

**CITY OF BOWMAN
MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 28, 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
Linton Johnson, WSGC Radio

STAFF PRESENT:

Crystal Duck, City Clerk
Richard Campbell, City Attorney
Jerri Elrod, Public Works Director
Vivian Barnes, Librarian

Mayor Roberta Rice called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. Councilwoman Clark gave the prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

- APPROVAL OF AGENDA
 - City Clerk Crystal Duck requested removing the Splost report from the agenda and City Attorney Richard Campbell requested moving I., Alcohol sales, from New Business to the Attorney's report. Councilwoman Williams made a motion to approve the agenda with the changes, seconded by Councilman Johnson and the vote was unanimous.
- APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES
 - Councilwoman Williams made a motion to approve the August 24, 2020 minutes, seconded by Councilman Johnson and the vote was unanimous.
- MAYOR'S REPORT
 - Mayor Rice thanked all for participation in the Fall Festival. She mentioned the clothes closet was planned for the community center. Jerri Crawford with Peoples and Quigley was working on the generator grant. Tammy Dalton was appointed to the Elbert County Hospital Authority. Patrick Quigley had a public hearing on September 21st for water improvements. Cintas had delivered mats, touchless dispensers, paper towels, broom and mops for servicing at City Hall, the community center and the library. Mr. Harper would clean the community center floors on October 12th and 13th. Consolidated Pipe and Supply submitted two bids totaling \$11,925 for a new laptop, transmitter/receiver, etc. for reading meters. This could be purchased using SPLOST funds for equipment. Councilman Johnson questioned the state of the city's rectifiers. PWD Elrod stated there were issues with the ground beds on Rehoboth and Herndon and to assess would cost approximately \$1,750. Councilman Johnson made a motion to purchase the equipment from Consolidated,

seconded by Councilwoman Clark and the vote was unanimous. Lastly, Mayor Rice stated that Councilman Bridges was resigning effective at the end of the meeting.

- ATTORNEY'S REPORT

- Attorney Campbell stated there were two qualifiers for former Councilwoman Felice's seat. He mentioned the supply contract was up for renewal and instructed the council to agree via ordinance. Councilwoman Williams made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilwoman Clark and the vote was unanimous. Campbell stated alcohol sales were a complicated matter and he recommended waiting until a full council was seated to address the issue. He stated he would look to GMA for a model referendum/ordinance and speak with Probate Judge Hewell to gain more information.

- COUNCIL MEMBER REPORT

- Councilwoman Williams thanked the special events committee for help with the Fall Festival. Friday night brought in \$239 and Saturday was \$690 for a total of \$929. Sales for vendor spots brought in \$1,229.64. The festival grossed \$2,159.60; expenses were approximately \$1,053.72 for a net \$1,105.88. Councilman Johnson stated the spring festival would move to the park and possibly run Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Johnson said volunteers were needed to clean up the park and GA X-Ray would sponsor a cookout to do so. He went on to say the potholes needed to be fixed because LMIG money for paving must be spent by the end of the year. Councilwoman Clark mentioned Clerk Duck had been sick recently and asked if cross training was being performed in order to make sure payroll checks were printed in her absence and Mayor Rice said yes. Clark asked if cross training is being done in the PW area as well. Clark requested financial reports outlining spending for each month going back to January and for future meetings. Councilwoman Williams clarified the clothes closet was in collaboration with Reverend Gantt of Sharing and Caring Outreach Ministries, Inc. and Reverend Hughes of Mt. Zion Church. Councilman Johnson questioned the contract price for Cintas to which Mayor Rice stated she would have that tomorrow. Some discussion ensued between the council and members of the public concerning sales tax and donations associated with the clothes closet and the Mayor state she would investigate the issue.

- CITY CLERK REPORT

- Clerk Duck stated the City received \$42,296.93 in CARES funding and was able to spend \$15,117.50 of that before the September 1st deadline. The remaining \$27,179.43 was forfeited. Discussion ensued between the council, members of the audience and the city attorney concerning why the money was not spent. Clerk Duck requested the council hold a work session when the next round of funding was released to discuss expenditures.

- LIBRARY REPORT

- Librarian Barnes gave council copies of the library report. Mayor Rice read the report which consisted of 214 attendance, 72 computer users, 4 wi-fi users, \$76.65 local prints and \$27.40 pines.

- PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

- PWD Elrod stated they were catching up on the paperwork. Gas training was ongoing and Steve Harrison was contacted to repair 3 gas leaks. They were working catching up on work orders and gauging atmospheric corrosion. The gas booth at the Fall Festival went well. She had workers gathering a list of materials to fix the #4 well roof. Mayor Rice stated the grant Quigley was working on for the well would not come until after the beginning of 2021.
- OLD BUSINESS
 - Mayor Rice asked if liability insurance was obtained by the contractor for clean up at 24 N. Segars Street and Clerk Duck stated it had. However, the contractor had not begun work yet.
 - Councilman Johnson stated he would get in touch with Elbert County to help with pothole repairs on Teasley, Adams, Roosevelt and the park so paving for the LMIG funds could proceed.
- NEW BUSINESS
 - Councilman Johnson stated our insurance company would give the city \$6,000 per year if employees conducted monthly safety meetings and had a safety coordinator. He hoped to get this rolling by January 1st.
- PUBLIC COMMENT
 - Tammy Dalton stated the Mental Health Candlelight Vigil was virtual at www.facebook.com/advantagecommunity this Sunday at 7 pm and requested participation from the Mayor and Council.
 - Dalton also asked about the sign for the community center. Councilman Johnson stated he found some online for \$2,500 or double sided for \$5,000. Councilman Johnson also stated he would get together with Councilwoman Clark and work out arrangements to secure the sign.
 - John Beucler asked about two homeless people that were hanging around the square 8 – 10 hours a day. Mayor Rice stated there was nothing the city would do if they were not breaking the law.

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

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

Councilman Johnson made a motion to give a \$2 raise to Assistant Clerk Shannon Kidd-Seymour on her 90-day evaluation effective October 6th, seconded by Councilwoman Williams. Councilwoman Clark requested this to be put in the minutes and written in the policy for everyone. She stated she requested it in April but it was not in the minutes. This time she wanted it in the meeting minutes for September. The vote was unanimous for the motion on the floor. Attorney Campbell stated the personnel policy review would go into effect in January.

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 11/23/20