

City of Woodbury



January 22, 2024

Woodbury City Council

Minutes

ATTENDED

- Mayor Ronnie Garrett
- Councilmember Cindy Ellison
- Councilmember Amanda Hardnett
- Councilmember Bobby Jones
- Councilmember Jada Holmes
- Police Department, Interim Chief Richard Wolverton
- Public Works Director, Buck Holmes
- City Clerk, Deondra Stevenson

1. WELCOME, CALL TO ORDER, and PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE- Mayor Ronnie Garrett

Mayor Ronnie Garrett

Invocation given by Steve James

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA, 01-22-2024

Mayor Garrett informed council and citizens that he had a procedure done on his head which was the reason for him wearing a hat during the council meeting.

Mayor Garrett asked the council to amend the agenda to include under No. 9 the two Alcohol License applications, to add the Events Committee to No. 7, the changing of Rose Ave. to Mitch Moreland Ave. to No. 9 and to discuss the Intergovernmental Agreement to No. 9. The council and Mayor Garrett discussed if they wanted to add changing the current Charter or creating a new Charter to this month's meeting or next month's meeting. After being advised on the process by City Attorney Mayfield the council decided to vote on moving forward with a new Charter during this meeting and adding this to No. 9.

- Councilmember Holmes made a motion to adopt the agenda with the amendments.
- Councilmember Ellison seconded the motion.
- All approved

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

Councilmember Holmes pointed out a typo error that needed to be corrected in the Police Department report. Councilmember Hardnett also mentioned the minutes should reflect the Intergovernmental agreement was approved but with the agreement that the city receives permit fees.

- Councilmember Ellison made a motion to adopt the minutes from November 27, 2023, with the amendments.
- Councilmember Jones seconded the motion.

4. RECOGNIZE RETIRING COUNCILMEMBER LC GATES

Mayor Garrett presented former Councilmember LC Gates with a plaque in recognition of his dedication to the City for 22 years.

5. MAYOR'S UPDATE

Mayor Garrett wanted to recognize Michelle Klima for the Valentine Welcome to Woodbury signs. He informed citizens that the January water bills had not been received due to the Post Office misplacing them and when citizens receive them they will not receive late fees. Mayor Garret informed citizens the tax bills were on track to be delivered the following week. He also informed residents that the previous administration was offered a service from the County to send tax bills for the City but the service was declined by previous administration. Mayor Garrett emphasized the need for tax revenue to keep the City afloat. Due to questions from the council the mayor wanted to revisit the Intergovernmental agreement with the county to do the City's building permits. He mentioned the workload that would be taken off the City Hall employees. The council questioned the fees and if the City was benefiting from the agreement or losing. Councilmember Hardnett reiterated the Council only approved the agreement with the expectation that the City receives the permit fees. Mayor Garrett said to his knowledge the permit fee's "just about" covers the inspection fees. Councilmember Holmes and Ellison asked since there is a difference in fees for different permits how were the fees applied and if the Council could see the fee chart. Mayor Garrett said he would reach out to the County and have this information for them at the next meeting. Mayor Garrett proceeded to inform citizens that the city clerk reached out to the insurance company regarding the park repairs and as soon as more information was available he would present that information.

6. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

- Police Department Interim Chief Wolverton informed citizens and council that he has asked the officers to "step up" their presence for the holiday season. He also

mentioned receiving a car from Warner Robins Police Department. The Police Department is currently preparing for an upcoming GCIC audit in April. He informed the public that there are complaint forms located at the City Hall for anyone wanting to make a complaint concerning the Police Department. He also mentioned the City of Warner Robins has been performing a evidence room audit for the City. Once this audit is completed they will get with the DA office to determine what evidence is suitable for dismissal, to be destroyed or held for a case. Mayor Garrett informed the citizens Interim Chief Wolverton comes to us with 37 years of experience from Macon Police Department, and he feels the Police Department is becoming one of the best.

- Public Works Director Buck didn't have a report but reminded the Mayor to mention the Leachate Funds. Mayor Garrett went on to explain that the city receives funds for each dump, which is \$0.05 per gallon. Each dump is about 6000 gallons.
- Water & Sewer Director **No report**
- City Clerk **No report**

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Historic Preservation Committee Kay Williamson informed citizens on what the committee was created for, essentially to preserve the historical aspects of the City. The committee is planning to join with the Development Authority and P&Z to stay on one accord. The committee meets on the 3rd Monday of each month. She encouraged anyone who wanted to join the committee to reach out.
- Business Forum **No report** but the Council encourages citizens to join.
- Events Committee MeeMee Watson mentioned events that are going on within the city. Easter/Spring Fling, Juneteenth, Breast Cancer Walk, Fall Festival, Feed the Community, and the Christmas Parade. The committee meets the Thursday following City Council meeting if anyone is interested in joining. Councilmember Holmes mentioned when the committee was first approved it was under the direction of the city clerk and the city would like to place the committee back into the hands of the City Clerk.

8. WOODBURY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY Kera Summers informed Council there is an open seat for elected officials if anyone is interested. Councilmember Jones expressed interest. Summers asked the council to approve Jessica Olive as a new member of the Development Authority. Summers also mentioned the committee wanted to honor Mr. Garry Kendrick Sr. by adding him to the timeline in the lobby of the city hall.

- Councilmember Ellison made a motion to approve the two new members.
 - Councilmember Holmes seconded the motion.
 - All approved
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- Councilmember Hardnett made a motion to approve adding Mr. Kendrick Sr. to the timeline.
- Councilmember Ellison seconded the motion.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Internet Rate Increase
Mayor Garrett reiterated the need to increase the internet fees due to the fees that the city is now having to pay. Such as the fee to Charter in the amount of \$1,999.00 a month and the new \$615 a month fee to Bandwidth Solutions, the company who oversees the city's IT department. Councilmember Ellison asked if the fees were a part of the contract the City has with Bandwidth Solutions or if this is something new, and if it was not a part of the contract, she doesn't think the city should have to pay it.
- Changing Rose Ave. to Mitch Moreland Ave.
Councilmember Holmes informed Mayor Garrett this change was approved by council previously but it never happened. City attorney Mayfield mentioned there is a process the city would have to follow in need to change the street name. Mayor Garrett stated administration will work with the city attorney to get the name change process started and would have an update by the next council meeting.
- Speed Bumps
Mayor Garrett stated that it was brought to his attention there was a need for speed bumps on Folk Ave. Councilmember Hardnett stated there was a need for speed bumps on Dogwood Ln. and Jasmine Ln. as well. Jasmine Ln. is outside of the city limits. Public Works Director Buck Holmes agreed that Folk Ave. does have a need for speed bumps. Mr. Holmes will look into prices and have them for council next month.

10. NEW BUSINESS

- Water Rate Structure
Mayor Garrett informed citizens and council that the Water Improvement Project that was approved a few years ago included a water rate structure. The water rates were supposed to increase in 2022 and 2023 as a part of that contract. The rates have not been increased the last two years. He planned to increase fees starting in February so that the city would be in compliance with the contract. Councilmember Holmes questioned if the fees had to be increased next month without giving the citizens some type of notice. Councilmember Hardnett agree with Holmes and thought that maybe we give the citizens some type of notice first. Mayor Garrett asked their thoughts on when they thought the increase should be implemented and then suggested waiting until the end of the year. He

then stated that the USDA has reached out to verify the water rates were what was agreed on. He sent the USDA the current water rates and the reasoning behind why the rates had not been changed. Councilmember Ellison agreed with Hardnett that there should be some type of notice to citizens, especially with all the changes and issues the citizens have been going through with water bills due to past administration. Mayor Garrett

- Proposal for City Auditor

David McCoy- McNair, McLemore, Middlebrooks, & Co., LLC.

Dough Moses- Mauldin & Jenkins

Each auditor was given the opportunity to speak on behalf of their companies and how they could help the city complete the past due audits.

The council decided to table the decision until the next meeting when they have reviewed the information from the last CPA firm that was brought in. Mayor Garrett informed the council that the last CPA only came in to prepare the city for an audit, not actually perform an audit. Council wanted to see the documents so that they could make an informed decision on which firm was the better option for what the city needs.

- Councilmember Holmes made the motion to table the approval of an auditor until the next meeting.
- Councilmember Hardnett seconded the motion.
- All approved.

- Adopt Meriwether County Joint Comprehensive Plan

Mayor Garrett presented the Meriwether County Joint Comprehensive Plan.

- Councilmember Holmes made a motion to adopt the Comprehensive Plan.
- Councilmember Hardnett seconded the motion.
- All approved.

- Alcohol License Applications

SD 0404 LLC DBA SHIV FOOD MART- Change of ownership.

- Councilmember Ellison made a motion to approve the transfer of ownership application.
- Councilmember Hardnett seconded the motion.
- All approved.

SHAHARA ENTERPRISE LLC- New application.

Councilmember Holmes questioned if the inventory requirements had been met. The council and mayor informed the owner of the requirements before obtaining a license. The owner stated she would get the required amount of inventory from wholesale vendors and bring the receipts to the City Clerk to obtain her license.

- Councilmember Holmes made the motion to approve the alcohol license application contingent upon the owner obtaining the required amount of inventory to obtain a license, as well as renewing her business license.

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- Councilmember Hardnett seconded the motion.
 - All approved.
 - New City Charter
 - Councilmember Ellison made a motion to begin the process of creating a new city charter.
 - Councilmember Hardnett seconded the motion.
 - All approved.

11. PUBLIC COMMENTS

A citizen was concerned about the steady blue lights from police officers.

A citizen was concerned about the new businesses within the city and the process of them receiving business licenses.

Business owners were concerned about the permit fees being more costly than the fees in the city.

A citizen mentioned starting events within the city for senior citizens.

Citizens mentioned issues with police officers and being harassed.

12. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Councilmember Holmes stated she would like it if communication between the council and the mayor were better than what it was with the past administration. She would like for the council to be kept in the loop on what's happening within the city.

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- Legal & Personnel
 - Councilmember Holmes motioned to enter into executive session at 8:35pm.
 - Councilmember Ellison seconded the motion.
 - All approved.

 - Councilmember Holmes made a motion to exit the executive session at 10:10pm.
 - Councilmember Ellison seconded the motion.
 - All approved.

14. ADJOURNMENT

- Councilmember Hardnett made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
- Councilmember Jones seconded the motion.
- All approved.