

**CITY OF GRIFFIN BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SCHEDULE MEETING
ONE GRIFFIN CENTER, W. ELMER GEORGE MUNICIPAL HALL
TUESDAY, AUGUST 23, 2016**

1

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, Staff Attorney Jessica Whatley O'Connor and Teresa Watson to record minutes.

Pledge of Allegiance Chairman Morrow
Invocation Commissioner Hollberg

Approval of Agenda

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

PRESENTATIONS / DELEGATIONS

None

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 none.

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.

1. Receive comments regarding a resolution to adopt the 2016 Tax Millage Rate proposed at the rollback rate of 7.771 mills. *City Manager Kenny Smith will address.*

There were no comments.

2. Receive comments regarding a request to amend the Code of Ordinances, of the City of Griffin, Chapter 54, Article II, Food Services Establishments, to provide definitions and to designate when a permit is required. *Toussaint Kirk, Director of Planning & Development will address.*

Mr. Kirk stated this amendment incorporated necessary changes to reflect state law, particularly regarding events for non-profits, such as churches, caterers for barbeque events, etc. that will no longer require inspections.

CONSENT AGENDA

3. Consider Minutes of the August 9, 2016 Regular Scheduled Meeting of the City of Griffin Board of Commissioners.

Motion/second by Commissioners Hollberg/Reid-Ward to approve Minutes of the August 9 Regular Meeting carried 6-0-1 with Chairman Morrow abstaining since he was absent.

4. Consider approval on second reading an ordinance amending Chapter 78, STREETS, SIDEWALKS AND OTHER PUBLIC PLACES, of the Code of Griffin, by enacting a new Article V - Regulation of Timber Harvesting Activity. *City Attorney Drew Whalen will address.*

5. Consider adoption on second reading of an Ordinance amending the Code of Griffin at Chapter 42, ENVIRONMENT, Article III, SOIL EROSION & SEDIMENTATION CONTROL, by incorporating new provisions added to State law at the 2016 Session of the General Assembly. *Brant Keller, Director of Utilities, and City Attorney Drew Whalen will address.*

6. Consider an emergency repair to the primary clarifier at Cabin Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant to P.F. Moon & Company in the amount of \$77,000.00 for the Water and Wastewater Department of the Public Work Works and Utilities Department. *Director of Public Works and Utilities Brant D. Keller will address.*

**CITY OF GRIFFIN BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SCHEDULE MEETING
ONE GRIFFIN CENTER, W. ELMER GEORGE MUNICIPAL HALL
TUESDAY, AUGUST 23, 2016**

2

7. Consider approval to purchase Flynt Submersible Pump from Xylem Water Solutions USA, Inc. for Shoal Creek WWTP in the amount of \$28,869.30 for the Water and Wastewater Department of the Public Works and Utilities Depart. *Director of Public Works and Utilities Brant D. Keller will address.*
8. Consider approval of a Task Order Form (TOF) for the Design and Engineering of the Rehoboth Road Lift Station to Paragon Consulting Group in the amount of \$31,250.00 for the Water and Wastewater Department of the Public Works and Utilities Department. *Director of Public Works and Utilities Brant D. Keller will address.*
9. Consider approval of the purchase of a Pole Camera from Environmental Products in the amount of \$15,250.00 for the Stormwater Department of the Public Works and Utilities Department. *Director of Public Works and Utilities Department Brant D. Keller will address.*
10. Consider approving the purchase of a 2017 New Holland L-234 Tier 4B skid steer loader form Wade Tractor and Equipment, the State Contract and NJPA (National Joint Powers Alliance) approved vendor for the total price of \$44,860.28 and declare as surplus Unit #918 a 2006 new Holland L-190 skid steer loader for use at the Griffin Regional Recycling Center. *Central Services Director Phill Francis will address.*
11. Consider renewal of Standard Office Lease between the City of Griffin and Caring Hands United, Inc. for suite #525 of One Griffin Center in the amount of \$16,604.63 per year. *Downtown Development Authority Executive Director Kenwin Hayes will address.*
12. Consider renewal of Standard Office Lease between the City of Griffin and Griffin-Spalding County United Way for suite #501 of One Griffin Center in the amount of \$1,303.98 per year. *Downtown Development Authority Executive Director Kenwin Hayes will address.*

Motion/second to approve the remainder of Consent Agenda (Items #4 through #12) by Commissioners McLemore/Brock carried 7-0.

REGULAR AGENDA

The Regular Agenda includes items the Commission may individually consider and possibly act upon.

13. Consider for approval a resolution adopting the 2016 Property Tax Millage Rollback Rate of 7.771. *City Manager Kenny Smith will address.*

Motion/second to approve the resolution adopting the 2016 Property Tax Millage Rollback Rate of 7.771, by Commissioners Reid-Ward/McCord, carried 7-0.

14. Consider on first reading amending the Code of Ordinances, of the City of Griffin, Chapter 54, Article II, Food Service Establishments, to provide definitions and to designate when a permit is required. *Toussaint Kirk, Director of Planning & Development will address.*

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

15. Consider awarding bid to Garbutt Construction Company in partnership with Lord Aeck Sargent, Architects, to provide design-build services for renovation of Historic City Hall. *Kenwin M. Hayes, Sr. Executive Director for Downtown Development Authority will address.*

Motion/second as follows: "After considering the evaluation factors set out in the Request for Proposals, and the staff recommendation based thereon, we move that we find all of the proposals submitted to be both responsible and responsive, and award a contract to Garbutt Construction in partnership with Lord Aeck Sargent Architects for the 'design-build' of the renovation of Historic City Hall, as the most advantageous to the City of Griffin," by Commissioners Hollberg/Brock carried 7-0.

16. Consider award of "design-build" architectural and construction services for the 2015 SPLOST funded, Griffin Fire-Rescue Station Headquarters to The Howell Group, Inc. and J.R. Bowman Construction Company. *Fire Chief Tommy Jones will address.*

Motion/second as follows: "After considering the evaluation factors set out in the Request for Proposals, and the staff recommendation based thereon, we move we find all of the proposals submitted to be both responsible and responsive, and award a contract to J.R. Bowman Construction Company in partnership with The Howell Group, Inc. for the 'design-build' of the new Griffin Fire Headquarters Station, as the most advantageous to the City of Griffin," by Commissioners Hollberg/McLemore carried 7-0.

**CITY OF GRIFFIN BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SCHEDULE MEETING
ONE GRIFFIN CENTER, W. ELMER GEORGE MUNICIPAL HALL
TUESDAY, AUGUST 23, 2016**

3

17. Consider approval of a Resolution accepting a grant from the Georgia Transportation Infrastructure Bank (GTIB) in the amount of \$992,893 for construction of the N. Hill Street - Intersection #2 Project, and authorizing the Chairperson and Secretary to execute the Grant Agreement, First Amendment to the Agreement, and related documents. *Dr. Brant D. Keller, PhD, Director of Public Works & Utilities, and City Attorney Drew Whalen will address.*

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

18. Consider approval of a Task Order Form (TOF) for the Dewey and Dora Lift Station Engineering and Design to Paragon Consulting Group in the amount of \$15,220.00 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 to approve by the TOF for the Dewey and Dora Lift Station by Commissioners Hollberg/Reid-Ward carried 7-0.

19. Consider approval of proposal from Engineered Restorations Inc. to pressure clean and seal the exterior of One Griffin Center at a cost of \$124,980.00. *Central Services Director Phill Francis will address.*

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

This will not preclude any aesthetic alternations (i.e. paint, trim, etc.) that may be desired at a later date to make the building be more compatible with other downtown architecture.

20. Consider motion to approve execution and delivery of quitclaim deed to Griffin Manor, LLC and DEC Family, LP, for an unopened strip of variable width running from S. 8th Street westward between these adjoining properties, believed to be a service alley. *City Attorney Drew Whalen will address.*

Motion/second to approve execution/delivery of the quitclaim deed to Griffin Manor, LLC and DEC Family, LP, by Commissioners Brock/Flowers carried 7-0.

21. Consider, as a member of the Georgia Interlocal Risk Management Agency (GIRMA), approval of GIRMA Intergovernmental Contract revisions as recommended by the GIRMA Board of Trustees. *City Attorney Drew Whalen will address.*

Motion/second to approve GIRMA contract revisions by Commissioners Hollberg/McLemore carried 7-0.

Additional Citizens' Comments

Chairman Morrow allowed Ms. Rosie Spence to speak since she was late and not in attendance for Citizens Comments portion early in the meeting. She wanted to address the Board in her capacity as caretaker for Mr. Robert Dorsey, who was elderly, disabled, widowed and struggling with finances. His utilities were cut off for non-payment and the City maintained it must have full payment. As humanitarian, she insisted something be done to have time to pay bill. Ms. Spence called several departments in the City, including the City Manager, but has not effectively resolved the issue of a utility bill he cannot afford, although some has been paid on the account and services are still on for the residence. She has even called the Governor's office, but they directed her to the City Manager's office. She felt the City was rigid and unyielding with poor people here, and she felt our policy to be disturbing. The City Manager provided her some historical perspective to explain our policy and agreed to a payment arrangement. The next bill drops on the 6th of the month. She called the Salvation Army, First United Methodist Church, etc. but cannot garner enough assistance. Mr. Dorsey can go to Florida to live with his son but would rather stay here where he resided with his wife for around 50 years. His son is trying to help. Dorsey needs more time. She wants the City to waive all late fees and penalties. The bill should be better now as she is monitoring usage to help.

Chairman Morrow said the historical perspective was correct; the City in the past had to get a better handle on cash flow with so many deficient accounts. There are several thousand customers in the City for whom we have to provide services, for which we have to pay, and we have to recover that. Otherwise, we would have to raise rates for others in order to cover the bills of non-paying ratepayers. The long-term solution is not help from agencies but to do something to accommodate life changes.

Ms. Spence respectfully disagreed, saying there were many things brought to her attention that demonstrate how uncaring the City can be and some do not use their utilities to a detriment in order to be able to pay the bill which is exorbitant. She felt the City was cash rich since it owns a bank and Commissioners own most of the rental homes but do not care. The City needs intervention.

**CITY OF GRIFFIN BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SCHEDULE MEETING
ONE GRIFFIN CENTER, W. ELMER GEORGE MUNICIPAL HALL
TUESDAY, AUGUST 23, 2016**

4

Chairman Morrow advised our electric rates are some of the lowest in the state. He has heard many falsehoods tonight and wanted Ms. Spence to know that City business is run proficiently on a tight budget. Water rates are about in the middle when compared to surrounding jurisdictions. This board is diligent about keeping costs as reasonable as possible. He appreciates the bind this gentleman is in, but families have to deal with these issues. Commissioner Hollberg concurred and noted that the 23,000 citizens in the City have opportunities to speak twice a month at Board meetings and at the recent Town Hall meeting. Usage varies greatly and folks must exercise diligence. This Board is compassionate and not uncaring as portrayed. Chairman Morrow said the City Manager has some latitude to do what is necessary but the bottom line is that if Mr. Dorsey cannot afford his utilities, there needs to be some type of long-term arrangement to address that deficiency.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

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

1. Griffin-Spalding will hold a six-month intergovernmental mini-retreat, August 29, 4-8 p.m.
2. Housing Council Forum, Thursday August 25, two sessions: 10 a-Welcome Ctr and 6 p-Courtroom
3. City of Griffin Contractor Forum, September 1 two sessions: 10 a-Welcome Ctr and 6 p-Courtroom
4. Observance of the Labor Day holiday is Monday, September 5. City Offices will be closed
5. Citizens Government Academy begins September 8 with a few spaces left and can apply online

Also, arriving late but allowed to speak was Ms. Christy Todd, who stated that, on behalf of the Historical and Preservation Society, she was glad to see the Historic City Hall project moving forward. She wants to ensure the historical integrity is preserved as they were instrumental in getting this facility on the historic public registry.

COMMISSIONERS REPORT

No comments.

ADJOURN

Motion/second by Commissioners Hollberg/McLemore to adjourn at 6:48 pm carried 7-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kenny L. Smith, City Manager/Secretary

Accepted:

Dick Morrow, Chairperson