

CITY OF GRIFFIN BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING  
ONE GRIFFIN CENTER, W. ELMER GEORGE MUNICIPAL HALL  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2015

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Chairperson Doug Hollberg presided, calling the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Commissioners attending included Dick Morrow, Ryan McLemore, Cora Flowers, Joanne Todd and Rodney McCord. Absent was Commissioner Cynthia Reid-Ward. Also present were City Manager Kenny L. Smith, City Attorney Andrew Whalen, III, and Teresa Watson to record minutes.

Pledge of Allegiance ..... Commissioner McLemore  
Invocation ..... Chairman Hollberg

Approval of Agenda  
*Motion/second by Commissioners Morrow/Todd to approve carried by a vote of 6-0.*

**PRESENTATIONS / DELEGATIONS**

1. Recognize Police Department retiree Lieutenant Morris Pike. *Chief Steven Heaton will address.*

Chief Steven Heaton said Lieutenant Pike and Corporal Todd Harris were both retiring. In attendance tonight was Lt. Pike. He has served over 40 years in law enforcement, with more than 30 in the City of Griffin. He has headed up and worked in several units, making lifelong impressions with children as the face of DARE for the community and other very visible positions. His commitment is apparent in his career and in his personal efforts to make Griffin a better place in which to live, work and play. He has been willing to work wherever he has been needed, and his influence is, indeed, far reaching. Chairman Hollberg thanked him, as did Commissioner McCord, with many memories and best wishes. Lt. Pike introduced his family in attendance at the meeting. Commissioner Morrow congratulated and thanked him, as did Commissioner Todd.

2. Recognize Shunda Guider, Senior Database Administrator with the City of Griffin's Information Technology Department, as the August 2015 "Strongest Link" award recipient. *Chief Financial Officer Markus Schwab will address.*

Jack Poland, Chief Technology Officer, introduced Ms. Guider as the Strongest Link for August. When he arrived at the City of Griffin, it was Shunda, who has been with the department the longest, who epitomized hard work to him. She has been instrumental in implementing and fine-tuning the Cogsdale system and other applications. Her knowledge, patience and diligence is phenomenal. Her preliminary work upfront in Cogsdale was critical to the successful launching of this and other programs. She is a great silent warrior who goes about her work with integrity and very little fanfare. She incredibly came to work in IT when she switched her career path from criminal justice to information technology. Her daughter plays professional basketball and is in Germany at the moment, so that great work ethic carries forward. She means a great deal to IT staff and to the City of Griffin, and he was proud of Ms. Guider and her body of work. She was presented with the symbolic link of chain along with the City's thanks.

3. Review Financials for July 2015. *Chief Financial Officer Markus Schwab will address.*

This includes a revision of the balance sheet presented last month, and the governmental issues addressed. Developing these reports has been a learning experience, and closing out year-end has presented its own challenges, as well. He answered questions on all facets of the financial statement. He noted the rollover amounts will be expended.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS**

*At this time, the Chairperson opens the floor to comments from the audience. Comments should relate to a specific agenda item, not listed on the agenda for a Public Hearing, or to a concern within the jurisdiction of the City. Commission meetings serve the purpose of conducting city business and are not a forum for the unlimited expression of opinion. The Chairperson reserves the right to limit comments to matters germane to city business and may refer speakers to the City Manager or other staff for resolution.*

***There were no comments.***

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

*Public Hearings are conducted to allow public comment on specific advertised issues such as rezoning, ordinances, policy development, operating budgets and other legislative actions to be considered by the City Commission.*

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4. Receive comments regarding a resolution to adopt the 2015 Tax Millage Rate proposed at 7.889 Rollback Rate. *City Manager Kenny Smith will address.*

This budget reflects the traditional 95% collections rate and he hoped the City could make its mark. As directed by the Board, the proposed millage rate of 7.889 is the rollback rate.

5. Receive comments regarding a request for a variance to reduce the front yard setback from fifty (50) feet to forty four (44) feet to accommodate a small corner of the house that will encroach and a reduction from twenty five (25) feet to sixteen (16) feet in the rear yard area where the carport, shed and a covered patio will be constructed on the property located at lot 1A Springer Drive, submitted by Kenneth Moore. *Planning and Development Director Toussaint Kirk will address.*

Mr. Toussaint Kirk, Planning and Development Director, noted the applicant requested this variance for new home construction, and he referenced the staff report for commissioners. Staff recommends approval with noted conditions. Mr. Kirk said the applicant was present to answer any questions, as was Mr. Raymond Ray, a neighbor. ***There were no speakers.***

<b>CONSENT AGENDA</b>
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6. Consider approval of the Minutes of the August 25, 2015 City Board of Commissioners' Workshop and Regular Scheduled Meeting.

***Motion/second by Commissioners Morrow/McCord to approve Consent Agenda carried 5-0-1 with Commissioner Todd abstaining as she was not present at the meetings.***

<b>REGULAR AGENDA</b>
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7. Consider for approval a resolution adopting the 2015 Property Tax Millage Rate of 7.889 Rollback Rate. *City Manager Kenny Smith will address.*

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

8. Consider a request for a variance to reduce the front yard setback from fifty (50) feet to forty four (44) feet to accommodate a small corner of the house that will encroach and a reduction from twenty five (25) feet to sixteen (16) feet in the rear yard area where the carport, shed and a covered patio will be constructed on the property located at lot 1A Springer Drive, submitted by Kenneth Moore. *Planning and Development Director Toussaint Kirk will address.*

***Motion/second by Commissioners Morrow/McCord to approve with conditions as noted below (from staff report) carried 6-0:***

- 1) Submit requirements from residential building permits checklist.***
- 2) Applicant shall provide a plat showing where sewer lines are in relation to the structure.***
- 3) Sewer relocation plans shall be submitted to the City of Griffin Water and Wastewater Department for review.***
- 4) Development plans shall meet requirements of the City of Griffin Flood Plain Ordinance.***

9. Consider approval by resolution to amend City of Griffin's Operating and Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2014-2015 in the amount of \$16,772,617.00 and an amount of \$14,512,995.00 for FY 2015-2016 for projects that will complete in FY16. *Chief Financial Officer Markus Schwab will address.*

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

10. Request approval to surplus six (6) Tasers with holsters and donate to Georgia State Patrol Post 1. These Tasers were purchased with Asset Forfeiture funds and have been rotated out of service being replaced by newer models. *Chief Heaton will address.*

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

11. Consider approval of the Bid and Work Contract to McLeroy Equipment, LLC for the relocation of water utilities for P.I. 0008237 and P.I.0008238 Intersection Improvement Project in the amount of \$52,597.00 for the Water and Wastewater Department of the Public Works and Utilities Department. *Director of Public Works and Utilities Department Brant D. Keller will address.*

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

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12. Consider approval of a Task Order to Paragon Consulting Group for Surveying, Engineering and Construction Management for the Community Development Block Grant Phase VII of the Thomaston Mill Village in the amount of \$72,883.00 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 Todd/Morrow to approve carried 5-0-1 with Chairman Hollberg abstaining due to a previously-stated conflict.***

13. Consider purchase of a Toyota Forklift Model 8FGU25 from Toyota Forklift of Atlanta in the amount of \$25,345.00 for the Water and Wastewater Department of the Public Works and Utilities Department. *Director of Public Works and Utilities Department Brant D. Keller will address.*

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

14. Consider the purchase of a Kohler 1600REOZMD generator for the Flint River Pump Station from Nixon Power Services Company in the amount of \$312,800.00 for the Water and Wastewater Department of the Public Works and Utilities Department. *Director of Public Works and Utilities Director Brant D. Keller will address.*

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

15. Consider approval to award the purchase of one Caterpillar CT660S construction truck with 15.5' dump body in the amount of \$146,313.00 from Yancey Bros., off the NJPA contract 060311-CAT. Vehicle will be a new addition and be assigned to General Fund - Public Works – Streets Department. *Director of Central Services Phill Francis will address.*

***Motion/second by Commissioners Todd/Flowers to approve carried 6-0.***

16. Consider approval of a Task Order Form in conjunction with a Master Services Agreement with Brown and Caldwell LLC for FY/2015-2016 engineering services at the Shoal Creek C&D Landfill. *Central Services Director Phill Francis will address.*

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

17. Consider approval of a Resolution authorizing the filing of a Petition for Condemnation, using the Declaration of Taking Method, for a fee simple acquisition of right of way and 2 temporary construction easements at 104 Quincy Avenue (Tax Parcel 003 06012), owned by Dunson Properties LLC; PNC Bank, lender. *City Attorney Drew Whalen will address.*

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

18. Consider Agreement to Purchase Real Estate at 620 N. Sixth Street in the amount of \$1,000.00 for right of way for Intersection #1 Improvement Project of 2008 SPLOST for the Public Works and Utilities Department. *Director of Public Works and Utilities Director Brant D. Keller to address.*

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

19. Consider approval of a Release and Settlement Agreement and authorization for the Chairperson to execute said Agreement, in the case of STEPHANIE YARBROUGH v. CITY OF GRIFFIN, COLT TOLEN and LANIECE PARKS, Civil Action File No. 3:14-CV-00193-TCB, U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia, Newnan Division. *City Attorney Drew Whalen will address.*

Mr. Whalen noted he recommends the City settle this lawsuit for a very nominal fee.

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

<b>CITY MANAGER'S REPORT</b>
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- Citizens Government Academy begins Thursday, September 10, at 6:30 p.m.
- Town Hall Meetings are scheduled for next Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

<b>CITY COMMISSIONER COMMENTS</b>
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Todd – Thanked everyone for good wishes and noted she was feeling very good after her knee surgery. She congratulated Mr. David Brock and Chairman Hollberg who both have no opposition after qualifying was completed last Friday. She thanked her husband Harry for taking such good care of her these past few weeks.

Flowers – No comment.

Morrow – He is a great believer in the first amendment but doesn't like lies, untruths, and efforts to malign those trying to do a good job. He has developed a spreadsheet that shows Griffin

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is very competitive and one of the lowest priced power providers in the state. All this nonsense in social media can be resolved with an easy visit to the Public Service Commission (PSC) website to get rankings and costs. He hopes the truth can get out as effectively as lies seem to have done.

McLemore – Congratulations to Chairman Hollberg on an effective reelection since no one else qualified for the at-large seat and to David Brock who will be unopposed in District 4.

McCord – Juanita Morris, a local iconic teacher who is much beloved, passed away this afternoon. Prayers for the family are sought.

Hollberg – He thanked everyone and was relieved that qualifying was over. He looks forward to serving again and appreciates all. He commended Bill Bosch and Kenny Smith for their character and integrity throughout the electric debate on social media. Ours is the same rate structure this year as in the past, he noted. He felt that Citizens' Government Academy is an ideal time for city departments to shine.

<b>ADJOURN</b>
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***Motion/second by Commissioners Morrow/McCord to adjourn at 6:34 p.m. carried 6-0.***

Respectfully Submitted,

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Kenny L. Smith, City Manager/Secretary

Accepted:

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Douglas S. Hollberg, Chairperson