



March 25, 2024

6:00 PM

Woodbury City Council Regular Scheduled Meeting Minutes

IN ATTENDANCE

- Mayor Ronnie Garrett
- Councilmember Cindy Ellison
- Councilmember Amanda Hardnett
- Councilmember Jada Holmes
- Councilmember Bobby Jones
- Public Works, Director Buck Holmes
- City Clerk, Deondra Stevenson

1. WELCOME, CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, and PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

- Mayor Ronnie Garrett

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

- March 2024 Agenda – Mayor Ronnie Garrett asked for a motion to adopt the March 2024 agenda. Councilwoman Jada Holmes made the 1st motion to adopt the March 2024 agenda. Councilwoman Amanda Hardnett made the 2nd motion. All in favor. Motion approved.

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

- February 26, 2024 Minutes – Mayor Garrett requested a motion to adopt the February 26, 2024 minutes. Councilwoman Cindy Ellison made the 1st motion to adopt the February 26, 2024 minutes. Councilwoman Amanda Hardnett made the 2nd motion. Councilwoman Jada Holmes noted that the minutes needed to be corrected from “Mayor Garrett made the motion to table appointing a city auditor” to “Mayor Garrett requested or called for a motion to table appointing a city auditor.” Mayor Garrett proceeded to ask if all were in favor of the adoption of the minutes. Motion approved.

4. MAYOR’S UPDATE – Tennis Court – Mayor Garrett stated that the city received a check from the insurance company to repair the tennis court. He said there was damage done to communications equipment at the water treatment plant as well. He stated that the tower at the water treatment plant that was damaged will not be replaced because it was only used to get internet service at the water treatment plant. The total claim came to \$17,787.32. This claim includes the tennis court and the communications equipment at the water treatment plant. Mayor Garrett stated that the city received a check for \$12,485.00.

He stated that without having to replace the tower, the city would only have to spend about \$1,100 above the insurance reimbursement to take care of everything which includes, the tennis court fence, the city park fence, and the communications costs to get WIFI back at the water treatment plant. He stated there is damage on another tower at the 1911 Building and the city will be repairing that as well. He stated the camera at the intersection near the 1911 building will be replaced, as well as the camera at the red-light intersection. The city will have all the money except \$1,100, Mayor Garrett stated. Councilwoman Jada Holmes recommended the council have two votes. One to vote on the bid, since it had not been, and the other to vote on the \$1,100.

Councilwoman Ellison made the 1st motion to vote on the bid for Carter Enterprises for \$11,287.32. Councilwoman Amanda Hardnett made the 2nd motion. Motion approved. Councilwoman Ellison made the 1st motion for the city to pay out \$1,100 for the repairs, above the insurance reimbursement. Councilwoman Jada Holmes made the 2nd motion. Motion approved.

USDA LOAN – Mayor Garrett reported that USDA will not reinstate the loan until the city provides an engagement letter from a CPA firm. He stated he has signed a commitment letter with the bank, and they have agreed to loan the money for interim financing. The commitment letter was sent to USDA by United Bank. USDA said they would reinstate the grant pending a letter of engagement from a CPA concerning the city’s finances. Mayor Garrett said the CPA who was scheduled to be present during the meeting did not show up and he is unsure why. Moreover, the CPA did send estimates of what he would charge. Mayor Garrett expressed that he would secure another CPA and a special meeting would be called to keep from delaying the USDA grant.

LMIG FUND – Mayor Garrett reported that the Local Maintenance & Improvement Grant furnished by GDOT sent a letter stating they need the last two years of LMIG funds closed out. He stated that he also received a letter from GDOT informing local governments that the governor has approved \$250,000,000 of funding for city street work in addition to the LMIG program. He stated that the City of Woodbury would not receive these funds because the city is out of state compliance. He stated the city cannot receive any grants, local funding, etc. until the audits are completed.

5. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

- Police Department – Mayor Garrett introduced Lieutenant Swain. He stated that Chief Wolverton was on vacation this week. Lieutenant Swain updated the Mayor, Council, and the public that the Woodbury Police Department has 14 officers. Two new full-time hires. The mayor asked Lieutenant Swain how many full-time officers the city has. He named 6 full-time employees. Lieutenant Swain stated that he was hired by Chief Wolverton on March 5, 2024. He is in charge of CID, investigating, internal affairs, background recruiting, and evidence. He also stated that he is the watch commander for patrol. He told the citizens that if they have any issues or complaints, come towards him and he will take care of it.

- Public Works – Director Buck Holmes- Mr. Buck stated that the decision was made last month for Public Works to do sewer taps instead of contracting out. He stated that he went back and looked at the old fees in the book and took them up a bit to make everything fair. He asked for a vote on the fees at this meeting or next month’s meeting.
 - VOTE: to adopt revised Water & Sewer Tap Fees
 - 5/8” Water Tap -\$800.00
 - 1” Water Tap - \$1200.00
 - Sewer Tap - \$825.00

Mayor Garrett asked for a motion to adopt the revised water & sewer tap fees. Councilwoman Amanda Hardnett made the 1st motion to adopt the revised water and sewer tap fees. Councilman Bobby Jones made the 2nd motion. All in favor. Motion approved.

- City Clerk – Deondra Stevenson – No report

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Historic Preservation Committee – No report
- Business Forum – No report
- Events Committee – Cathy Harbin gave an update on the Spring Fling event on March 23, 2024. She stated that there were several donations from local businesses. Five volleyball teams participated in the tournament. The tournament went on for most of the day. There were also concessions available for purchase. She stated that it was a great day and a lot of fun!

7. WOODBURY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

- Jennifer Meares stated that the Woodbury Development Authority has hired an engineering planning firm to start preliminary plans for street repairs. She said when they get the preliminary plans back, they will share them with the council and get feedback. She stated the city has two years left on its “rural zone” distinction. She said they have submitted tax credits for at least four businesses downtown. She said the city is qualifying more and more for those tax credits. She stated that the development authority also has a downtown revolving loan that is pending with DCA which they cannot get final approval of until the city gets audits done and back into compliance. She reminded everyone that they meet the second Monday of every month at 6 PM in The Assemblage.

- 8. VOTE: to appoint City Auditor Roger Nixon of CKH Group – Mr. Roger Nixon did not attend the meeting.

9. NEW BUSINESS

- Ante-Litem Notice from Tonya Moody – Mayor Garrett asked what the pleasure of the council was concerning the ante-litem notice. Councilwoman Jada Holmes made

the 1st motion to deny both ante-litem notices. Councilwoman Amanda Hardnett made the 2nd motion. All in favor. Motion approved.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS – Amanda Vaughn – Vaughn came to voice her concerns regarding personnel issues within the Woodbury Police Department.

11. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

- Councilwoman Amanda Hardnett reiterated that she desires that they all be on the same page. She stated that it is not all about power. It is not all about what role the mayor is in or what role the council is in. They are asking to work together. She stated that all they are asking for is consistency, transparency, and communication.
- Councilwoman Jada Holmes expressed that she concurs with Councilwoman Amanda's statement.

12. Executive Session

- Legal & Personnel – Mayor Garrett asked for a motion to go into executive session. Councilman Bobby Jones made the 1st motion to go into executive session. Councilwoman Jada Holmes made the 2nd motion. Executive Session entered at 7:40 PM.
- Mayor Garrett asked for a motion to exit the executive session and go into regular session. Councilwoman Jada Holmes made the 1st motion to exit the executive session. Councilwoman Amanda Hardnett gave the 2nd motion. Motion approved.

13. Vote – to approve the bid from Mauldin & Jenkins and authorize the mayor to sign the engagement letter. Mayor Garrett asked for a motion to approve the bid for Mauldin & Jenkins. Councilwoman Jada Holmes made the 1st motion to approve the bid from Mauldin & Jenkins and authorize the mayor to sign the engagement. Councilwoman Amanda Hardnett made the 2nd motion. Motion approved.

14. ADJOURNMENT

- Mayor Garrett asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilwoman Cindy Ellison made the 1st motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilwoman Amanda Hardnett made the 2nd motion. Meeting adjourned.