

CITY OF GRIFFIN BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING
ONE GRIFFIN CENTER, W. ELMER GEORGE MUNICIPAL HALL
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2016

Chairperson Dick Morrow presided, calling the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Commissioners attending: Cynthia Reid-Ward, Doug Hollberg, Ryan McLemore, Cora Flowers, David Brock and Rodney McCord. 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 Commissioner Hollberg
Approval of Agenda - *Motion/Second by Commissioners Hollberg/McLemore to approve carried 7-0.*

PRESENTATIONS / DELEGATIONS

- 1. Consider Proclamation declaring February 14, 2016 to be Rotary Has Heart Day in Griffin, Georgia. *Several club members will be present to accept the Proclamation on behalf of Rotary.*

Terry Colling, Tommy Jones, Stephanie Windham, William Johnston, and Allen Edwards were present to receive the Proclamation which was read by Chairman Morrow. Pictures were made and Rotarians thanked the Board for this recognition.

- 2. Consider Proclamation declaring February 24, 2016 to be Arbor Day 2016 in the City of Griffin. *Bob Rice will accept the Proclamation on behalf of the City of Griffin’s Environmental Council.*

Mr. Bob Rice, member of the City of Griffin Environmental Council, was present to accept the Proclamation which was read by Commissioner Brock. Pictures were made and the Board thanked.

- 3. Recognize Serena Panter, with the Customer Service Department, as the January 2016 "Strongest Link" award recipient. *Electric Director Bill Bosch will address.*

Bill Bosch, Director of Griffin Power, introduced Laura Stewart, Manager of Customer Service, who nominated Ms. Panter for this Strongest Link award. Ms. Stewart said Serena Panter has been with the Customer Service Department for a number of years, moving easily from Cashier to CSR I/Phone Rep, then to CSR II, her current position. Her Customer Service skills are excellent and her attitude positive and upbeat. Customer Service receives numerous compliments about her service. Recently a customer sent in a letter to the Griffin Daily News, which was published. In addition to her excellent customer service skills, Serena assists by making account adjustments as needed. Although strictly monitored, Serena’s demonstrated performance, professionalism, organizational skills and meticulous nature result in another job well done in this area. Finally, Ms. Panter acts as Trainer for Customer Service where she trains our new Cashiers and CS I/Phone Reps. She has worked to “standardize” the training of each area and create a training manual for Customer Service using her notes, forms and worksheets. Ms. Stewart concluded that Serena epitomizes the Strongest Link in the Chain.

Mr. Bosch said he was proud of the buy-in for Customer Service and their adoption of the “we own it” attitude for issues. He summarized that Serena goes way beyond whatever is expected of her. Ms. Panter was presented with the link, and Chairman Morrow presented her with a hand-made birdhouse.

- 4. Review Financial reports for December 2015. *Chief Financial Officer Markus Schwab will address.*

Mr. Schwab presented the financial statements through December (50% of the fiscal year) and offered to answer questions. The Chairman commended Mr. Schwab and his staff on their reporting.

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.

Pastor Milton Goggins, Griffin
In response to Pastor Goggins’ request and for the benefit of those in attendance who were not present at the last meeting (January 26), the Chairman recapped the selection process for the new Police Chief, noting the selection committee members by name. Rev. Goggins said they received so many phone calls about

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the controversial background of the newly hired Chief of Police. Three in-house applicants were qualified and he felt there had been no need to even open it up to the outside. These employees have long histories of diligent service to the City and he felt the City should have looked more deliberately at these candidates. He did not feel the process was fair. Mr. Smith advised that two of the three who applied were eliminated by the Chiefs' Association who narrowed the original pool to eight and then further. Pastor Goggins acknowledged time constraints tonight and invited City Commissioners to community events where they can talk with no limitations. The inside employee would connect better with community residents and be a better choice. Also, he questioned why the City could not open up jobs more, get new jobs to the City and help others, since unemployment is a large problem in the area.

Commissioner Hollberg said Board members do get involved individually in mentoring youth already on several levels. He noted that many of the at-risk youth make and continue to make poor choices. When he speaks to or interacts with local youth, he urges them to stay in school, to not do drugs, to get educated and to steer clear of criminal behaviors. This would go a long way toward improving their circumstance.

Chairman Morrow said much work already is going on in the area of economic development and has produced many new jobs to the community.

Pastor Goggins said he knew that lots of folks are going out of town for jobs, and all of them are not engaged in at-risk behavior. He felt the City could do a lot more to help.

Reginald Watts, Griffin

As a concerned citizen, he started visiting the identified "high crime areas" about 6-7 months ago. He does not trust the Police Department. Officers sometimes point out the bad guy(s) in these areas and leave with no action taken. He won't support anyone he does not believe in, and he felt the people they elected have turned their backs on them. He urged everyone to not just say, but do, what is in the best interest of the City. The City of Griffin is divided.

Vice Chair McCord said everyone should understand the process. No one on the Board of Commissioners selected this Police Chief. He, as one commissioner, has made it crystal clear that he wanted to see a promotion from within, and he agreed that if the City was going to educate and train its officers to advance, they should let them advance. The City Manager, Mr. Watts and himself met and discussed this. He clarified that the City Manager selected the committee and not the Board. Vice Chair McCord said he does bring the concerns of his constituents to the table and does not perpetuate misinformation. Day-to-day operations are handled by the City Manager. In this instance, the City Manager went above and beyond to choose a cross section of people from the community to identify a candidate. The new Chief has a remarkable story he heard himself, and he urged attendees to not believe everything they read in social media. Chief Yates will need to sell his own story. He has spoken with Reverends Lacy and Hinton, as well as other pastors. Wherever we need to go from here, we need to be about building and not tearing down. The majority of people have spoken on the process; he wished the internal officers had scored higher but noted that was not what transpired. We can keep trying to divide but that will be detrimental.

Mr. Watts said personal responsibility is key and the majority of kids in his community are good kids and not of the sort described earlier by one commissioner. He acknowledged that he and Mr. McCord had met at City Hall, but reminded Vice Chair McCord that he was not particularly happy after that meeting.

Shaheer Beyah

He asked that the City not bring up the NAACP any more as that, in itself, is racist. They felt to include her (Ms. Jewel Walker-Harps) was wrong. The whole process should never have happened and he said it was not fair. This process should have never taken place. Mr. Smith's rationale doesn't hold water. Why not pick someone from within the department at a time when everyone seems to be having race relation issues now. While others are trying to eradicate this problem, we are bringing in someone to perpetuate it. He has never advocated selecting an African American for police chief, but merely to choose someone from within. One commissioner said the Board told Mr. Smith they did not want a police chief from within. What is the truth? We hire from other places ... some have proven to be good and some not. Here is someone with a proven record (Daniel) and chances are greater that he will be effective. He has heard that the City Manager will straighten it out if the choice proves to not be the correct one, but at what cost? It will cost taxpayer money, and he prays nothing will happen to cause a big problem and bring the poor choice to light. He again stated he was not on the agenda although he asked a week ago, and that is not right. He concluded by saying he will not support this Chief (Yates).

Pastor Rafael Hodo, Griffin

Rev. Hodo stated the choice has been made, fair or not. He talked with Chief Yates today for over two hours. He seems to be a good guy, but talk is cheap. Now he's in office so we need to see what he can do. As a young black man raised here, Rev. Hodo wants to see action from the Chief. All kids are not bad as

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noted previously by Commissioner Hollberg; they just need assistance to make change. He noted that he's 25 and represents the need for change. He preaches and teaches, works in outreach and community programs in an effort to pull together and bring about change. If there is no change, and something happens, he cautioned that would not be his problem but rather the Board's. He provided contact information should Commissioners desire to talk with him.

Tomeco Witcher White, Griffin

She has the building at five points station and has taken that structure from being considered for demolition to now improving circumstances for the community and for the youth. About 90% of all who come are ex-convicts. No one else in the community really reaches out to them; they just dish out free food, clothes, etc. They have no jobs or education. She is one woman doing what she can to make a difference, with help of God Almighty and her husband. He is an internationally known firefighter but denied by the City's Fire Department, and the hiring person said he was over qualified. They gave the Fire Chief position to someone else. She will do whatever she can. She teaches no sagging, no drinking, no drugs, and no crime. It appears the City of Griffin is just trying to shut every black business down. She is not here to fight but rather to say this is inappropriate behavior and why can't we just have a great city and get along? She is tired of so much hatred and negativity. Adults should be doing what is right and raising expectations. She loves everyone and sees past the hate. We need to get more down to earth and put our money where our mouths are to make a difference ... all of us.

Rose Curtis, Griffin

She wanted to address the hiring of this new police chief. Chavis Carter in Jonesboro, Arkansas was searched twice, handcuffed behind his back but somehow managed to be shot in the temple in the back of a police car, and this is same Police Chief we brought to Griffin. This Chief does not like blacks. He said himself that he has an anger problem and he apologized for being that way. Although the process may have been fair and he probably had the most qualifications, he did not have the character. She addressed Commissioners Flowers and Reid-Ward, noting they were elected by black districts but have not been very responsive in representing them. She asked where Commissioners Flowers, Ward and McCord were for these rallies and meetings of late, noting they were not present for any of them. Ms. Curtis stated the only time she saw these commissioners was when they were soliciting the district's vote. She commented that the City chose him (Chief Yates) because they don't like Homer Daniel. It was her opinion that the Commission could have stopped this from happening. They will come back bigger and stronger, she noted.

Chairman Morrow asked that there be no more personal attacks.

Rev. Wendell Bell, Griffin

Rev. Bell stated he lives in the area and has never seen Commissioner Flowers at any community event. The Board made a wrong decision. Taxpayers are unhappy they have no part in the choice. Commissioner Ward responded that voting was their choice; that is how they ensure their representation. They do not do much to deter crime, but rather just spend a lot of money. The City is actually making youth do wrong just by going around and harassing them since there are no jobs in the City, and this action comes from the City Commission. More jobs are needed for the youth.

Commissioner Flowers noted that she is the one who has gone to the City and its Human Resource Department, requesting that they relax hiring criteria to accommodate those who may have blemished records. She advocated for the City to relax its requirements in an effort to help those Rev. Bell mentions. Rev. Bell stated this was just getting out of hand.

Zach Holmes, Griffin

Mr. Holmes stated that no matter how educated, talented or rich one becomes, it's how you treat people that tells all. Integrity is everything. Citizens are concerned, evidenced by how he gets questioned and approached all the time about this issue. The process we have heard so much about was not used to hire the two previous chiefs. A reverse discrimination lawsuit against the City is still pending, and the Board has to deal with that. Homer Daniel treats people right and has the support of this community. People remember how they were treated. He concluded by urging Commissioners to do something positive and give Homer Daniel the job vacated by Frank Strickland (Director of Public Safety).

Shannon Herring, Griffin

She has sat through this and the last meeting, in addition to attending many board, committees, and authority meetings in general. She home-schooled and brought her children along, too, to witness civil government at work. She taught her children that they have a voice. As a citizen who has sat through almost every meeting, she observed that: 1) Meetings are always open to every citizen in the city and the surrounding community, 2) Evening meetings and morning meetings both allow for public comment, 3) Commissioners are available by phone and, if not, you can talk to the City Manager's office, and 4) While

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she has not always agreed with everything done by the City Commission, she has had civil discourse. She urged others to do what she has done in the past: put her money where her mouth was. She ran for a City Commission seat and came in third out of three. Yet she has remained active and still comes to meetings. She was disappointed and offended by many of the comments made tonight. Even though a Christian, she has failed many times. She has been angry and expressed anger. She has sinned and asked for forgiveness. She advocates not judging others by single actions but rather the whole package. She is trying to be a better person. She hasn't met Chief Yates yet but has read the same things as others have mentioned. She felt it was a fair process. She has attended when no one else was here. She is disappointed that some are making judgments about the Board and the Chief when they have not invested the time to get to know Chief Yates and even Commission members. Many have the same goals as we have heard others mention. She has lived here 20 years. This is her and her children's home town. She concluded by asking that people stop with the personal attacks and set aside the anger, finger-pointing, and name-calling and instead try to mend fences. This negative rhetoric does not make things better. We need to put actions where our words are. It is our right to vote, but a 10% turnout is not a positive commentary on how seriously we take this responsibility and privilege. She thanked the Board for their tolerance and listening.

Cynthia Reid-Ward, Griffin

She, as a City Commissioner and citizen, apologized to the Board for what they have had to endure. They have collectively showed remarkable restraint, although they have been called racists, liars and un-Christian. She has served this City for 14 years. She has, over the years, called on many churches (and the City has over 300) to do community work in some of the worst areas but she can count on one hand the churches who have responded. There are many challenges but as a citizen, she is pleased with the amount of industry coming to this town and what this Board does to make things happen to improve the area economically and in other areas. She has no problem with the hiring of Chief Yates. He was identified by the process as the most qualified. Further as to her absence from community gatherings of late, no one has called her to ask for anything, for her presence, or to request that she talk to anyone. After the last meeting (January 26, 2016), she went home and reflected; she was embarrassed and hurt. There are ways to effectively present things but many citizens attacked personally, calling us names and talking about us on Facebook. She was displeased they also talked about Ms. Walker-Harps in this process. Commissioner Reid-Ward noted she has two more years to serve and her seat becomes available to any registered voter of age. She challenged those present to find someone to run for her seat. That would pose no problem and if someone can determine a block of voting delegates to win the seat, she wished them luck. She is proud to have worked with this Board. Everyone understands his/her role and, for the most part, works well together. The City Manager had his reason for going outside the usual method to hire for this position. And, for the record, former Chief Strickland helped to hire Kenny Smith as City Manager and not the other way around as has been stated. She has heard that a commissioner kept someone from getting the job they desired because "they" did not like them, but this is not true. The City Commissioner has nothing to do with who the City Manager hires. Where she lives and her phone number is public knowledge. She invited anyone to call at any time. She again apologized, but she is disgruntled and past being embarrassed now. Now she is furious. With two more years to serve, she hopes she will be able to do what she has always tried to do ... represent the citizens in her district and in the City well.

Leroy White, Griffin

He questioned the City's application for temporary use and stated he needs definition. Businesses downtown are not allowed to show their items on the street. Mr. Whalen instructed Mr. White to contact Planning & Development first as the Board has no jurisdiction is this departmental administrative matter.

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.

5. Receive comments regarding a resolution to rename that portion of Pimento Avenue that begins at Meriwether Street and ends at Park Road to Park Road. *Director of Planning & Development Services Toussaint Kirk will address.*

Mr. Kirk said part of the rebranding of this area was to rename on-site streets. He referenced the map provided and stated the Housing Authority requests this action to accommodate revitalization of this corridor and area. They notified land owners in November and again recently, citing the hearing and consideration of this action tonight. He replied to Chairman Morrow that the affected property owners include one business, one church and a couple of residences. There were no objections received, and

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a 90-day extension will be in place to accommodate this name change. The tanning company referenced the prohibitive cost of correcting letterhead, business cards and other printed materials.

Robert Dull, Griffin

Mr. Dull, CEO of the Griffin Housing Authority said they wanted to take advantage of redevelopment efforts in the Park District. They have purchased properties at Meriwether and Pimento, including the former flea market, in an effort to make the corridor more attractive and to ensure greenspace. Meriwether Street was deeded to the City as green corridor; promoting green development, and they desire to continue this down Park Road. New signage, road improvements and golf course/park maintenance will make this area more identifiable with this branding and enhance its attraction.

There were no further comments.

CONSENT AGENDA

6. Consider approval of Minutes of the January 26, 2016 Workshop and the January 26, 2016 Regular Schedule Meeting. Consider approval of Minutes of the January 26, 2016 Workshop and the January 26, 2016 Regular Schedule Meeting.

Motion/Second by Commissioners Hollberg/McLemore to approve Minutes of the January 26 Workshop and Regular Meeting carried by a vote of 7-0.

7. Consider, on second reading, an Ordinance amending the Code of Griffin, GA a Chapter 78, STREETS, SIDEWALKS & OTHER PUBLIC PLACES by enacting a new Article IV, UTILITY ACCOMODATION POLICY AND ISSUANCE OF RIGHT-OF-WAY PERMITS. *City Attorney Drew Whalen will address.*

Motion/Second by Commissioners Hollberg/McLemore to approve this Amendment on second reading carried by a vote of 7-0.

8. Consider, on second reading, an Ordinance amending the Code of Griffin at Chapter 2, ADMINISTRATION, and the Unified Development Code at Article 4, PROCEDURES, by clearing stating the City's intention to not discriminate on any cognizable basis in its service delivery, including the approval of licenses, permits, and other regulatory approvals. *City Attorney Drew Whalen will address.*

Motion/Second by Commissioners McCord/Brock to approve this Amendment on second reading carried by a vote of 7-0.

REGULAR AGENDA

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

9. Consider a resolution to rename that portion of Pimento Avenue that begins at Meriwether Street and ends at Park Road to Park Road. *Director of Planning & Development Services Toussaint Kirk will address.*

Motion/Second by Commissioners Hollberg/Flowers to approve carried by a vote of 7-0.

10. Consider execution of agreement with Grant Specialist of Georgia Inc. to prepare the City of Griffin's FY2016 Community Home Investment Program (CHIP) Grant application to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA). *Planning and Development Services Director Toussaint Kirk will address.*

Motion/Second by Commissioners McCord/Flowers to approve carried by a vote of 7-0.

11. Request approval to purchase a canine from Detection Dogs of America LLC and amend the budget accordingly. *Chief Michael Yates will address.*
This item has been requested to be withdrawn from agenda consideration.

12. Consider approval to allow MEAG Power to continue to make voluntary deposits into the City of Griffin Flexible Short Term Portfolio and the New Generation and Capacity Intermediate Portfolio and authorize Chairperson and City Manager to complete the election form. *Electric Director Bill Bosch will address.*

Motion/Second by Commissioners Hollberg/McLemore to approve carried by a vote of 7-0.

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13. Consider approval of the upgrade and install of fiber by Four Seasons Cable to substation 8 across from The Lakes at Green Valley for the cost of \$27,000. *Electric Director Bill Bosch will address.* This fiber upgrade will help with possible new customers and substation communications, as well.

Motion/Second by Commissioners Hollberg/McLemore to approve carried by a vote of 7-0.

14. Appoint one (1) member to the Griffin Environmental Council to fill the unexpired three-year term of Alan Stanfield, set to expire 12/31/16.

Nomination by Commissioners Hollberg to consider Tim Jones. Motion/Second to close nominations by Commissioners Hollberg/Brock carried 7-0. Tim Jones to serve by acclimation.

15. Consider a Resolution approving the issuance of \$8,930,000 General Obligation Sales Tax Bonds, Series 2016A, and \$700,000 Taxable General Obligation Sales Tax Bonds, Series 2016B. *City Attorney Drew Whalen, Bond Counsel Jon Pannell and Bill Camp, Raymond James Underwriter, will address.*

Mr. Whalen said Resolution A actually totaled \$8,990,000 and \$725,000 for Resolution B. If passed tonight, they can be signed after the meeting. Interest is 1.1% over six years with no growth projected.

Motion/Second by Commissioners McCord/Brock to approve carried by a vote of 7-0.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORTS

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

- We placed the 2016 GMA Training Brochure showing all available classes in each of your boxes. Please review and identify what courses you may be interested in taking – Ms. Watson has printed out transcripts for everyone and will be happy to assist you in getting registered for any training sessions you may desire.
- In Griffin on Tuesday, 2-16-16, at 2:30, in the 3rd Floor Conference Room, will be the new CEO of MEAG, Jim Fuller; MEAG COO, Doug Lego; and our district rep, Holly Besig. We will discuss MEAG updates and Griffin's current standing in the market. Our new electric director, Dan Thompson will also be present. I invite you to attend this important meeting, and please let me know of your plans as I may have to advertise and post if we expect a quorum to be present.
- The Vogtle tour is scheduled for Thursday, February 18. Chairman Morrow and Commissioners Reid-Ward and Flowers will be attending. If anyone else desires to go, please contact our office.
- Please remember the Annual GOALS Workshop at UGA Gardens, 2-23-16 beginning at 9 a.m. An agenda for that workshop will be forthcoming shortly.
- City Attorney Whalen had no comment.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

District 1, Cynthia Reid-Ward:

Again, Commissioner Reid-Ward apologized to the Board and to citizens. She was pulled to a place she really does not like to go tonight, and she was sorry she lost her composure, which is out of character for her now. Chief Yates is the Police Chief, but nothing else about our Police Department has changed, either administratively or with personnel. We have the same officers, same admin other than the Chief, and the same department. Much progress has been made and she could not visualize him disrupting operations all around. Given that nothing has changed except the Chief position, she questioned why some think it will be bad. Do they think it was already bad? Rational minds know better. She is okay with the process. In her 14 years, she has tried to ensure that hard decisions are ones she can live with. She met Chief Yates and felt a connection, and she stands by the choice. The process was to select the best and most qualified person for the job, and she felt that happened. She will work with him in the community to help bring about positive change. Some have stated they would not work with him, but she does not truly believe that. This is mostly a good community and she believes they will work to bring about good, as she will.

District 2, Cora Flowers:

Commissioner Flowers doesn't have much to say usually. She is, though, very mindful of others, how you make people feel and how well you are able to sleep at night. Evidently this is not a universal concept. People have not been mindful and considerate. Her feelings are not hurt but she was utterly bothered and disappointed with most of the rhetoric tonight. Much of the comments involved the Board and were of anger and disdain. The City Commission has always been open to citizens, but feelings are raw. There was no prejudice in this decision and no bias, except to search for the best candidate for our City. They have worked to ensure that whoever comes to Griffin will be for the benefit of Griffin. She, too, has met Chief Yates and she asked what he was going to do. He will be responsible for managing his own department and, when asked about his philosophy, he states he wants to make Griffin safe. That applies to all who live

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in her district and everywhere else. This position involved more than just being against crime. She feels very satisfied with his appointment, despite comments she has heard and read. His intention is to make Griffin a better place, and that should be the goal of all of us. Commissioner McCord earlier stated the method desired may not all be the same, but the overall intention is the same, and she agrees. She urged everyone to look at the big picture and try to find cohesiveness. She thanked the Board, saying she appreciated their team concept and motives. She would never have disrespected people as she has been disrespected tonight. At the last meeting, this Board was deliberate to let citizens have their say and even attack. However, the tone of this conversation tonight is problematic. There was no cause for such personal verbal assaults. She is comfortable with the selection process and noted the Board was fully informed, going into process. There is no blame here, but rather different layers of responsiveness. Everyone involved in the process consciously made a decision and stands behind it. As the conversation progresses, we must have open dialogue but with our minds and souls at peace. Is the new Chief perfect? Maybe not, as none of us are, but that will come to light as we allow him to demonstrate his personal and professional integrity. She stated she is good with the decision. Personal attacks aside, she is good.

District 3, Ryan McLemore:

The Archway Retreat in Carrollton was very positive, he felt. He was encouraged to see where vision and dreams can be achieved with some collaboration and hard work.

District 4, David Brock:

As representative for District 4 for two months now, he has had only one phone call from a constituent. No one is calling and asking questions regarding this appointment, at least not any directed to him. Board members are accessible, so he urged citizens to let us hear from them.

District 5, Chairman Dick Morrow:

The Chairman agreed the Archway Retreat was good and positive. Community working together can accomplish much, and he was proud of this City. He thanked Commissioner Reid-Ward for her comments both as commissioner and as citizen. Some of the trash out there about Chief Yates just clouds the issue, and it amazes him that people believe everything they hear from others or read on the internet as truth. He heard the citizens' comments that they will never accept the Chief because of something that happened or didn't happen in another community. He is our Chief and we should work to make Griffin the best community we can. He was very disappointed at the spreading of discourse and anger over this issue. The new Chief will have to deal with it in his own way, but the Board supports him.

District 6, Vice Chair Rodney McCord:

He asked again about the process for getting a citizen's name on the monument at the golf course. The City Manager said he would follow up on it. Commissioner McCord stated he is always for the first amendment rights of everyone, but he did not like the disrespect shown tonight. As a native who loves his community, Commissioner McCord appreciates all concerns, but he encouraged speaking positively and being protective of this community. He may not always be in concert with everyone else, but you can agree to disagree courteously. For the most part, the City Commission works well together and even when they disagree, they do it respectfully. He reminded those in attendance that everyone is a commissioner for the City essentially. They can be good ambassadors and get through these times of differences.

At-Large, Doug Hollberg:

He reminded everyone that Kiwanis Pancake Day is this Saturday, February 13. Also, Boy Scouts are passing out food bags to residences and will be collecting those donations this Saturday, as well. He agreed the Archway Intergovernmental Retreat in Carrollton was outstanding and encouraging. Archway is sponsoring Young Professionals with an opportunity to get together on February 8 from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. at the Spalding County Athletic Hall of Fame. Commissioner Hollberg commended the Board for its courage and offered to speak with anyone, anytime, regarding his vision and dream for Griffin.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion/Second by Commissioners Hollberg/McLemore to adjourn at 8:02 p.m. carried 7-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kenny L. Smith, City Manager/Secretary

Accepted:

Dick Morrow, Chairperson