

**CITY OF BOWMAN  
MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
DECEMBER 21, 2020**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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

**MEDIA PRESENT:**

Linton Johnson, WSGC Radio  
Rose Scoggins, Elberton Star

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Richard Campbell, City Attorney

Mayor Roberta Rice called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM. Councilwoman Betty Jo Maxwell offered the prayer and the Pledge Allegiance was recited.

**~ APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Attorney Richard Campbell suggested amending the Agenda to include the Approval of the 2021 Budget after the Approval of the Minutes for the November 23, 2020, Meeting. A motion was made by Councilman Johnson and seconded by Councilwoman Williams to approve the Agenda with this change.

**~ APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Councilwoman Williams made a motion to approve the Minutes of the November 23, 2020, Regular Meeting and her motion was seconded by Councilman Noyes and approved by all except Councilwoman Clark who abstained from voting because she advised those present she had a change she wanted to make to correct the Minutes of the November Meeting.

**~ APPROVAL OF 2021 BUDGET {Effective January 1, 2021}**

Councilwoman Maxwell made a motion to approve the City of Bowman 2021 Budget as presented. This motion was seconded by Councilman Johnson and the approval was unanimous.

**~ MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Rice announced the Christmas tree lighting, Santa on the Square, DJ Bennie Bee and other festivities on the Square for the first three weekends in December were definitely a success and attended by a large crowd each night.

Mayor Rice informed the Council and audience we would be submitting an Invitation To Bid to the Elberton Star for: Installing a chain link fence around the City Shop to protect our equipment, another to sell the old yellow truck, one to sell the trencher, another for remodeling 24 N. Segars Street, and possibly one to replace the 1"x 6" window trim around the Community

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Center windows. Possibly employee Bill McDowell can complete the work at the Community Center.

Mayor Rice announced the Residential Christmas Decorations winner was Laura Esteves, 163 N. Broad St. and the Business winner was Lera Ray's store. The City provided the \$100.00 prize to the residential winner and Georgia X-Ray provided the \$100.00 for the business winner.

Mayor Rice read the Bowman Library Statistics Report for the period from 11/23/2020-12/8/2020 provided by Librarian Vivian Barnes. The information on the report is as follows:  
Books-38, DVD-5; Attendance-142, Computer Users-44, Wifi Users-56; Fees for Prints-\$66.90, PINES- \$42.50 for a total of \$109.40.

### **~ ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

Attorney Campbell exuberantly expressed his pleasure that the 2021 Budget had been completed and approved.

Attorney Campbell gave Mayor Rice a document "Opinion Of Counsel Relative To Rights-Of-Way" to pass on to City Clerk Crystal Duck.

### **~ COUNCIL MEMBER REPORT**

Reverend Ronnie Gantt with Sharing and Caring Outreach Ministries provided a report on the Food Pantry which is held at the old Bowman Elementary Gym every second Tuesday of each month. His report covered the period from June thru December 2020.

Councilman Noyes turned over his information on SPLOST spending to Councilman Johnson to present. A short discussion was held pertaining to road repairs and equipment purchased. Mayor Rice advised she would contact Elbert County to see if they are still willing to give us assistance with repairing some of the roads in the City since Councilman Johnson had not received a response from them.

### **~ PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR REPORT**

Councilman Johnson reported Jerri Elrod had informed him that Herron Williams wanted gravel spread in front of his house/mailbox which is at the end of the road coming out of the cemetery. Due to traffic and a large amount of rain the road has become extremely muddy.

### **~ CITY CLERK REPORT**

Mayor Rice passed out the schedule provided by City Clerk Duck showing the Council Meeting dates for 2021.

At the November Council Meeting, a motion and second had been tabled so Mayor Rice could do some research on PW Employee Jamie Jordan before his 90-day raise and back pay was approved. Councilwoman Maxwell made a motion to increase Mr. Jordan's hourly pay by \$2.00 per hour and pay him his back pay. Her motion was seconded by Councilwoman Williams and the vote for approval was unanimous.

**~ OLD BUSINESS**

**24 N. SEGARS STREET REPAIRS** – A list of needed repairs to the interior and exterior of the building will be compiled in order that the City can submit an Invitation To Bid to the Elberton Star so any interested contractors can submit sealed bids for the work.

**EMPLOYEE BENEFITS** – Councilwoman Maxwell made a motion to return to the former Annual Leave/Vacation Leave and Sick Leave allotment for all City employees rather than the current guidelines in the Employee Manual. Her motion was seconded by Councilwoman Clark and the approval was unanimous. This change will be effective January 1, 2021.

**CINTAS CONTRACT** – A brief discussion was held on the City’s current contract with Cintas. Councilman Johnson made a motion to cancel this contract because of the cost. His motion was seconded by Councilwoman Maxwell and approved by all Council members.

**~ NEW BUSINESS**

**COMMUNITY CENTER RENTAL** – A motion was made by Councilman Johnson and seconded by Councilman Noyes (approval was unanimous by all Council Members) to start renting the Community Center again beginning January 1, 2021, with the following stipulations. No more than 50 people are allowed at any event. A \$100.00 Non-Refundable Sanitizing Fee will be charged so the City can sanitize the building after each function. The items for the Clothes Closet currently displayed on the stage would be moved to a back room prior to any function and returned to the stage afterwards. The sanitizing fee would have to be incorporated in the current contract and also added to the City of Bowman informational pamphlet. A separate Addendum to the contract would have to be drawn up so the renter understands 50 people is the maximum allowed at their event. The addendum can be deleted when COVID restrictions are changed or lifted.

**SERVICE FEES FOR UTILITY BILLS** – The City has not charged late fees or disconnect/reconnect fees on City bills since March due to the COVID pandemic when many residents lost their jobs or were financially burdened for other reasons. Councilman Johnson made a motion, seconded by Councilman Noyes and approved unanimously to reinstate the following fees effective January 1, 2021:

Late Fees ~ 10% of the entire bill

Disconnect Fees ~ \$15.00 each for water and gas (Total of \$30.00 if resident has both services)

Reconnect Fees ~ \$15.00 each for water and gas (Total of \$30.00 if resident has both services)

Also included in this motion ~ Bills must be paid by 4:30 PM on the day prior to the cut-off date because Public Works employees will not be called back out to turn someone’s service on. Public Works employees schedule will change to work the same hours as City Hall employees which is 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

**STORAGE FOR BCDC** ~ Councilmen Johnson and Noyes provided information about a storage container that had been ordered and will be delivered January 4, 2021. This container will be delivered to the property at the City Shop to store decorations, crosses, banners, etc. that belong to the BCDC. The container will be in a secure area once the fence is installed at the City Shop.

**ADJOURNMENT**

