

**CITY OF BOWMAN
MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
JULY 27, 2020**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Roberta Rice
Council Member Wade Bridges
Council Member Henrietta Williams
Council Member Mary Clark
Council Member Chris Johnson

MEDIA PRESENT:

Rose Scoggins, Elberton Star

STAFF PRESENT:

Crystal Duck, City Clerk
Richard Campbell, City Attorney

Prior to the start of the meeting, Reverend and Mrs. Gantt thanked the council for their help with the food pantry. Mayor Roberta Rice called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. Mayor Rice mentioned the passing of Georgia representative John Lewis. She read several of his quotes and asked for a moment of silence. Councilwoman Williams gave the prayer and all those present said the Pledge of Allegiance.

- **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
 - Councilwoman Williams made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Councilman Johnson and the vote was unanimous.
- **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**
 - Councilwoman Clark made a motion to approve the May 18, 2020 minutes, seconded by Councilwoman Williams and the vote was unanimous.
- **NEW BUSINESS**
 - Chris Quigley, of Peoples and Quigley, gave a report on two work orders for the City. The first work order was for stand-by power via generator through a FEMA grant (covering 85% of the cost) for \$5,000. The second work order was for professional engineering services to make water system improvements for \$5,500. Councilman Johnson made a motion to approve the work order for stand-by power, seconded by Councilwoman Clark and the vote was unanimous. Councilwoman Williams made a motion to approve the work order for the water system improvement survey, seconded by Councilwoman Clark and the vote was unanimous.
 - Chris Hollifield with Rushton gave a presentation on the 2019 financial audit.
- **MAYOR'S REPORT**
 - Mayor Rice stated Medlink was interested in renting the L.B. Berryman building. Attorney Campbell recommended a month to month lease of \$800 monthly rent with a 30-day notice to terminate lease, first and last month's rent and proof of insurance. Councilman Bridges made a motion to allow Mayor Rice to enter into negotiations with Medlink, seconded by Councilwoman Williams and the vote was unanimous.

Mayor Rice mentioned that a tenant on the square asked the city to repaint the parking lines in a manner consistent with a photo he submitted. Councilman Johnson also stated some building owners had requested reserved parking. The reserve parking failed for lack of a motion. Mayor Rice stated the city would do re-striping as it existed and possibly add some spaces. Mayor Rice requested Rose Scoggins to run an ad for bids for grounds maintenance for the cemetery, park and community center in the newspaper for August 3rd and 10th with a deadline for bids being August 17th. Mayor Rice stated she would go over the applications submitted for the groundskeeper position. Councilwoman Clark made a motion to hire James Jordan officially as a full-time employee with his pay coming from the Gas Fund, seconded by Councilman Chris and the vote was unanimous. Mayor Rice requested offering the position of Public Works Director to Jerri Elrod with a \$2 an hour raise. Councilwoman Clark questioned if a vote was needed for this change. Attorney Campbell stated it was necessary for a vote. Councilwoman Clark questioned whether employees had the authority to hire personnel. Clerk Duck stated she did not have the authority to hire personnel. Councilman Johnson stated promoting Jerri Elrod to oversee the shop employees was his idea. Some discussion ensued concerning employee benefits and raises. Councilwoman Williams made a motion to offer the position of PWD to Jerri Elrod with a \$2 hour raise, seconded by Councilman Johnson and the vote was unanimous. Mayor Rice stated the lamppost for the square was going to be installed by Jeremy Rooker. Lastly, she read the library report which included copies income of \$100.30.

- ATTORNEY'S REPORT

- Attorney Campbell gave a report on a zoning variance application for Steven Sanders. He stated it violated the residential zoning ordinance and recommended an option for Mr. Sanders was to pay the \$200 variance fee and request a hearing. Campbell also stated the Splost monies could be used to remove trees from the park and behind the square, gas line repairs, repairing roads and the pipes under the roads and community center repairs. Lastly, he stated that unused Splost funds did not have to be returned but could be used for debt payment only.

- COUNCIL MEMBER REPORT

- Councilman Johnson mentioned the gas had been turned on at a building on the square when no one was present and filled up the building. He stated the public must call 911 when they smell gas. He stated the city needed1 to run an ad for a qualified gas person. The City of Royston is drawing up an intergovernmental agreement to handle gas calls. Other issues included changing the pay range for the groundskeeper to \$10-\$14 hourly, work orders not completed back to April 27th, the police station needs repair, making Jerri Elrod administrator over online gas training, speed bumps and signs need installing, KCI Technologies to look at roads, possible assistance from Elbert County for public works, inspection cameras and a tamper needed, IT man coming to look at networking all buildings and Asyst modules included in the August renewal. Councilwoman Clark mentioned the Cares Act Funding to which Attorney Campbell stated the funds are very specific. Councilwoman Clark also mentioned the equity and inclusion survey from GMA.

- CITY CLERK REPORT

- Clerk Duck stated Tanner Mills requested an old Bowman City limits sign that was at the city shop. The council had no objections and per Attorney Campbell the Mayor

declared it surplus. Clerk Duck stated the Scott Anglin with the water department stated they needed a new trash pump for water leaks, priced at approximately \$1,500. Attorney Campbell stated it could be purchased with Splost monies. Councilman Johnson made a motion to purchase it, seconded by Councilwoman Williams and the vote was unanimous.

- **OLD BUSINESS**

- Mayor Rice stated Mts. Walsh wanted the city to repair her concrete drive. Councilman Johnson stated the city was only responsible for what it destroyed. The Mayor stated she would call Mrs. Walsh.
- Mayor Rice requested the council consider options to clean out/up the old D & M Variety building and come up with ideas for the next meeting.

- **NEW BUSINESS**

- Mayor Rice stated she received two bids to strip and wax the community center floors. One was from Harper's for \$1,600 and from Gloryland was \$1,700. Councilman Johnson requested maintenance fees from the two contractors.
- Clerk Duck asked for the council's opinion on Kendall Strickland installing a carport on the community center grounds for his produce sales, to which the council did not agree.
- Councilman Johnson stated the personnel committee should only be involved in the employee grievance procedure and not hiring. The department head and Mayor should be involved in interviewing and then make a recommendation to the council.
- Clerk Duck stated that residents inside the city limits that only wanted garbage were not required a deposit. Councilman Johnson made a motion to charge \$50 deposit for residents that wanted garbage only with Attorney Campbell formulating a form for the landlord, seconded by Councilwoman Williams and the vote was unanimous.

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

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

Councilman Johnson made a motion to ratify the raises from July 1, seconded by Councilwoman Williams and the vote was yea from Councilman Bridges, Councilman Johnson and Councilwoman Williams, with Councilwoman Clark abstaining. The motion passed.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Approved August 24, 2020