

**CITY OF GRIFFIN BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING
ONE GRIFFIN CENTER, W. ELMER GEORGE MUNICIPAL HALL
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2015**

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

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

Pledge of Allegiance Commissioner Flowers
Invocation Chairman Hollberg
Approval of Agenda
Motion/second by Commissioners Morrow/Todd to approve agenda carried by a vote of 7-0.

PRESENTATIONS / DELEGATIONS

1. Consider Proclamation declaring Sunday, November 1, 2015 to be Retired Educators Day. *City Manager Kenny Smith will address.*

Motion/second by Commissioners McLemore/McCord to approve Proclamation honoring Retired Educators carried 7-0. Commissioner Todd read/presented the Proclamation to James Johnston.

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.

Tammy Daniel, 1200 E. McIntosh Road, Griffin, Georgia

She wanted to urge the City and the Board of Commissioners to consider promoting from within the Police Department to replace the Police Chief who is leaving. She felt there was qualified personnel already in the department who could ascend to the Chief position without favoring outside candidates.

Pastor Milton S. Goggins, Mt. Moriah Baptist Church, 873 E. Solomon Street, Griffin, Georgia

He echoed the previous sentiments of Ms. Daniel, saying he felt we had the talent to promote internally for this position. There are qualified people and an internal promotion would be good for the City. He also complained that utility bills for the City are still too high and, with the holidays approaching, many are really struggling with some having to choose between paying for utilities and being able to buy food.

Chairman Hollberg noted that high utility bills were most often the result of consumption and high usage since there had not been any rate increases. He offered that City staff would be willing to sit down with any customers to discuss their individual bills, inspect equipment and perform energy audits to help identify areas of high usage. Chairman Hollberg gave the pastor contact information to use and pass along to whomever needed individual assistance.

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.

2. Receive comments regarding a request to rezone the property located at 657 North Expressway consisting of 7.03 +/- acres from Planned Commercial Development (PCD) to Institutional (INST), submitted by Barbara Jo Cook on behalf of SCTC Foundation. *Director of Planning and Development Toussaint Kirk will address.*

Mr. Kirk noted the applicant is seeking to rezone property at 657 North Expressway, from Planned Commercial Development (PCD) to Institutional (INST) to expand the college to include the Georgia Film Institute. This constitutes the highest and best use of this property for Southern Crescent Technical College to accommodate their planned film institute training program and is not determined to negatively impact adjacent property owners. Both Planning and Zoning Board and Staff recommend approval as presented. City Attorney Drew Whalen noted the parcel would come off the tax digest since SCTC is a non-profit, but with negligible impact. ***There was no public comment.***

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CONSENT AGENDA

3. Consider approval of the Minutes of the October 13, 2015 Regular Schedule Meeting of the City of Griffin Board of Commissioners.

Motion/second by Commissioners Morrow/McLemore to approve Consent carried 7-0.

REGULAR AGENDA

The Regular Agenda includes items on which the Commission will individually consider and possibly take action.

4. Consider a request to rezone the property located at 657 North Expressway consisting of 7.03 +/- acres from Planned Commercial Development (PCD) to Institutional (INST), submitted by Barbara Jo Cook on behalf of SCTC Foundation. *Director of Planning and Development Toussaint Kirk will address.*

Motion/second by Commissioners Morrow/Todd to approve rezoning carried 7-0.

5. Consider approval, on second reading, of an Ordinance amending the Unified Development Code of the City of Griffin, GA at Article 12, SIGNS, by repealing the current ordinance and adopting a comprehensive revision of sign regulations in lieu thereof. *City Attorney Drew Whalen will address.*

Motion/second by Commissioners Morrow/Reid-Ward to approve on second reading an Ordinance amending the UDC for Article 12, SIGNS, carried 7-0.

6. Consider adoption of an ordinance amending the Code of Griffin, Georgia, at Chapter 58, OFFENSES & MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS, Art. I, IN GENERAL, by enacting a new Sec. 58-13, AGGRESSIVE PANHANDLING; defining such conduct; declaring such conduct to be an offense against the City and providing the sanctions therefor. *City Attorney Drew Whalen and Police Chief Steve Heaton will address.*

Commissioner Morrow asked about the courts' concurrence with this Ordinance. Mr. Whalen felt the City would have their support. Panhandling itself cannot be an offense, but rather only aggressive panhandling, which is what this Ordinance addresses. Aggressive is defined within the Ordinance. Police officers will be specially trained on this topic, as well.

Motion/second by Commissioners Todd/Reid-Ward to approve, on first reading, the Aggressive Panhandling Ordinance carried 6-1 with Commissioner Flowers opposing.

7. Consider approval of a bid and work agreement with P.F. Moon & Company for the construction and installation of an Adjustable Frequency Drive (AFD) for Still Branch Regional Water Treatment Facility in the amount of \$160,000.00 for Public Works and Utilities. *Director of Public Works and Utilities Brant D. Keller to address.*

Motion/second by Commissioners Morrow/Reid-Ward to approve carried 7-0.

8. Consider agreement with Cirilian, Inc., dba REC1, for the Online Registration Service for City Pavilion Reservation and Payment for the Public Works and Utilities Department. *Director of Public Works and Utilities Brant D. Keller will address.*

Motion/second by Commissioners Todd/Reid-Ward to approve carried by a vote of 7-0.

9. Consider approval of that certain GENERAL RELEASE AND INDEMNIFICATION AGREEMENT between Cheryl L. Gilbert and the City of Griffin, settling all claims (present, pending, and unasserted), arising from that certain motor vehicle collision that formed the subject matter of Civil Action File No. 12-SV-345, State Court of Spalding County. *City Attorney Drew Whalen will address.*

Motion/second by Commissioners Morrow/McCord to approve carried by a vote of 7-0.

10. Consider denial of claim by Brenda Shaw for injuries allegedly sustained on September 16, 2015 in the parking garage of the City as Ms. Shaw was leaving City offices. Her notice of claim, filed by attorney Timothy N. Shepherd in a 9/22/15 letter to City Manager Kenny Smith, specified no amount of monetary damages. *City Attorney Drew Whalen will address.*

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Motion/second by Commissioners Morrow/Todd to approve denial of the claim. In response to Commissioner McCord, this denial will allow the petitioner to proceed and start the clock on the process. Motion carried 6-1 with Commissioner McCord opposing.

11. Consider approval of a Resolution to continue as a Certified City of Ethics. City Manager Kenny Smith will address.

Motion/second by Commissioners Reid-Ward/McCord to approve carried 7-0.

12. Consider approval of travel request of Vice Chair Dick Morrow to attend the MEAG Power Mayors' Summit November 13-15, 2015. City Manager Kenny Smith to address.

Motion/second by Commissioners Todd/Reid-Ward to approve carried by a vote of 7-0.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

The City Manager will update the Commission on pending items, upcoming workshops, meetings, conferences and other pertinent issues.

- Halloween celebration in the City will be Thursday, October 29, 2015 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. if anyone wants to participate. Employees will be handing out candy to the children.
- November 7 is the City Employee Picnic in City Park at Pavilion #2 across from golf course.
- November 19 is graduation for the Citizens Government Academy, Welcome Center, 6:30 p.m.

CITY COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioners will provide updates regarding issues of interest from their respective districts and/or committee reports.

Flowers - No comments.

Reid-Ward - No comments.

Morrow - He complimented the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Oaks at Park Pointe. He is proud of Robert Dull's leadership and vision. He commended Commissioner Reid-Ward, who sits on that Board, for her leadership and support.

Todd - She complimented Robert Dull and all involved with the ribbon cutting for the Oaks at Park Pointe, as well as the vision for this entire area. This project is in her 4th District, and it complements the City of Griffin beautifully. Commissioner Todd hoped that everyone was able to hear the speech of Ms. Eula Redding. Ms. Redding's lifetime body of work as a volunteer in the Meriwether Homes area exemplifies her wonderful servant's heart.

McLemore - No comments.

McCord - No comments.

Hollberg - He urged all to vote November 3. He congratulated Griffin Power on getting power restored over the past day or so, and he thanked visitors to this meeting.

ADJOURN

Motion/second by Commissioners Reid-Ward/Todd to adjourn at 6:26 p.m. carried 7-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kenny L. Smith, City Manager/Secretary

Accepted:

Douglas S. Hollberg, Chairperson