

MINUTES OF MAYOR AND COUNCIL, CITY OF WATKINSVILLE

December 15, 2021 @ 6:30 PM

NOTE OF RECORD: These summarize the action at the council meeting. For full discussion at this meeting, a full video recording is available online at www.cityofwatkinsville.com.

PRESENT: Brodrick, Massey, Tucker, Campbell, Garrett, Thomas, Reitman, Dickerson, Campbell, Brock, and Klein. Brodrick opened the in person public and fully accessible online and RingCentral video meeting of December 15, 2021, at 6:30 PM. Several citizens attended with one citizen attending virtually via RingCentral per detailed instructions posted on the City Website and (INSERT NUMBER) at the meeting location, City Hall.

ABSENT: None.

CALL TO ORDER: At 6:32 PM, Brodrick called meeting to order.

QUORUM CHECK: At 6:32 PM, Brodrick acknowledged a quorum was present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: At 6:33 PM, Hal Jackson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MAYOR – POINT OF PRIVILEGE

- Brodrick recognized new Public Works employee – Tristan Walker

Brodrick then recognized the following individuals for their part in the 2021 Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting event:

- Jerry and Kathy Chappelle – 2021 Parade Grand Marshals
- Ed Keegan with Ashton Hope Keegan Foundation – Artist of 2021 Commemorative Ornament
- Sponsors:
 - Mark and Shannon Martin with Classic City Clydesdales (provided ride for Grand Marshals)
 - Mallory Enterprises and Shuman Services (provided wreckers for judges and announcers)
 - Taylor Gable with Watkinsville Golf Carts (provided cart for event staff),
 - Oconee County School District (provided bucket truck and employee to help erect tree)
 - Hal Jackson with Oconee State Bank, and Oconee County Tourism & Visitors Bureau (purchased commercial grade ornaments for the tree)
 - Oconee County Civic Center and Grace Athens (provided sound system and set up)
 - John Ayers (provided Santa's ride)

Brodrick then presented the following 2021 Watkinsville Christmas Parade Awards:

- **Children's Category**
 - Best Float - #48 Boy Scout Troop 80
 - Most Artistic - #25 Boy Scout Troop 96
 - Best Use of Theme - #11 Cub Scout Pack 149
- **Adult Category**
 - Best Float - #36 American Pest Control
 - Most Artistic - #14 Smile Doctors
 - Best Use of Theme - #39 1st Response Pressure Cleaning
- **Best Tractor**
 - #18 Montgomery Farms
- **Best Antique**
 - #78 Little Italy

- **Best Overall**
 - #29 Cub Scout Pack 300
- Brodrick recognized Announcers:
 - Adam Hammond
 - Kirk Dunagan
 - Cara Broadnax
 - Michael Gill
- Brodrick recognized Parade Judges:
 - Jessica Gill
 - Callie Mobley
 - Alexis Kramer
 - Valerie Ladue
 - Callie Pennington
 - Emily Dobbs
- Brodrick recognized Line-Up Volunteers:
 - Oconee County Rotary Club members
 - Chops & Hops Staff
- Brodrick recognized the vocalist for the National Anthem
 - John Haley

Brodrick gave special thanks to Watkinsville Police Department, Watkinsville Public Works Department, and Oconee County Sheriff's Office.

- Brodrick recognized members of the Planning Committee:
 - Kathi Anderson (Oconee Farmers Market),
 - Kristy Curtis (Oconee County Tourism & Visitors Bureau),
 - City of Watkinsville - Angela Farr (Administrative Coordinator), Police Chief Shannon Brock, and City Manager Sharyn Dickerson

and offered special recognition to Mellony Adkins James, the Event Coordinator for Christmas Parade & Tree Lighting festivities.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. November 17, 2021

At 6:41 PM, Tucker moved to approve the November 17, 2021, minutes as presented. Thomas second. Opportunity for discussion. Motion carried 5 to 0.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

At 6:42 PM, Tucker moved to approve the agenda as amended removing Item #5, adding opioid litigation discussion/consideration to new business as Item, #17, and moving Item #9a on Consent Agenda (Setting Qualifying Fees for 2022 Election) to Item #18 under New Business. Thomas second. Opportunity for discussion. Motion carried 5 to 0.

ADMINISTRATION

Public Input Process: At 6:44 PM, Brodrick asked Reitman to present public input process. Reitman explained to public that if they wish to address Mayor and Council they may do so at the noted times on the agenda or on request and at discretion of Council. Reitman summarized the rules including four minutes per person, Comments shall be only directly relating to agenda items, Refrain from debate, argument, personal attacks, or irrelevant discussion. Address only the merits of the pending matter, and address remarks directly to council. Council can't speak to potential litigation, attorney client or personnel matters.

2. **Financial Reports – General, Fund Reserve, SPLOST I, and SPLOST II Funds:** At 6:45 PM, Dickerson provided the General Fund, SPLOST I, II, and III financial reports for November 2021, and presented the American Rescue Plan Act Fund Report.
3. **Economic Development Reports – Business Licenses, Building Permits:** At 6:48 PM, Dickerson provided the Economic Development reports noting \$4,173 collected for business licenses and \$12,600.75 collected in permitting fees for the month of November 2021.
4. **Police Department Report:** At 6:52 PM, Brock provided his monthly report.

CONSENT AGENDA

5. **Appointment to the Oconee County Board of Health for a six-year term to begin January 1, 2022, and end December 31, 2027.**
6. **Approve Renewal of Playing Field Lease Agreement with Oconee County Little League Association**
7. **Amendment to License Plate Reader Agreement with OmniQ**
8. **Approve budget amendment for tree removal at Cemetery**
9. **Approve budget amendment for AAA Public Safety Grant award**
- 9a. **Set 2022 Election Qualifying Fees**

At 6:53 PM, Thomas moved to approve the consent agenda items 6, 7, 8 and 9, as Council voted earlier to move items 5 and 9a to New Business. Tucker second. Opportunity for discussion. Motion carried 5 to 0.

PUBLIC HEARING

At 6:54 PM, Reitman provided rules and regulations noting the 10-minute time limit for appearances, per guideline of State Zoning Procedures Law.

10. **New City Charter:** Brodrick noted the Charter had not been updated since 1983.

At 6:56 PM, Reitman opened the public hearing. Brodrick asked if there was anyone present who wished to speak on the matter. No one came forward. Dickerson stated no one other than staff was on RingCentral. At 6:57 PM, Brodrick closed public hearing.

APPEARANCES

At 6:58 PM, Reitman noted 10-minute time limit for appearance, per guideline of State Zoning Procedures law.

11. **13 School Street Demolition Permit (partial)**

Engineer Campbell presented staff report- noted that applicant (Tom McConnell) was requesting removal of front porch and side room with the intent to rebuild both sections in the same size but with an adjusted roof to allow for proper drainage. Campbell stated that applicant understands asbestos must be mitigated and recommended Council make it a condition for approval.

Dickerson noted McConnell requested Council table his request until January 2022 meeting, as he was working to finalize contractor's estimates and work schedule. At 6:58 PM, Tucker moved to table request until January 2022 Council meeting. Thomas second. Opportunity for discussion. Motion carried 5 to 0.

OLD BUSINESS

12. **SECOND READING ORDINANCE Amendments to Alcoholic Beverages Ordinance, Breweries:**

At 7:03 PM, Campbell provided an update noting changes made were to Item #2, which states no happy hour discounts, special rates, etc., in compliance with State Law; Item #7 clarifying no one under 21 allowed inside without a parent or guardian; and adding language to define and allow "crawlers."

At 7:07 PM, Campbell moved to pass the amendment to the Alcoholic Beverages Ordinance for breweries. Tucker second. Opportunity for discussion. Massey stated her opinion that there were enough restaurants serving alcohol and so breweries were not needed. Motion carried 4 to 1. Massey opposed.

13. SECOND READING: New City Charter:

At 7:08 PM, Reitman noted changes to the Charter as described in 2-page summary available to the public.

Thomas moved to approve updated Charter as written, with changes as noted by Attorney Reitman. Garrett second. Opportunity for discussion. Motion carried 5 to 0.

NEW BUSINESS

14. Pavement Management Program Report

At 7:15 PM, Dickerson provided the report, recommended to update every 4 to 5 years.

15. Approve submittal of the Fiscal Year 2022 Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) Local Maintenance Improvement Grant (LMIG) Application

Dickerson provided a report, that recommended the Council submit for 2022, the surface removal, base rehabilitation, and overlay of Layle Lane (the second worst road on the pavement management program report) at the estimated cost of \$77,400.

At 7:18 PM, Tucker moved to approve submitting Layle Lane for the 2022 LMIG application. Garrett second. Opportunity for discussion. Motion carried 5 to 0.

16. Approve RESOLUTION to Authorize Utilizing American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds for Premium Pay for Essential Workers and Approve budget amendments

At 7:24, Massey noted she and Garrett, as members of Council's Personnel & Finance Committee, met with Dickerson to discuss. Massey stated the proposal does not include Dickerson; however, they recommended Council include her.

Dickerson noted the recommendation is to provide premium pay using ARPA funds for the city's essential workers in the amount equal to one week's pay plus \$1,000 per employee, not including her.

At 7:36 PM, Garrett moved to approve the funds as stated in the resolution as submitted and added one week's pay for Dickerson to be funded out of Fund Balance. Massey second. Opportunity for discussion. Motion carried 5 to 0.

17. Opioid Settlement

At 7:37 PM, Reitman provided general information regarding the opioid lawsuit, which had a deadline to opt-in.

Tucker moved to approve the standard opt-in form and resolution, subject to final approval by Mayor, City Attorney, and City Manager. Thomas second. Opportunity for discussion. Motion carried 5 to 0.

18. Set 2022 Election Qualifying Fees

At 7:41 PM, Thomas moved to approve 2022 Election Qualifying Fees at 3%. Tucker second. Opportunity for discussion. Motion carried 5 to 0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

At 7:42 PM, Reitman noted rules and regulations for public comments.

Brodrick asked if there was anyone present who wished to speak on the matter. No one came forward.

Dickerson stated no one other than staff was on RingCentral. There were no public comments.

MAYOR'S REPORT

At 7:42 PM, Brodrick reported the following:

- Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting were a huge success.
- Shared sad news of losing resident, Jim Carter two weeks ago. Mr. Carter was seen regularly picking up litter in the community. He was known for completely remodeling the house on Second Street. Neighbors have been discussing establishing a litter pickup committee in his memory. He and Massey attended visitation.
- ESP site has come to life in the last two weeks. A professional crew came in and got volunteers to help install the playground. Project completion projected for mid to late spring.
- Harden Hill Road is being resurfaced which will help with storm water. Project expected to last through Friday.
- Christmas at Wire Park. Great turnout of about 4 to 5,000 people.
- City has started using SuiteOne, a new technology for broadcasting Council meetings. Dickerson noted there is a slight delay in the video. She shared the difference between SuiteOne and RingCentral is that it would allow citizens to see the council and view the agenda documents at the same time so they could follow along. The downside is there is no way to interface with citizens through SuiteOne unless conducting a Zoom meeting. Staff will work through the SuiteOne tutorials to learn more.

COUNCIL REPORTS

- 19. Chuck Garrett - Post 1:** At 7:49 PM, Garrett noted that there was a lot going on with transportation. As discussed, Harden Hill Road paving is taking place. The widening of the shoulder on Simonton Bridge Road by the County will begin on Friday. He noted that the County had installed "Share the Road" signs on Barnett Shoals. He thanked staff for coordinating it and stated the signs will help improve the safety of the bike community and public.
- 20. Connie Massey – Post 2:** At 7:50 PM, Massey commented that it was a wonderful Christmas Parade.
- 21. Brett Thomas – Post 3:** At 7:51 PM, Thomas thanked everyone for showing up at the parade and stated it was the "largest I've ever seen." He also noted the 2nd Annual Christmas at Wire Park was amazing and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.
- 22. Christine Tucker – Post 4:** At 7:52 PM, Tucker shared that since last month's meeting the Economic Development Committee went to Greensboro to talk with their Development Authority Director and said she was excited to get the process started here in Watkinsville.
- 23. Jeff Campbell – Post 5:** At 7:53 PM, Campbell added that the Economic Development Committee plans to go to Madison as well so they can compare to Monroe and Greensboro.

Brodrick thanked all for a great year.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:54 PM, Tucker moved to leave regular session and enter Executive Session for discussion of threatened and pending litigation. Thomas second. Opportunity for discussion. Motion carried 5 to 0.

At 8:17 PM, Tucker moved to leave executive session and return to regular session. Campbell second. Opportunity for discussion. Motion carried 5 to 0.

ADJOURN

At 8:18 PM, Tucker moved to adjourn. Campbell second. Opportunity for discussion. Motion carried 5 to 0.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

JULIE A. KLEIN, CMC