

AGENDA

August 26, 2021

Meeting called to order by Mayor Paul Walton

Pledge of Allegiance to Flag/Moment of Silence

Introduction of Guests: (Mayor) Clark and Clark Law Group; Cynthia Hobbs Mayor of Carlton

Minutes and financial reports are presented:

Old Business

ARPA Applications (City Attorney)

Attendance Policy (City Attorney)

Zoning (Mayor)

Landscaping/New Plants (Brian)

Firefly Trail (Mayor)

ARPA Funding (Mayor)

Easy Street/Davis Street Speed Bumps (Mayor)

City Hall Update (Mayor)

Qualifying (Clerk)

New Business

Re-Paving Highway 72 (Mayor)

Honoring Former Mayor Paul Elkins at City Well (Mayor)

Christmas Decorations (Marilyn)

T-Mobile Hometown Grant (Mayor)

Compensation (Mayor)

Other business/comments

MINUTES OF THE CITY OF HULL MAYOR AND COUNCIL

July 22, 2021

Meeting Held in Person at Jackson EMC Meeting Room

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Paul Walton. Those in attendance in addition to the Mayor and the Clerk were council members Brian Koepnick, Marilyn Walton, John Barber and Donna Sherrer-Gantt. City Attorney, Freddrell Green was also present along with Captain Patton from the Sheriff's office, Dexter Gantt and Michael McEvoy.

Mayor Walton called the meeting to order after the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silent prayer.

The minutes of the June meeting which had been provided prior to the meeting to Mayor and Council were approved unanimously after a motion by John Barber and a second by Donna Gantt.

The financial reports which were also provided prior to the meeting were approved unanimously after a motion by council member Walton and a second by council member Koepnick..

Mayor Walton advised that the proposed Zoning Ordinances were in the final stages. The City Attorney advised that he had reviewed the ordinances and that he believed them to be consistent with the law and sound and he approved them as to content and form. Mayor Walton advised that there were several other issues that had to be in place before we have the final hearing such as appointing a Zoning Administrator; Planning Commission; Zoning Board of Appeals and drafting the appropriate forms for a re-zoning request; conditional use permit and a variance which could be combined into one form. Mayor Walton advised that he was looking into this and speaking with other cities, etc. to see what they have in place that we might be able to conform. In addition, he advised that he had spoken with Jim Baird who performs building inspections for the City and he indicated he would be willing to serve as Zoning Administrator. No action was taken at this time and the matter will be discussed further at the August meeting.

Mayor Walton introduced Captain Patton with the Madison County Sheriff's Department who had been invited to attend the meeting to share some needs of the Sheriff's Department that the City might be in a position to assist through the ARPA program and funds received by the City. Captain Patton advised that one of the greatest needs of the Sheriff's Department was new/refurbished Tasers. Captain Patton demonstrated how the Tasers worked and answered questions by Mayor and Council. Mayor Walton advised that the City had received its first installment of the ARPA funds in the amount of \$37,530.50 which is half of the amount expected to be received. There is a broad span of ways that the money can be used which is constantly changing and being updated. Mayor Walton is in constant communication with the State and GMA for the latest information. One of the ways is to help first responders and law enforcement both inside the City and Madison County. Captain Patton advised that a good refurbished Taser could be purchased for \$600.00. He advised that anything the City could do to help with purchasing these Taser would be most appreciated and expressed that purchasing six would be a great help to the Department. Mayor Walton then recommended that the City consider purchasing six Tasers for the Sheriff's Department at a cost of \$3,600.00 using ARPA funds. A motion was made by council member Gantt and seconded by council member Koepnick and unanimously approved to accept the Mayor's recommendation. The Sheriff's Department will

order and forward an invoice to the City for reimbursement once the Tasers are received. Mayor Walton advised that he had requested members of council to come with ideas for ways to use the ARPA monies and had not received any recommendations. Council member Koepnick then advised that he has spoken with Chief Austin with the Fire Department and that they had a need for "Turn Out" gear. Mayor Walton advised that he had spoken with Chief Austin about this previously and that his understanding from that conversation is that they need one set of turn out gear at a cost of between \$2,500.00 to \$3,000.00. Council member Koepnick advised that his understanding was that they had six seats of turn out gear that would expire within the next year and he would like to be able to provide more than one set of gear. After further discussion a motion was made by Brian Koepnick and seconded by Marilyn Walton that the City provide one set of gear at this time. Motion passed unanimously with the exception of council member Barber who abstained due to the fact that he was a volunteer with the Fire Department. Mayor Walton then advised that he had also began speaking with the businesses within the City about possible ways that the ARPA funds could assist the businesses. He had spoken with Angie Huffsteler of Angie's Place about possibly providing assistance to help her employees. She has 7 employees and the thought was to compensate each employee at the rate of \$3.00 per hour for a 40 hour week for a four week period on top of their regular salary which would total \$3,360.00. Before any action was taken on this matter City Attorney Green advised that before any further funds are disbursed there needed to be a different procedure in place for request of funds to be fair to everyone. It was decided that before any further action would be taken the City Attorney would draft a letter and an application which would include a deadline to apply for funds and this could be made available for businesses, places of worship, etc. in the city that wished to apply for a portion of the City ARPA funds and each request considered by Mayor and Council. This would not effect the Sheriff's Department and Fire Department funding which had already been approved. The matter was tabled until August for further action.

Council member Koepnick advised that the City had received one additional bill from Peachtree Well for watering the new plants which was dated June 17th and was for \$300.00. Council member Koepnick has been checking on the plants and with the amount of rain we had been having less watering had been required. He had spoken with Mr. Redd and he was amenable to discussing entering into a contract with the City to continue with the watering as needed and required by GDOT. Council member Koepnick also advised that there had not been any measurable plant loss and the plants that had been suffering early on had bounced back. NO action was taken at this time however Council member Koepnick will draft a contract and invite Mr. Redd to attend the August meeting to discuss this further.

Mayor Walton then discussed his ongoing vision for the City to be a part of the Firefly Trail. In that regard he and the council with the exception of council member Gantt had met with him the Mayors of Winterville and Athens and Mr. John Devine with NEGRC to discuss this possibility, planning, costs, preliminary plan via Coile Middle School, Old Elberton Road, Moore's Grove Road, etc. Mayor Walton had requested Mr. Devine to provide a summary of the meeting including funding possibilities and he shared with the council the following:

Discussion

- The City of Hull has requested NEGRC assistance to create a concept for trail connectivity from Hull to Winterville/Firefly Trail, as well as a citywide bicycling and walking plan

- Hull and NEGRC developed a preliminary alignment concept for a potential trail from Hull's City Hall to the Firefly Trail at Five Points in Winterville, via Coile Middle School; the initial concept features sections of trail both in the woods and along road rights-of-way (ROW)
- Attendees from each community expressed support for the concept
- Girtz offered a suggestion to realign the trail from Coile M.S. to Five Points by using ROW along Old Elberton Rd. and Moore's Grove Rd., rather than the originally proposed off-road connection; the group agreed, and Devine will see that an updated map reflects this change
- With broad support for the project concept, discussion turned to implementation: various funding opportunities were considered, including Athens-Clarke County TSPLOST, federal American Rescue Plan resources being administered by the Georgia Department of Transportation, and the Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Program (GOSP) grant through the state's Department of Natural Resources
- Girtz indicated that TSPLOST funding could potentially be available, but that many requests will be made by other project sponsors, and that it would also be advisable to consider other sources
- Devine provided an overview of the GOSP grant parameters: communities may request up to \$3M in state funding (minimum %25 local match – in-kind and/or cash) for trail construction and other conservation purposes; applications are accepted annually in the fall; the group agreed that this would be a suitable funding source to pursue, and representatives from each local government expressed support for applying in 2021
- P. Walton noted that he will communicate with Madison County Board of Commissioners Chairman Todd Higdon about the project after the Hull City Council discusses it.

Mayor Walton advised that he had spoken with Commission Chairman Higdon about the county's interest in this since there is a portion of the trail that would involve property not in the City. He seemed excited about the possibility and will be back in touch once he has a chance to review.

City Attorney Green gave a little history about the ongoing issue with the previous auditor and his advice to pursue an administrative complaint through the State Board of Auditing rather than filing a lawsuit. The complaint was filed and an investigation is ongoing. The next step is for Hawkins and McNair to file a response. He had spoken with Mr. McNair who had requested that the Complaint be withdrawn however attorney Green did not recommend that the City withdraw the Complaint. No action was taken.

Council member Barber had provided some information regarding Easy and Davis Streets which had been requested from the June council meeting to address the safety and speeding issues on these streets. He did determine that there were speed limit signs already in place although they needed to be some clearing to make them more visible. The recommendation was that of the two possibilities the Easy Rider speed hump would be the less expensive at a cost of \$615.60 each. This would not be the best solution as far as impeding the fire trucks but would be ok since the trucks would not be going fast on those streets in any event. There was some concern expressed that due to the condition of the roads the speed bumps might not be able to install properly. There was also some concern expressed about the noise they would create and how the residents of those roadways would be affected. There was no action taken and the matter was tabled until August to allow time for the residents to be consulted before taking any action.

Under new business Mayor Walton recognized visitor, Michael McEvoy who had some questions for Mayor and Council on behalf of Mike Reilly concerning residency requirements and qualifying fees for City offices. He was advised of the residency requirements and qualifying fees.

Mayor Walton advised that he and Marilyn would be attending the annual convention in Savannah which is usually held in June but has been moved to August 6-10 this year. In this regard our City through Mayor Walton will be able to participate, for the first time, in the Parade of Flags which is held annually in conjunction with the Convention and our Flag will be displayed along with other City Flags in the common chamber.

Mayor Walton recognized council member Gantt for her hard work on what he hopes to be the first annual Summer Enrichment Program provided by the City. In this connection he wanted to advise council that the City is not able to make monetary donations to organizations, individuals or foundations legally. The costs of this program was made possible by a \$2,000.00 community service grant from CSX Railroad.

The Clerk advised Mayor and Council that she had submitted all the preliminary documents, reports and paperwork to Mr. Terrell for the 2020 Audit which he will begin work on when he returns to the office following surgery. She was able to utilize the assistance again of her son, Jonathan, who is an Athens-Clarke County fireman who just completed his associates degree in accounting and has a part-time bookkeeping business to assist with the financial reports needed from Quick Books and to review the 2021 records to date. There will be a small charge for his services but this is invaluable to her as he is always available to answer questions and/or meet with her when new things come up to make sure it is being done correctly for the auditors going forward. In this regard, the Clerk also advised that she had to set up a new account for the ARPA funds at the bank as well as on Quick Books.

Mayor Walton advised that the City had received reimbursement from GDOT with respect to the beautification grant in the amount of \$46,795.40.

Attorney Green advised that he was working on and researching what needs to be done with respect to the attendance policy for Mayor and Council and hopes to have something available for review within the next 7-10 days.

Mayor Walton then advised council about the proposed Intergovernmental Agreement to place the TSPLOST matter on the ballot for vote in November. In order for the Mayor to sign the Agreement a vote of council is required authorizing his signing. Motion was made by Brian Koepnick and seconded by John Barber to enter into this Agreement. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Walton then asked council to approve his request to purchase a city printer for his use at a cost of \$249.00. This is very much needed to allow him to be able to print the many documents he needs to conduct city business so that he does not have to either send to Clerk or go elsewhere to have printed. This request was approved unanimously after a motion by Donna Gantt and a second by Brian Koepnick. Mayor Walton also reminded the Clerk and council members that anytime they had to drive more than 10 miles outside the City for City business they were entitled to reimbursement for their mileage provided that fill out the proper request with the Clerk.

As a matter of concern council member Walton expressed her desire to see the area around the City Well in the flower boxes be cleaned up and something new planted. Council member Koepnick advised Mayor and Council that the old plants had been removed earlier today and he was looking into what to use to replace those. Any suggestions are welcome.

Mayor Walton advised that he had previously assigned certain responsibilities to each council commensurate with their strengths - member - Brian Koepnick, Landscaping; John Barber, Road Construction; Marilyn Walton, media/website. After observing council member Gantt for a few months since she has been on the council he would like to assign her to be responsibility for Community Service/Economic Development. Council member Gantt accepted this assignment.

Lastly, Attorney Green, advised council that he had submitted a termination letter to Mayor Walton effective September 16th. He has enjoyed and very much appreciated the opportunity to serve as city attorney however family commitments and the demands of his law practice led to this decision.

There being no other business or comments the meeting was adjourned after a motion by John Barber, seconded by Brian Koepnick and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Pou, Clerk

INCOME/EXPENSE STATEMENT

CITY OF HULL

July, 2021

Beginning Balance (7/1/20)		\$ 11,836.37
Revenue received during July		\$ 89,015.99
LOST	3,868.73	
TAVT	208.71	
Excise Tax (Misc. Inc.)	336.65	
GDOT Reimbursement for		
Beautification Payment	46,795.40	
AKO Signs (Reimb.)	276.00	
ARPA Funds	37,530.50	
Checks written during July		\$ 42,504.09
AT&T (Clerk Internet)	40.00	
MC Water Dept.	26.00	
Hull VFD	705.41	
Verizon	118.97	
Clarence Sorrells (lawn maintenance)	1,000.00	
Card Service Center (credit card payment)	1,397.24	
Postmaster (Box Rent)	122.00	
Walton Gas (final bill)	2.70	
Paul Walton (reimb. for mileage)	136.81	
Five Forks Bookkeeping (training/audit asst.)	250.00	
PeachState Well	300.00	
First American Bank (transfer ARPA Funds to separate account)	37,530.50	
The Wiz, Inc.	39.21	
Lil' Ice Cream Dude	250.00	
Donna Gantt (Reimb.)	585.25	
Jackson Electric Drafts		988.00
City of Hull	824.00	
City of Hull	42.00	
City of Hull	53.00	
City of Hull	69.00	

July Ending Balance

\$57,360.27

SPLOST ACCOUNT STATEMENT
Commercial Bank - Bond Account
July, 2021

Beginning Balance (7/1/20) \$94,926.66

Interest for July \$ 8.06

\$94,934.72

Less:

BALANCE END OF JULY

\$ 94,934.72

ARPA ACCOUNT STATEMENT
First American Bank

July, 2021

Beginning Balance \$37,530.50

No Disbursements to Date

City of Hull

8/22/2021 6:07 PM

Register: City of Hull - General Account

From 07/01/2021 through 07/31/2021

Sorted by: Date, Type, Number/Ref

Date	Number	Payee	Account	Memo	Payment	C	Deposit	Balance
07/05/2021	EFT	Jackson EMC-HWY ...	Utilities:Electricity	1744661	824.00			11,012.37
07/05/2021	EFT	Jackson EMC-City H...	Utilities:Electricity	846789	69.00			10,943.37
07/05/2021	EFT	Jackson EMC Perm ...	Utilities:Electricity	995029	42.00			10,901.37
07/05/2021	EFT	Jackson EMC-SM Ki...	Utilities:Electricity	846791	53.00			10,848.37
07/05/2021	2900	U.S. Postmaster	Office Expenses	Box Rent	122.00			10,726.37
07/05/2021	2901	Clarence Sorrells	Grounds Upkeep		1,000.00			9,726.37
07/05/2021	2902	Hull VFD	Service Agreement wit...		705.41			9,020.96
07/07/2021	2903	Miscellaneous Items ...	Miscellaneous	Reimbursement...	136.81			8,884.15
07/07/2021	2904	Walton Gas	Utilities:Natural Gas	Final Bill	2.70			8,881.45
07/09/2021			Misc. Income:Grant In...	Deposit			46,795.40	55,676.85
07/10/2021	2905	Wiz Academy	Miscellaneous:Grant E...	CSX Communi...	39.21			55,637.64
07/10/2021	2906	L'H Ice Cream Dude	Miscellaneous:Grant E...	CSX Communi...	250.00			55,387.64
07/10/2021	2907	Donna Gantt	Miscellaneous:Grant E...	CSX Communi...	585.25			54,802.39
07/12/2021			American Rescue Plan ...	Deposit			37,530.50	92,332.89
07/16/2021	2908	Five Forks Bookkeep...	Miscellaneous		250.00			92,082.89
07/16/2021	2909	AT&T	Utilities:Internet		40.00			92,042.89
07/16/2021	2910	Madison County Wat...	Utilities:Water Expense		26.00			92,016.89
07/19/2021	2911	Card Service Center	FABAT Credit Card		1,397.24			90,619.65
07/19/2021	2912	Peach State Well Dril...	Miscellaneous	Watering new ...	300.00			90,319.65
07/20/2021			-split- TAVT	Deposit			821.36 208.71	91,141.01

City of Hull

8/22/2021 6:07 PM

Register: City of Hull - General Account

From 07/01/2021 through 07/31/2021

Sorted by: Date, Type, Number/Ref

Date	Number	Payee	Account	Memo	Payment C	Deposit	Balance
			CSX Community Servi...	Order cancelle...		276.00	
			Excise Tax			144.76	
			Excise Tax			145.29	
			Excise Tax			46.60	
07/22/2021	2913	First American Bank	Uncategorized Expenses	Open New Acc...	37,530.50		53,610.51
07/28/2021	2914	Verizon Wireless	Utilities:Cell Phone		118.97		53,491.54
07/29/2021			Local Option Sales Tax	Deposit		3,868.73	57,360.27