

CITY OF GRIFFIN BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING
ONE GRIFFIN CENTER, W. ELMER GEORGE MUNICIPAL HALL
TUESDAY, JULY 28 2015

Chairperson Doug Hollberg presided, calling the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Commissioners attending Included Cora Flowers, Cynthia Reid-Ward, Dick Morrow, Ryan McLemore and Rodney McCord.

Also present were City Manager Kenny L. Smith, City Attorney Andrew J. Whalen, III, and Teresa Watson to record minutes.

Pledge of Allegiance Commissioner McLemore
Invocation Chairman Hollberg

Approval of Agenda
Motion/second to approve agenda by Commissioners Morrow/McLemore carried 6-0.

PRESENTATIONS / DELEGATIONS

- 1. Recognize Will Stevens, with the Municipal Airport, as the June 2015 "Strongest Link" award recipient. *Robert Mohl, Airport Director will address.*

Robert Mohl stated he was proud to present this award to such a hard working individual who truly does whatever is necessary. He handles everything from fuel to maintenance to instruction but he does his best work in the critical area of fuel quality and maintenance. The last fuel inspection found zero deficiencies, nothing substandard, nothing contaminated, nothing overlooked, nothing negative at all. He keeps the wheels running and for such crucial areas as military and medical personnel, and that is phenomenal. Mr. Morrow echoed that Mr. Stevens was, in fact, a most excellent employee who is an all-around “MacGyver” around the airport.

- 2. Recognize Sherry Thaxton with the Cemetery Department, for 30 years of dedicated service to the City of Griffin. *Public Works Director, Brant Keller will address.*

Dr. Keller introduced Sherry who has been with the City for 30 years. She does many things well, but most importantly, she stops phone calls coming to his office on five critical occasions each year, and she manages 125 acres of cemetery including new phases as they have been implemented. She oversaw the restoration of many memorials/monuments and has made some improvements that have highlighted local events, such as cemetery rambles and Doc Holliday (whom she feels is really buried at the cemetery). He thanked her for her dedication and diligent service to the City.

- 3. Recognize the retirement of Public Safety Director Frank Strickland after thirteen (13) years of service. *City Manager Kenny Smith will address.*

City Manager Kenny Smith said he had always felt it was good to have a senior, stable staff but over the last few months he realized we are losing a great deal in historical knowledge, experience and dedication with retirements and departures. Director Strickland has served 38 years in law enforcement, as Police Chief for the Medical College of Georgia, City of Fort Valley, City of Toccoa and here in Griffin for the last 13 years. In 2001, he was named Chief of the Year. He has served well throughout the law enforcement community in different capacities. Mr. Smith has known him personally and professionally for more than 20 years. In June 2002 they both talked about coming here to Griffin, and Chief Strickland arrived here in 2002, with Mr. Smith arriving in 2004. Chief Strickland later served as Police Chief and Public Safety Director, then Public Safety Director for the City of Griffin. Director Strickland has made many contributions and friendships here, and this will be a loss for the community but will also mark the departure of a humble and respected friend, noted Mr. Smith. He wished Director Strickland well in his new endeavors and hoped he enjoys his retirement. He invited everyone to a reception honoring Director Strickland on Friday, July 31, at the Welcome Center from 1 to 3 p.m.

Director Strickland thanked everyone, friends and colleagues, and the City. He has enjoyed his time here, which was longer than anywhere else except Gainesville, where he grew up. He will leave with many fond memories and good relationships, and he won’t be a stranger. He is just going south to look after 3000 or so college students. He noted his sincere appreciation for the support he has received here. Chairman Hollberg said Director Strickland was a true blessing and always the peacemaker, noting he will be greatly missed here in Griffin.

- 4. Recognize the graduates from the third annual Citizen Police Academy. *Director Frank Strickland will address.*

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Public Safety Director introduced Lt. Darrell Dix who managed/taught the academy, and he presented certificates to participants who were present. This year's graduating class of the Citizens Police Academy included: Willie C. Lemons, Teresa Watson, Terri Shurley, Diane Ball, William Ball, Dean Wern, Melinda Nicholson, Robin Mitchell, Donna Gibson, Corey Pitts, Gwen Dallas and Jennifer Romes. Members of the class noted the quality of the curriculum and thanked everyone for their valued time and hard work in preparation for the classes each week.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no comments.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

5. Receive comments regarding a request to amend the Unified Development Code, of the City of Griffin, Article 12, Signs, Section 1205 A, Prohibited Signs. *Planning & Development Services Director, Toussaint Kirk will address.*

Mr. Kirk said this amendment attempts to address some of the issues with the Sign Ordinance in the past. The Chairman opened the floor for public comment and/or questions from Commissioners. There were no comments.

6. Receive comments regarding a request to amend the Mixed Use/TOD Overlay to add Arts & Entertainment Overlay District - Tier (4) for the Griffin Downtown area. *Planning & Development Director, Toussaint Kirk will address.*

Mr. Kirk said this amendment attempts to address some issues that resulted from the LCI Study. This overlay basically creates a fourth tier to address the recommendations from that study. The Chairman opened the floor for public comment and/or questions from Commissioners. There were no comments.

7. Receive comments regarding a request to amend the Unified Development Code of Griffin at Article 7, Zoning Districts, Table 7.3 (Permitted Uses), to allow Group Homes for persons with disabilities in all zoning districts. *Planning & Development Director, Toussaint Kirk to address.*

Mr. Kirk advised in recent months this has become a hot topic issue, and this amendment strives to create a permitted use in several zoning designations and code areas. Anyone who has a life activity restricting condition can be classified to have a disability and there is no definitive list of disabled persons. This does not pertain to battered women in general, for instance, but rather for people who have conditions that affect their quality of life physically and/or mentally. There is a meeting scheduled with DOJ (Department of Justice) next month and they are familiar with what the City has done to date, noted City Attorney Drew Whalen.

CONSENT AGENDA

8. Consider Minutes of the June 23, 2015 City Board of Commissioners' Workshop Session and the June 23, 2015 Regular Scheduled Meeting.

Motion/second by Commissioners Morrow/Reid-Ward to approve Consent Agenda carried 5-0-1 with Commissioner McLemore abstaining since he was absent from the meetings.

REGULAR AGENDA

9. Consider approval of a request to amend the Unified Development Code, of the City of Griffin, Article 12, Signs, Section 1205 A, Prohibited Signs. *Planning & Development Director, Toussaint Kirk will address.*

Motion/second by Commissioners Morrow/McLemore to approve carried 6-0.

10. Consider a request to amend the Mixed Use/TOD Overlay to add Arts & Entertainment Overlay District - Tier (4) for the Griffin Downtown area. *Planning & Development Director, Toussaint Kirk will address.*

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Motion/second by Commissioners Reid-Ward/McLemore to approve carried 6-0.

11. Consider a request to amend the Unified Development Code of Griffin at Article 7, Zoning Districts, Table 7.3 (Permitted Uses), to allow Group Homes for persons with disabilities in all zoning districts. *Planning & Development Director, Toussaint Kirk to address.*

Motion/second by Commissioners Reid-Ward/Morrow to approve carried 6-0.

12. Consider motion to deny Notice of Claim from Law Offices of LaQuetta S. Pearson, P.C. given on behalf of Jemarko Parker, by letter dated June 23, 2015, purporting to comply with statutory ante litem notice requirements of O.C.G.A. Sec. 36-33-5. *City Attorney Andrew J. Whalen, III will address.*

Motion/second by Commissioners Morrow/Reid-Ward to deny carried 5-1 with Commissioner McCord opposing.

13. Consider an Ordinance repealing regulations pertaining to taxicabs, found in Code of Griffin, Georgia, Chapter 102, VEHICLES FOR HIRE, Article III, TAXICABS, at Sections 102-61 - 102-102. *City Attorney Drew Whalen will address.*

City Attorney Whalen noted this was a new law enacted this year, effective July 1. The bill places vehicles for hire under the auspices of the Department of Public Safety. The City will lose the ability to charge an occupation tax going forward, since they are now state regulated.

Motion/second by Commissioners Morrow/Reid-Ward to approve carried 6-0.

14. Consider for approval the engagement letters for audit services with Mauldin & Jenkins, Certified Public Accountants (independent auditors) for the City of Griffin. Mauldin & Jenkins will complete: Annual audit, comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR) and OMB Single Audit if necessary, and: A) Complete a questionnaire requested by MEAG, and B) Complete “agreed-upon” procedures related to the landfill and related annual reporting requirements per the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). *Administrative Services Director Markus Schwab will address.*

Motion/second by Commissioners Reid-Ward/McLemore to approve carried 6-0.

15. Consider the approval of an Acquisition Services Agreement with Manley Acquisition Services, LLC for the acquisition of City easements and properties on Intersection #2 Hill Street at Northside Drive & Tuskegee Avenue Improvement Project for Public Works and Utilities Department. *Director of Public Works and Utilities Department Brant D. Keller will address.*

Motion/second by Commissioners Morrow/Reid-Ward to approve carried 6-0.

16. Consider approval of a Task Order to Paragon Consulting Group for the Construction Management of Intersection #2 Northside Drive and Tuskegee Avenue in the amount of \$138,085.00 for the City of Griffin Public Works and Utilities Department. *Director of Public Works and Utilities Department Brant D. Keller will address.*

Motion/second by Commissioners Reid-Ward/Morrow to approve carried 6-0.

17. Consider the approval to purchase Hach 900 Flow Logger from Water ReSource Technologies in the amount of \$18,637.00 for the Water and Wastewater Department of the Public Works and Utilities Department. *Director of Public Works and Utilities Brant D. Keller will address.*

Motion/second by Commissioners Reid-Ward/Morrow to approve carried 6-0.

18. Consider the purchase of 2 (two) Dodge Chargers in the amount of \$50,211.50 (\$25,105.75 each) from Akins Ford Dodge Government Sales, a State-wide Contract Dealer; approve additional equipment and installation by TransComm Services in the amount of \$3,690.00 (\$1,845.00 per vehicle); amend the budget for Criminal Investigations Division accordingly with appropriations from the Confiscated Assets Fund. *Public Safety Director Frank Strickland will address.*

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Some discussion was held regarding the vehicles that were declared surplus in order to facilitate this purchase. Director Strickland detailed the surplus vehicles to the Board's satisfaction.

Motion/second by Commissioners Reid-Ward/Morrow to approve purchases and declare surplus as necessary, and as noted in the agenda item, carried 6-0.

19. Consider approval to award the purchase of two Ford T150 Transport Vans in the amount of \$58,848.00 (\$29,991.00 and \$28,857.00 respectively) to Speedway Ford for Solid Waste Utility inmate transportation needs at the Transfer Station and Landfill. *Director of Central Services Phill Francis will address.*

Motion/second by Commissioners Morrow/Reid-Ward to approve carried 6-0.

20. Consider approval to award the purchase of three (3) Ford F350s in the amount of \$111,690.00 from Speedway Ford. Vehicles will be assigned to the following departments. *Director of Central Services Phill Francis will address.*

- Public Works-Streets (\$37,281.00) and declare surplus unit 438, a 1992 Ford F350 with 123,372 miles (VIN 2FDLF47M8NCB1);
- Solid Waste-Residential (\$31,241.00) and declare surplus unit 901, a 1999 Dodge 1500 with 177,444 miles (VIN 1B7HV16Y5XS227647);
- Water - Distribution Division (\$43,186.00) for an F350 with service body and declare surplus unit 1808, a 2003 Dodge 3500 with 176,000 miles (VIN 3D7MA48643G853831).

Motion/second by Commissioners Reid-Ward/Morrow to approve carried 6-0.

21. Consider approval to award the purchase of one Ford F750 with 10' dump body in the amount of \$68,489.00 from Speedway Ford and declare surplus unit 423, a 1986 Ford F700 (VIN NF7OH4GVAO6O38). Vehicle will be assigned to General Fund - Public Works - Streets Department. *Director of Central Services Phill Francis will address.*

Motion/second by Commissioners Reid-Ward/Morrow to approve carried 6-0.

22. Consider approval to award the purchase of four (4) Ford F250s in the amount of \$100,820.00 from Speedway Ford. Vehicles will be assigned to the following departments. *Director of Central Services Phill Francis will address.*

- General Fund - Animal Control (2 units in the amount of \$20,801.00 each) and declare surplus unit 298, a 2004 Dodge Ram 1500 with 160,419 miles (VIN 1D7HA16N44J174068) and unit 293, a 2008 Dodge Ram 1500 with 100,189 miles (VIN 1D7HA16N88J193762);
- General Fund - Facilities Maintenance, in the amount of \$25,080.00 and approve transfer of unit 180, a 2001 Ford F250 with 104,310 miles (VIN 1FTNW20LX1EC3767) to Solid Waste Residential Collection for continued service.
- Water-Distribution Division (\$34,354.00) and declare surplus unit 898, a 2001 Dodge 2500 with 130,000 miles (VIN 3B6KC26201M558127).

Motion/second by Commissioners Reid-Ward/Morrow to approve carried 6-0.

23. Consider approval to award the purchase of seven (7) Ford F150s in the amount of \$161,716.00 to Speedway Ford. The vehicles will be assigned to the following departments. *Director of Central Services Phill Francis will address.*

- Code Enforcement (\$21,413.00) and declare surplus unit 119, a 2001 Chevrolet 1500 with 191,171 miles (VIN 1GCE51V81E264907);
- Golf Course (\$21,583.00) and declare surplus unit 632, a 1987 GMC 1500 with 345,000 miles (VIN 1GTDC14H3MZ522217);
- Electric Utility Fund - Technical Services (2) units totaling \$50,524.00.

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- First vehicle (\$29,168.00), and declare surplus unit 762, a 2003 F250 Super Duty with 122,133 miles (VIN 1FTNX20L24EC78513);
- Second vehicle (\$21,356.00), and declare surplus unit 3741, a 2001 Dodge 1500 with 227,189 miles (VIN 1BH7HC16X41S196616).
- Stormwater (\$22,184.00) and declare surplus unit 1108, a 1991 Ford F150 with 189,567 miles (VIN 2FTDF15Y7RCA79550).
- Water-Distribution Division (\$23,006.00) and declare surplus unit 852, a 1995 Ford F150 with 160,000 miles (VIN 1FTEF15N03NB38013).
- Water-Meter Division (\$23,006.00) is a new unit needed for the Meter Division.

Motion/second by Commissioners Reid-Ward/Morrow to approve carried 6-0.

24. Consider approval to award the purchase of one E350 Cube Van in the amount of \$31,306.00 from Speedway Ford and declare surplus unit 486, a 1998 Chevy 3500 Cube Van (VIN 1GBJG31R4X1053372). Van will be assigned to General Fund - Public Works - Sign Shop. *Director of Central Services Phill Francis will address.*

Motion/second by Commissioners Reid-Ward/Morrow to approve carried 6-0.

25. Consider approval to award the purchase of two (2) Ford Expedition SUVs from Speedway Ford in the amount of \$54,505.42 (\$27,252.71 each) for Police Department Crime Scene Unit. Approve additional equipment and installation by TransComm Services in the amount of \$8,000.00 (\$4,000.00 each) and declare surplus two old vans. *Director of Central Services Phill Francis and Police Chief Steven Heaton will address.*

- unit 256, a 2003 Dodge Ram van with over 169,500 miles (VIN 2D7HB11YX3K505236), and
- unit 296, a 2005 Dodge Sprinter van with close to 100,000 miles (VIN WD2PD644855748393).

Motion/second by Commissioners Reid-Ward/Morrow to approve carried 6-0.

26. Request renewal of Contract for the provision of Indigent Defense for the Municipal Court of Griffin, Ga. with the law firm of Sullivan & Ogletree, PC. The term of the agreement will be for a one (1) year period, beginning on July 1, 2015. *City Manager Kenny Smith will address.*

Motion/second by Commissioners Ward/Morrow to approve carried 6-0.

27. Consider a request from ***Honor our KIA*** to mount two (2) plaques on the exterior of One Griffin Center and two (2) plaques on the Imperial Theater façade. *City Manager Kenny Smith will address.*

Mr. Smith relayed that Honor our KIA was requesting permission to place these on One Griffin Center and the Imperial Theater. The current plaque honoring Mr. Reese will be replaced as one of these in order to maintain uniformity of the plaques.

Motion/second by Commissioners Ward/Morrow to grant permission carried 6-0.

28. Consider renewal of Standard Office Lease between the City of Griffin and Tru-Check, Inc. for Suite 114, One Griffin Center, in the amount of \$6,837.48 per year. *City Manager Kenny Smith will address.*

Motion/second by Commissioners Morrow/McLemore to approve carried 6-0.

29. Consider Third Amendment to the Intergovernmental Contract between the City of Griffin and Three Rivers Regional Commission to provide for early termination of the rental of property located at 120 North Hill Street. *City Manager Kenny Smith will address.*

City Manager Kenny Smith noted the City has had a Lease/Purchase agreement for some years with Three Rivers RC, set to expire in July 2017. There are some significant repairs and upgrades that need to be made, so both parties mutually agreed to consider ending the

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lease/purchase a year early. This will serve not only to relieve the City of the liability of making major repairs but would compensate Three Rivers for their assuming the repairs.

Motion/second by Commissioners Morrow/McLemore to approve carried 6-0.

30. Consider approval of a Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of the City of Griffin authorizing the execution of an Intergovernmental Contract between the City of Griffin, Spalding County and other qualified municipalities in Spalding County, requesting that the Board of Commissioners of Spalding County include in its resolution imposing a special one percent sales and use tax within Spalding County subject to referendum approval, provisions for the issuance of bonds by the City of Griffin, declaring Griffin's official intent to issue bonds, and for other purposes. *City Manager Kenny Smith will address.*

Motion/second by Commissioners Reid-Ward/Morrow to approve carried 6-0.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- Mr. Smith appreciated the Board's patience on all vehicle requests tonight. These will not all be purchased right away, but the City wanted to lock in prices with vendors now. As they/we are ready, the City will take delivery.
- On August 11, the City Manager plans to have the Board tour the Harry Simmons water plant, fire stations, and Still Branch Reservoir. Transportation will be provided, leaving at 8:30 a.m. and a light breakfast will be served.
- He and Chairman Hollberg will be at the UGA Archway Partnership meeting all day tomorrow.

CITY COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner McCord thanked Director Strickland for his service and gave his regrets as he cannot be present Friday at the Director's reception.

Commissioner McLemore said he will be there, noting he got emotional tonight. Change is tough, and we are losing someone with value, honor and integrity. He wished Director Strickland nothing but happiness.

Commissioner Morrow echoed Commissioner McLemore's sentiments. Director Strickland's service to the City has been unprecedented and he will be forever grateful.

Chairman Hollberg thanked Director Strickland for his valuable contributions, Mr. Kirk for his testimony this morning and everyone for their participation tonight. He, too, noted that UGA Archway Partnership is kicking off tomorrow. Also, the meeting today with City Court personnel was much appreciated and the level of professionalism was impressive.

ADJOURN

Motion/second by Commissioners Reid-Ward/Morrow to adjourn at 6:54 p.m. carried 6-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kenny L. Smith, City Manager/Secretary

Accepted:

Douglas S. Hollberg, Chairperson