

CITY OF GRIFFIN BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING  
ONE GRIFFIN CENTER, W. ELMER GEORGE MUNICIPAL HALL  
TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2016

Chairperson Dick Morrow presided, calling the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Commissioners attending were 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.*

<b>PRESENTATIONS / DELEGATIONS</b>
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- 1. Dennis Weems, City business owner, desires to address City Commissioners regarding the adverse impact on his business of recent construction along the Meriwether Corridor.

Mr. Dennis Weems, 528 Meriwether Street, Griffin, Georgia  
He requested that the Board consider granting him a hardship status for his barber shop on Meriwether Street and award some form of monetary compensation due to construction on the Meriwether Corridor in recent weeks. His customers, for at least the whole month of February, have had difficulty reaching his business.

Chairman Morrow asked if Mr. Weems could document what his sales were for a comparable period of time without the construction versus what it has been during construction to justify his claim. Mr. Weems provided some information and the Chair directed him to leave it with the City Manager for review.

- 2. Recognize Emily Blackmon, Police Officer with the Police Department, as the February 2016 "Strongest Link" award recipient. *Police Chief Mike Yates will address.*

Police Chief Yates said he was proud to submit Patrolman Emily Blackmon of the Griffin Police Department for the City of Griffin’s “Strongest Link in the Chain” for February 2016, as nominated by MPO Stacy Beckom.

Since Emily’s career with the Police Department started in late 2014, she has set the bar high in her level of dedication and quality of work. She completed the Field Training Program with exemplary marks and steady improvement in her job knowledge and performance. The person who nominated Emily, MPO Stacy Beckom, noted that as a coworker and trainer, he has seen countless instances that would qualify her for this award, but some notable highlights are as follows.

Emily was the first public safety responder at an apartment fire call on March 21, 2015, where she did not hesitate to enter the apartment building, ensure all apartment occupants were aware of the danger, and assist them with safe evacuation. The Fire Department arrived, and the incident was handled with no injuries and minimal property damage.

In 2015, Emily was selected to be Griffin PD’s nominee for the “Rookie of the Year” award for the entire circuit, presented by the office of District Attorney Scott Ballard. Emily was honored on May 5, 2015 by winning this award for the entire district. This award was the result of her actions during a November 2014 incident where she was first to respond to a sexual assault of a deaf/mute woman. These types of calls are very sensitive, often complicated and difficult, even for seasoned officers. Emily was able to secure valuable evidence at the scene, communicate with the victim in her limited capacity, and ultimately clear the case with identification and arrest of the suspect.

She handled a juvenile problem call with a young boy. Typically, a juvenile problem call may be handled initially and then forgotten; however, Emily did not just handle the immediate issue. Over the next month, she followed up with the young boy and family, investing time and helping him with various school and home issues, resulting in a very positive change in his home life and a very positive image of the City of Griffin’s Police Department. In the case of another young local boy Emily found out he was not going to have much of a Christmas due to unfortunate circumstances. So, Emily merged her professional and her personal life by getting a few friends together and pooling donations. They used their resources to ensure this boy had gifts for Christmas.

The final and most prominent of Emily’s career highlights took place December 27, 2015. On patrol, Emily was flagged down by a civilian on D.F. Fuller Drive, where she encountered an

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unresponsive older man lying on the ground. She checked for a pulse but was unable to locate one. Emily immediately notified dispatch to have EMS on the way and quickly initiated CPR on him. For the next several minutes, Emily provided aid to him with the assistance of a civilian, and only ceased rendering aid when EMS arrived on scene. At this point, a pulse was located and the man's condition stabilized. Emily went to the hospital to get an update on his condition and followed up with the man's family to provide them with as much information as possible. It was, without a doubt, Emily's quick thinking and swift action that saved this man's life.

As you can see, Emily Blackmon demonstrates the highest standards in her work ethic, job knowledge and abilities, attitude and excellent attendance. She provides the citizens of Griffin with the highest quality of service, far beyond what is required. This award is recognition of her continued hard work, dedication and the positive image she projects for the City every day.

3. Review Financial reports for January 2016. *Chief Financial Officer Markus Schwab will address.*

Mr. Schwab began with the cash report, then moved onto the LOST and SPLOST collections report, interim statements by fund, and financial statements. There were no comments other than to express pleasure at the status of the City's finances.

<b>CITIZEN COMMENTS</b>
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*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.*

<b>PUBLIC HEARINGS</b>
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*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.*

4. Receive comments regarding the City of Griffin's request to the Department of Community Affairs for an exception based upon the conflict of interest held by Commissioner Douglas S.Hollberg. *Director of Planning and Development Toussaint Kirk will address.*

Mr. Toussaint Kirk, Director of Planning and Development, read the following into the record:

“The City of Griffin is a Community Development Block Grant applicant for 2016 Public Facility Grant in an amount not to exceed \$500,000.00. 24 CFR Part 85, §85.36(b)(3) states in relevant part “No employee, officer or agent of a grantee or sub-grantee shall participate in the selection, or in the award or administration of a contract supported by Federal funds if a conflict of interest, real or apparent, would be involved.

Commissioner Douglas S. Hollberg, prior to the submission of an application for the grant being considered, has publicly disclosed he, or related persons and/or entities controlled or managed by him, owns one or more tracts of real property within the 2016 CDBG Target Area and has voluntarily recused himself from any further involvement regarding the CDBG application, and, if awarded, its funding or grant administration. In addition, Commissioner has disclaimed any involvement in the process of selecting the target area for the application. The City of Griffin will petition the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, which administers the CDBG program, to issue an exception for the conflict of interest held by Commissioner Hollberg. If the exception is granted, Mr. Hollberg will continue to abstain from participating in or voting on any issue relating to the 2016 CDBG due to his conflict of interest.

CDBG projects must benefit at least 70% low-to-moderate income persons, aid in the prevention of slum and blight, and meet a community need of particular urgency, i.e. in this case, rehabilitating public water and sewer infrastructure. The

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2016 Target Area has been identified through studies as one of the most blighted neighborhoods in the City of Griffin with an inordinately large percentage of housing in rental occupancy. The 2016 CDBG Target Area was selected by the Project Engineer, Public Works Department, and Community Development Department, with guidance from the City's Grant Writing Specialist. The members of the Board of Commissioners played no role in its selection.

Georgia DCA regulations pertaining to CDBG administration require the City advertise and conduct this Public Hearing for the purpose of obtaining citizen involvement in order to complete their review of the City's request for an exception. Persons interested in commenting upon the grant of an exception may do so at this time."

Chairman Morrow noted this was CDBG grant number 8, and any commissioner with a conflict has been duly disclosed in past years, and this year is no exception. There were no public comments.

<b>CONSENT AGENDA</b>
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5. Approval of Minutes of February 23, 2016 Regular Commission Meeting and Workshop.

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

<b>REGULAR AGENDA</b>
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*The Regular Agenda includes items on which the Commission will individually consider and possibly take action.*

6. Consider approval to amend the City of Griffin's Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Operating and Capital Budget in the amount of \$10,722,998.00 for the issuance of 2016 General Obligation Sales Tax (GOST) Bonds. *Chief Financial Officer Markus Schwab will address.*

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

7. Consider approval of a Resolution to submit the 2016 Community Home Investment Program (CHIP) application for \$300,000 to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA). *Director of Planning and Development Services Toussaint Kirk will address.*

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

8. Consider the approval of the rebuild of a backhoe to Wade Tractor in the amount of \$34,415.63 for the Stormwater Department of the Public Works and Utilities Department. *Director of Public Works and Utilities Department Brant D. Keller will address.*

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

9. Consider approval of a Relocation Agreement with Georgia Power for the relocation of a utility pole on SPLOST Project Intersection #1, in the amount of \$8,046.00 for the Public Works and Utilities Department. *Director of Public Works and Utilities Brant D. Keller will address.*

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

10. Consider the approval of Dan Thompson to be primary voting delegate for Electric Cities of Georgia. *Electric Director Dan Thompson will address.*

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

11. Appoint one (1) Citizen at Large representative on behalf of the City to the Board of Health for an unexpired term set to end 12/31/16.

*Commissioner Brock nominated Drew Miller as the sole applicant for this board position. Motion/Second by Commissioners Hollberg/McLemore to close nominations carried 7-0. Mr. Miller was appointed by acclamation.*

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<b>CITY MANAGER’S REPORTS</b>
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*The City Manager will update the Commission on pending items, upcoming workshops, meetings, conferences and other pertinent issues.*

- The GMA registration process for the Annual Conference in Savannah will open Tuesday, 3-15-16, at 9 a.m., so if Commissioners have not already done so ... please get your training session and hotel preferences to Ms. Watson as soon as possible. As you know, the classes fill very quickly with personnel registering about 1000 in the first 30 minutes, and the hotels sell out rapidly as well.
- The rescheduled meeting with the new CEO of MEAG, Jim Fuller; MEAG COO, Doug Lego; and our district rep, Holly Besig, has been set for Monday, March 21 at 2 p.m. in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room. 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. I will advertise as a Special Called Meeting and post that we may have a quorum present.
- City Attorney Drew Whalen had no comment.

<b>COMMISSIONER REPORTS</b>
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**District 1, Cynthia Reid-Ward:**

No comment.

**District 2, Cora Flowers:**

No comment.

**District 3, Ryan McLemore:**

No comment.

**District 4, David Brock:**

No comment.

**District 5, Chairman Dick Morrow:**

No

**District 6, Vice Chair Rodney McCord:**

Commissioner McCord noted with sadness the passing of local beloved educator Mrs. Georgie McCrary Matchett, He will attend her funeral this Friday and present a proclamation honoring her legacy.

**At-Large, Doug Hollberg:**

No comment.

<b>ADJOURNMENT</b>
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*Motion/second by Commissioners Hollberg/McLemore to adjourn at 6:20 p.m. carried 7-0.*

Respectfully Submitted,

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Kenny L. Smith, City Manager/Secretary

Accepted:

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Dick Morrow, Chairperson