

CITY OF GRIFFIN BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR SCHEDULE MEETING  
ONE GRIFFIN CENTER, W. ELMER GEORGE MUNICIPAL HALL  
TUESDAY, May 24, 2016

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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 Reid-Ward  
Invocation ..... Commissioner Hollberg

Approval of Agenda - *Motion/second by Commissioners McCord/Brock to approve carried 7-0.*

**PRESENTATIONS / DELEGATIONS**

1. Recognize Griffin Police Department for receiving the Gold Standard Award from the Commission on Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). *Lou Dekmar, Chief of Public Safety for the City of LaGran.ge and Past-Chair of the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, will present.*

Mr. Dekmar thanked the Board and the Griffin Police Department. A team of law enforcement practitioners came unannounced to Griffin and researched, interviewed and assessed, producing a report that was then used to verify the findings. A unanimous decision was to confer reaccreditation status to the Griffin Police Department, and he emphasized this is not a rubber stamp process. Fewer than 1000 of the 18,000 agencies receive this accreditation. The Griffin PD opened itself up to peer review and scrutiny, and today the issue of transparency is critical. Mr. Dekmar cited many of the statistics that are the norm around the country. Oftentimes we find ourselves confronted with a reality that is very different from public perception, particularly with regard to use of force and police-involved shootings. Approval ratings for law enforcement officers have declined somewhat but is still relatively high. Based on reports, that public perception is quite often based on experiences with the local law enforcement entities, and the Griffin PD can be proud of itself.

Mr. Dekmar, along with Mayor Morrow, Chief Yates, and Accreditation Officer Eddie Bogan, presented the framed certificate for this gold standard award. Pictures were made and Mr. Dekmar concluded with a thank you to staff and the City Manager, as well. Chief Yates particularly thanked Mr. Bogan for his efforts in this area. Chairman Morrow and the Board congratulated all.

2. Recognize four officers from the Griffin Police Department who received awards at the Annual District Attorney's Annual Officer Award Banquet held on Tuesday, May 17, 2016. *Police Chief Michael Yates to address.*

Chief Yates recognized those who were honored by the District Attorney's Office for this multiple county district. Two of the officers received "The Heart of a Hero" award: Emily Blackmon and Chris Wilson. Also, Kelley McKinney received a Compassion for Victims award for her efforts in going the extra mile in dealing with children. Another officer, Reginald Sutton, is extremely involved in community activities and received the "Community Service Award," but is on vacation at the moment and could not attend.

**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 speakers forthcoming.**

**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.*

3. Receive comments regarding the proposed budgets for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2016 and ending June 30, 2017. City Manager Kenny Smith will address.

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City Manager Smith noted the budget has been published for about ten days now, and an extensive review at this morning's workshop noted particular highlights. There will be an additional public hearing on June 14 and adoption of the budget for FY 2016-17 will be considered on June 14, 2016. There is no tax increase and city services are adequately covered. **There were no speakers.**

<b>CONSENT AGENDA</b>
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4. Consider approval of Minutes of May 10, 2016 Regular Monthly Meeting of the Board of Commissioners.
5. Consider, on second reading, approval of an Ordinance amending the Code of Griffin, Georgia, at Chapter 46, FIRE PREVENTION & PROTECTION, by enacting a new Art. 5, CONSUMER FIREWORKS; SPECIAL USE PERMITS, commencing with new Sec. 46-60. *City Attorney Drew Whalen will address.*
6. Consider approval, on second reading, an Ordinance establishing the term of the office of Municipal Court Judge at one (1) year, commencing January 1 of each year, or until a successor is appointed; establishing the compensation for the office; and removing the Commission's power to remove the Judge without cause. *City Attorney Drew Whalen will address.*

***Motion/second by Commissioners Hollberg/McLemore to approve Consent Agenda carried 7-0.***

<b>REGULAR AGENDA</b>
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*The Regular Agenda includes items the Commission may individually consider and possibly act upon.*

7. Consider approval of a request for a special use permit to construct single family homes on five (5) lots on Lynn Lane submitted by Square Foot Ministries. *Toussaint Kirk, Director of Planning and Development, will address.*

***Motion/second by Commissioners Reid-Ward/Flowers to approve the Special Use Permit as noted.*** Commissioner McLemore questioned if Milton 3 was the plan being proposed. The facades and elevations were different for the three homes, so all three were up for approval. He noted that discussions were interesting after the previous meeting. He spent 1.5 hours going over the lots with Mr. McCormick after the last meeting, and the end result of that conversation was a sort of meeting of the minds without too much in the way of contradictions. Block development, he felt, should be taking an entire block and redeveloping it in order to have that area appreciate in value and quality of life. Focusing on just a part of block development doesn't do that, but that doesn't mean we can't approve this and go do the rest of the block improvement after moving forward with this component. We hope to improve this area and the merging of the lots brings them much more in line with other areas. He appreciated the developers' willingness to work and he proposed a further challenge for them to add more character to the homes they build/rebuild. So, while he favored the approval of this request, he would like to see them use this as an impetus for changing not only these few homes but the entire two block area to get rid of blight and take a systematic approach at total redevelopment. The Square Foot Ministries issue actually highlighted some of the problems and resulted in a productive dialogue that will hopefully continue positively.

Commissioner Hollberg was concerned that we got cart before the horse. He would like to see the City do away with substandard housing first and then build/rebuild with new product that will be sustainable. He was not so much against this proposal but more toward the overall approach the City is taking to combat blight.

Chairman Morrow said his feelings were aligned with those of Commissioner McLemore.  
***Motion carried 7-0.***

8. Consider for approval the engagement letters for audit services with independent auditors, Mauldin & Jenkins, Certified Public Accountants. *Administrative Services Director Markus Schwab will address.*

***Motion/second by Commissioners Hollberg/Reid-Ward to approve carried 7-0***

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9. Consider approval to amend the City of Griffin's Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Operating and Capital Budget in the amount of \$39,560 for the purchase of the golf course property from the Griffin-Spalding Airport Authority. *Chief Financial Officer Markus Schwab will address.*

***Motion/second by Commissioners Hollberg/McCord to approve carried 7-0.***

10. Consider a Resolution to amend the City of Griffin Fiscal Year 2016 Operating and Capital budget in the amount of \$3,530.00 in the General Fund for Accounting. *Chief Financial Officer Markus Schwab will address.*

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

11. Consider an Agreement for Expansion and Lease of Fiber Optic Cable between City of Griffin and Atlantic Fiber Networks (AFN). *Chief Technology Officer Jack Poland will address.*

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

12. Designate Electric Director Dan Thompson as voting delegate for Georgia Public Web to replace Bill Bosch. *Electric Director Dan Thompson will address.*

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

13. Consider approval to purchase 5 Teledyne Isco Sewer Flow Meters from Kazmier & Associates in the amount of \$44,295.00 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/McCord to approve carried 7-0.***

14. Consider, on first reading, an Ordinance amending the Code of Griffin at Chapter 30, CEMETERIES, to revise provisions relating to interment of human remains within the city; disturbance of cemeteries, burial grounds, human remains, and burial objects; and rules and regulations for use and maintenance of City owned and maintained cemeteries, sale of burial rights, etc. *City Attorney Drew Whalen and Dr. Brant Keller, Director of Public Works & Utilities will address.*

This is the first time a comprehensive rewrite of cemetery code has occurred since 1968. As for City-owned cemeteries, we will rewrite the rules and regulations for those and present them as a Resolution at the same time we adopt this Ordinance on second reading.

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

15. Consider approval of Section 5311 Public Transportation Service Agreement with Three Rivers Regional Commission (TRRC) for operation of the Three Rivers Regional Transit System and appropriate \$6650 for the purpose of providing public transportation services within the city for FY 2017. *City Manager Kenny Smith will address.*

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

16. Consider the purchase of .33 acres of property at 302 Tuskegee Ave (parcel # 003B01006) in the amount of \$10,000 and .08 acres of adjoining property at 222 Tuskegee Ave. (parcel # 003B01005A) in the amount of \$1000, from Dennis J. Dunn, and amend the budget accordingly. Total purchase price of \$11,000 plus closing cost to come from Commission Contingency, *City Manager Kenny Smith will address.*

These properties are not part of the transportation project but are adjacent to the project area.

***Motion/second by Commissioners Brock/McCord to approve carried 7-0.***

17. Consider the purchase of the following parcels of property on Ellis Road / Baker Street for the relocation of the Griffin Fire-Rescue headquarters, in the total amount of \$425,000, plus fees and closing cost, using 2016 SPLOST funds:  
Parcel # - 061-11003 .45 ac 1424 Ellis Road  
Parcel # - 061-11006 .45 ac 1420 Ellis Road

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Parcel # - 061-11009 .45 ac 1404 Ellis Road  
Parcel # - 061-11015 .45 ac 1431 Baker St.  
Parcel # - 061-11013 .45 ac 1417 Baker St  
Parcel # - 061-11018 .48 ac Baker St. (LT 14 & 15 BLK B)

These funds are SPLOST monies but are bonded. Sales contract is contingent on environmental assessments. The property is being surveyed.

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

18. Consider approval of travel and registration for Chairman Morrow, Commissioner McCord and Commissioner Brock to attend the MEAG Power Annual Meeting July 11-14, 2016.

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

19. Appoint one voting delegate and one alternate to represent the City of Griffin at the Annual MEAG meeting and board election, July 13, 2016. *Electric Director Dan Thompson will address.*

*Motion/second by Commissioners Brock/Hollberg to appoint carried 7-0.*

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

1. Work on Intersection #1 finally began this week.
2. Thank you to Chief Dekmar for his attendance to make the presentation CALEA Gold Standard Accreditation Award. The City is very proud of this achievement.
3. The CAT Tour on May 23, 2016 was amazing and he was very pleasantly surprised to hear the plant superintendent continually praise our local workforce. They are very happy with the quality of workers and their plant was truly remarkable.
4. May 30, 2016 is our Memorial Day holiday, and City offices will be closed. He invited everyone to attend the Memorial Day ceremony at Veterans Memorial Park at 11 a.m. on Monday.
5. We need to discuss the next few meetings. The second meeting in June, this year on the 28<sup>th</sup>, is normally cancelled because of GMA Annual Conference. However, we just approved for three Commissioners to attend the annual MEAG Power meeting which will impact the first meeting in July, the 12<sup>th</sup>, as well. Would the Commission like to cancel both and consider a called meeting should something pressing arise, or leave the July 12 meeting as scheduled with the four remaining Commissioners? Commissioner McLemore is agreeable to cancelling the July 12 meeting and consider a called meeting if necessary. Mr. Smith will put these cancellations on the next agenda.

<b>COMMISSIONERS REPORT</b>
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**Brock** – No comments.

**Flowers** – No comments.

**Reid-Ward** – No comments.

**Morrow**

The Chairman sent his sympathies to Daa'ood Amin on the passing of his wife. He complimented Chris Allen for improvements to Veterans Memorial Park. Many have commented on the great work done by the City, and Mr. Allen has been instrumental in these improvements. Caterpillar did rave about the quality of our workforce. CAT engines are made by individual order, and they have been most impressed with the quality of the workforce here. City officials were very proud. Don't forget Monday, Memorial Day, at 11 a.m. at Veterans Memorial Park to rededicate the monument to WWI soldiers. Finally, he received an email from Gene Mathews regarding use of force classes. Hopefully this session can be rescheduled to allow for their participation if desired. Duration of this session is a couple of hours. Mr. Smith said he can get additional information to get it rescheduled.

**McCord**

Commissioner McCord asked for prayer for our community and particularly the family in the wake of a shooting in Butts County at a graduation party for a 16-year old Griffin student. Also, Ms. Susie Amin lost her bout with cancer recently, and she had the most beautiful homegoing service. There are not enough good words to say about Ms. Susie and Mr. Daa'ood. Finally, the Wings Barber Shop said people making

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a turn back onto Meriwether Street are hitting the radius and causing damage. Dr. Keller noted he has already looked at issue.

***McLemore***

Commissioner McLemore issued a big thank you to Department Heads and Staff on coming up with this year's budget. Budget preparation is a very long and arduous process, and the Board was very appreciative of their efforts.

***Hollberg***

Commissioner Hollberg sent condolences to the Amin family, as well. He noted the work Archway is doing on the Rosenwald School, reminded everyone of the Young Professionals event this Thursday at Big Shanty and June Jam on June 4, and commended Brian Miller on his efforts at promoting the City in such positive ways. He was privy today to a discussion today on social media from newcomers that was very complimentary of the City and the strides it is making toward keeping everyone informed.

<b>ADJOURN</b>
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***Motion/second by Commissioners Reid-Ward/Hollberg to adjourn at 6:51 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