

MINUTES OF MAYOR AND COUNCIL, CITY OF WATKINSVILLE
January 19, 2022 @ 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, Brock, and Klein. Brodrick opened the in person public and fully accessible online SuiteOne video meeting of January 19, 2022, at 6:30 PM. Five citizens attended at the meeting location, City Hall.

ABSENT: Engineer Campbell

WELCOME: At 6:31 PM, Brodrick kicked off the meeting with a video highlight of UGA's Kelee Ringo intercepting and returning for a touchdown Alabama quarterback, Bryce Young's throw, that sealed the UGA Football team's 2021 National Championship win.

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE FOR NEWLY ELECTED MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS: At 6:34 PM, Attorney Reitman administered the oaths for Brian Brodrick, Mayor; Chuck Garrett, Council Post 1; and Connie Massey, Council Post 2.

QUORUM CHECK: At 6:36 PM, Brodrick acknowledged a quorum was present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: At 6:37 PM, Joel Brodrick led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Brodrick noted that for those who were joining the meeting online the city is now using a new system, SuiteOne, to broadcast Council meetings. SuiteOne is a webcasting public portal. Brodrick reminded everyone that when the pandemic occurred the city had to adjust to provide the public access to meetings. Initially, the city used RingCentral, but it is not designed to broadcast Council meetings. For the past couple of months, SuiteOne has been running alongside RingCentral, but the plan was to transition to a new system that was purpose built for broadcasting the meetings. SuiteOne provides the public the ability to watch and listen to the meeting in progress as well as view the meeting materials associated with the items Council considers. The link to SuiteOne is available on the city's website and may be found under the Government tab on the City Council Meeting Information page.

Brodrick shared that for the past four months, there has only been one public comment offered on RingCentral. Although SuiteOne does not currently allow public comment, if a member of the public wants to comment on an item on the agenda, then they will need to appear in person or provide their comments in advance of the Council meeting. Should there become a need to again take public comment virtually, then Council will address at that time.

Reminder, a notice of the Council meeting along with the current month's agenda is posted the week before the meeting to allow the public sufficient time to provide comments in writing to the Clerk if they are unable to attend in person.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. December 15, 2021

At 6:39 PM, Tucker moved to approve the December 15, 2021, minutes with the minor edit noted by Brodrick regarding the number of RingCentral participants attending the meeting. Campbell second. Opportunity for discussion. Motion carried 5 to 0.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

At 6:40 PM, Tucker moved to approve the agenda as amended removing Item #13. Campbell second. Opportunity for discussion. Motion carried 5 to 0.

ADMINISTRATION

Public Input Process: At 6:42 PM, Brodrick briefed those present about the public input process. Brodrick explained that if anyone wished to address Mayor and Council then they could do so at the noted times on the agenda or at the discretion of Council. Brodrick noted that comments should be related to items on the agenda and that they should speak from the podium for no more than four minutes per person, and that the Council does not allow for debate, argument, personal attacks, or irrelevant discussion.

2. **Election of Mayor Pro-Tem by Council:** At 6:42 PM, Thomas moved to appoint Tucker as Mayor Pro-Tem. Campbell second. Opportunity for discussion. Motion carried 5 to 0.
3. **PROCLAMATION – National 211 Day on February 11, 2022 – United Way of Northeast Georgia:** At 6:43 PM, Brodrick presented Alison Awes with a Proclamation establishing February 11, 2022, as National 211 Day. Awes spoke about the United Way of Northeast Georgia, 211 services, and the other resources they provide throughout Northeast Georgia
4. **Financial Reports – General, Fund Reserve, SPLOST I, II, and III Funds, and ARP Funds:** At 6:45 PM, Dickerson provided the General Fund, SPLOST I, II, and III financial reports for December 2021, and presented the American Rescue Plan Act Fund Report.
5. **Economic Development Reports – Business Licenses, Building Permits:** At 6:50 PM, Dickerson provided the Economic Development reports noting \$13,223 had been collected for business and liquor licenses and \$4,480 had been collected in permitting fees for the month of December 2021.
6. **Police Department Report:** At 6:54 PM, Brock provided an annual training report stating the number of training hours per officer, and the monthly report which included traffic calming radar sign data.

Garrett suggested moving the traffic calming radar sign on Colham Ferry Road to the outbound lane.

Brodrick added that he continues to receive citizen complaints regarding traffic on North and South Main Street going too fast.

Brock noted his officers run radar on both of the roads mentioned, but the vehicles are often traveling within the speed threshold allowed.

CONSENT AGENDA

7. **Appointment to the Oconee County Board of Health for a six-year term to begin January 1, 2022, and end December 31, 2027.**
8. **RESOLUTION for Bank Signature Authorization.**
9. **ORDINANCE: Amendments to Cemetery Ordinance**
10. **ORDINANCE: Amendments to Pedestrian Events Ordinance**
11. **RESOLUTION to Adopt a Comprehensive Fee Schedule establishing fees and charges for city services.**
12. **Approve Police Recruitment Agreements**

At 7:00 PM, Tucker moved to approve the consent agenda tabling Item 7, removing Item 8, and approving Items 9 through 12. Campbell second. Opportunity for discussion. Motion carried 5 to 0.

PUBLIC HEARING

No public hearings scheduled.

APPEARANCES

No appearances scheduled.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business.

NEW BUSINESS

13. Approve and appropriate \$14,579 from SPLOST III: Public Safety Facilities & Equipment fund for the purchase of a TrafficLogix Variable Message Sign (VMS) Trailer:

This item was removed from the agenda with the agenda was approved at the start of the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments.

MAYOR'S REPORT

At 7:01 PM, Brodrick reported the following:

- The following trees were planted early this morning: three Willow Oaks on Main Street and three Willow Oaks near the Gus Verner Memorial Pedestrian Bridge on Harden Hill Road. Plans call for crepe myrtles to be planted on the other side of the bridge.
- The ESP project is turning into something special. The city is working closely with ESP regarding trees and shrubs that will be installed on the city hall side of the property.
- Harden Hill Road paving is complete. The contractor will do the striping soon.
- The County issued a request for bids for the construction of Sewer Line A and bids are due February 1. The city is anxious to get moving on Sewer Line A. The city applied for a state grant to assist with the project and should hear back this month about the award.

COUNCIL REPORTS

14. Chuck Garrett - Post 1: At 7:04 PM, Garrett noted all road projects are finished and the County would be paving Simonton Bridge Road early spring/summer.

15. Connie Massey – Post 2: At 7:04 PM, Massey noted the Simonton Bridge Road project was nice, and that the County did a good job.

16. Brett Thomas – Post 3: At 7:05 PM, Thomas shared that he was very pleased with the Harden Hill Road paving.

17. Christine Tucker – Post 4: At 7:05 PM, Tucker stated the Harris Shoals Park Sub-Committee will be meeting to discuss repurposing the old playground and discuss possibilities with the Rotary Club for new BBQ pits.

18. Jeff Campbell – Post 5: At 7:05 PM, Campbell had no report.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:05 PM, Tucker moved to leave regular session and enter Executive Session for discussion of threatened and pending litigation and real estate. Campbell second. Opportunity for discussion. Motion carried 5 to 0.

At 7:33 PM, Campbell moved to leave executive session and return to regular session. Tucker second. Opportunity for discussion. Motion carried 5 to 0.

ADDITIONAL COUNCIL ACTION

At 7:34 PM, Tucker moved, in an abundance of caution to ratify the consent order in the 60 South Main Street Municipal Court Case. Thomas second. Opportunity for discussion. Motion carried 5 to 0.

ADJOURN

At 7:36 PM, Tucker moved to adjourn. Campbell second. Opportunity for discussion. Motion carried 5 to 0.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

JULIE A. KLEIN, CMC