at a minimum until the end of April. Councilwoman Felice made a motion to pay Librarian Barnes for 8 weeks, seconded by Councilman Bridges and the vote was unanimous. Councilwoman Felice made a motion to allow citizens to set up a payment plan for current bills for up to six months and to waive late fees due to the COVID-19 situation for the next six months and to continue disconnections for customers that do not set up a payment plan, seconded by Councilwoman Williams and the vote was unanimous.
- UNFINISHED BUSINESS
 - Councilwoman Williams made a motion to continue the 2019 budget on a month to month basis, seconded by Councilman Bridges and the vote was unanimous. Per Attorney Campbell's recommendation until the Governor lifts the public health emergency or until the City of Bowman opens for normal business hours.
 - Mayor Roberta Rice read a resolution to appoint herself as the City's voting delegate on the Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia's Election Committee with Scott Anglin as the alternate voting delegate. Councilman Bridges made a motion to accept, seconded by Councilwoman Williams and the vote was unanimous.

Councilwoman Felice made a motion to go into executive session, seconded by Councilman Bridges and the vote was unanimous.

Councilwoman Williams made a motion to return from executive session, seconded by Councilman Bridges and the vote was unanimous.

Having no other business to discuss at this time, Councilman Bridges made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilwoman Williams and the vote was unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT

Approved April 27, 2020