

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

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Roberta Rice
Council Member Mary Clark
Council Member Henrietta Williams
Council Member Chris Johnson
Council Member Randy Noyes
Council Member Betty Jo Maxwell

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
 - Mayor Rice welcomed the two new members of the council. Councilwoman Maxwell made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Councilwoman Williams and the vote was unanimous.
- APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES
 - Councilwoman Williams made a motion to approve the September 28, 2020 minutes, seconded by Councilman Noyes and the vote was unanimous. Attorney Campbell stated the minutes from the October 26, 2020 work session should become part of the record.
- MAYOR'S REPORT
 - Mayor Rice stated the Veteran's program and senior luncheon were both successful. She stated in the October work session it was proposed for the General Fund to reimburse the BCDC Fund for the veteran's day banners and the patriotic banners. Councilman Noyes made a motion to transfer the funds, seconded by Councilwoman Maxwell and the vote was unanimous. Councilmen Noyes and Johnson will get a list of repairs for 24 N Segars. Noyes stated he spoke with a commercial realtor to list the building and would get back with information in a week. Rice stated a gentleman was interested in renting the other side of the L.B. Berryman building but the city would need to add an access door. Rice listed the new committees for 2020: City Buildings – Randy Noyes, Cemetery – Mary Clark and Betty Jo Maxwell, Customer Service – Roberta Rice and Mary Clark, Personnel – Larry Teasley, Mary Clark and Crystal Duck, Special Events – Henrietta Williams and Vivian Barnes, Streets and

Sidewalks – Chris Johnson, Vehicles and Equipment – Chris Johnson and Randy Noyes and Personnel hiring – Roberta Rice and Jerri Elrod. Mayor Rice stated she attended a meeting with Librarian Barnes and Della Wheeler and Dan Aldridge concerning friends of the library. Wheeler and Barnes are working on advertising this. Rice stated a Christmas lunch would be held for the employees, council, attorney and spouses on Monday, December 21st at the Community Center at 12 pm catered by Nancy Watkins. Rice requested the council approve training for Assistant Clerk Shannon Kidd-Seymour at the clerk’s convention February 7th-9th at Jekyll Island for \$490. Councilwoman Clark made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Councilman Noyes and the vote was unanimous. Rice mentioned the Christmas parade and Mistletoe Market was cancelled due to COVID. Councilwoman Williams stated Santa would be on the square every Friday and Saturday in December until Christmas and it was agreed to do the tree lighting on December 4th at 6 pm. Rice stated there was a problem with vultures destroying homeowner’s property near the water tank and she had spoken with Colleen from the USDA wildlife services who recommended purchasing two effigies for \$175 each. PWD Elrod stated there was one at the shop. Mayor Rice read the library report which consisted of 122 attendance, 44 computer users, 2 Wi-Fi users, \$32.45 local prints and \$12.45 Pines. Rice mentioned there were two men interested in purchasing the old yellow truck and requested running an ad in the paper. Councilwoman Williams asked to have Noyes put on the special events committee.

- ATTORNEY’S REPORT

- Attorney Campbell stated he is looking rights of ways for a current zoning question. Also, he has the new contract from Cintas and is looking it over.

- COUNCIL MEMBER REPORT

- Councilwoman Clark stated Councilman Johnson sent an email on the 18th about going paperless and getting the council’s computers set up on the VPN. She questioned the status of this to which Mayor Rice stated the IT person did not get to City Hall until late Friday. Clark also there was a COVID mandate for City Hall policy. Rice stated yes, that no one was allowed in City Hall except workers, without a mask and Noyes is working on doors with key pads. Councilman Noyes asked if there was an ordinance regulating tattoo shops to which Attorney Campbell said he would check on it. Noyes asked if there was a SOP for gas and water. PWD Elrod stated there was for gas.

- PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

- PWD Elrod stated they were currently working on a sewage back up on Park, a water leak at 404 S Broad, repairing the sidewalk and fixing the road at Herndon Circle and Prince Avenue.

- CITY CLERK REPORT

- Clerk Duck stated the 2021 budget was almost complete. Duck requested verification on money for the Christmas lights purchased recently. Councilwoman Clark questioned where the funds for the sign for the Community Center would come from. Clerk Duck stated it would come from the General Fund. Councilman Noyes made a motion to split the cost between the General Fund and BCDC Fund, seconded by Councilwoman Clark and the vote was unanimous. Duck mentioned three Catholic

protection quotes, Sapp Engineering for \$13,422, Steele Cathodic for \$20,839 and Southern Cathodic Protection for \$21,000 that she would get to council to vote on at the next meeting. PWD Elrod recommended Sapp Engineering. Duck asked if the quote from Harrison to repair the regulator station should come from Splost to which Mayor Rice said yes. Duck said there were three quotes for a mini excavator, one used and two new. The council would look at these quotes and make a decision after the executive session. The money would come from SPLOST funds. Lastly, Duck said there was a question on whether there was an ordinance covering pressure tests for gas lines on the consumer side. Some discussion ensued and it was decided to Elrod would contact Tommy Arnold with GUTA.

- OLD BUSINESS

- Mayor Rice stated the council would look at the benefits prior to the changes made in 2018 and what is in effect now and the council would make a decision along with pay scales to go into effect at the beginning of next year. Clerk Duck will email those to council members.
- Mayor Rice learned from a webinar she attended by GMA that the park could be reopened only if the city put out signs and sanitized the playground equipment. However, the bathrooms and ball field could not be opened due to crowd control. Rice stated she would get the wording for the signs.

- NEW BUSINESS

- Clerk Duck stated she had not received the specs required for Thomas Moon to place a mausoleum at the city cemetery.
- Clerk Duck asked the council to consider paying the NEGRC \$1,500 next year to help with the comprehensive planning that is due in 2022. Mayor Rice asked the council to consider who they wanted to serve on the committee.
- Mayor Rice stated she would call EMS about possibly purchasing a fogger to disinfect city facilities.
- Librarian Barnes asked if Santa was giving out candy. Rice said yes but it would be bagged.

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

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

Councilman Noyes made a motion to give Loyd Ivester a \$2 raise with back pay to his 90-day period, seconded by Councilwoman Williams and the vote was unanimous. Councilwoman Maxwell made a motion to give Jamie Jordan a \$2 raise with back pay to his 90-day period, seconded by Councilman Noyes. Councilwoman Williams requested waiting until the issues mentioned in executive were resolved. Councilman Noyes added a stipulation to the motion that the problems were resolved first. Some discussion ensued with the attorney. Councilwoman Williams made a motion to table the motion for Jamie Jordan's raise until next month, seconded by Councilman Noyes and the vote was unanimous. Councilman Noyes made a motion to give Bill McDowell a \$2 raise with back pay, seconded by Councilwoman Williams and the vote was unanimous. Councilman Noyes made a motion to back pay the raises for Shannon and Crystal, Councilwoman Williams seconded and the vote was unanimous.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Approved 12/21/20