

AGENDA

March 25, 2021

Meeting called to order by Mayor Paul Walton

Pledge of Allegiance to Flag

Invocation - Pastor Watkins (Heaven Bound Ministries)

Swearing in new council member - Donna Sherrer-Gantt (Clerk)

Roll Call

Introduction of Guests (Clerk):

Anna Strickland - Executive Director Madison County Chamber of Commerce

Major Jeff Vaughn - Madison County Sheriff's Office

Chief Jason Austin - Hull Volunteer Fire Department

Scarlett Reyna - Madison County Health Department

Members of Troop 777 Boy Scouts

Members of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority of Athens

Minutes and financial reports are read. Any additions or corrections:

State of the City Address - Mayor Walton

Old Business

Previous Auditor (Atty. Green)

Zoning (Mayor)

Food Distribution (Mayor)

Black History Month (Mayor)

New Business

Award Ceremony - Mayor Walton

Anna Strickland - Executive Director Chamber of Commerce

Other business/comments

MINUTES OF THE CITY OF HULL MAYOR AND COUNCIL

February 25, 2021

HELD VIA ZOOM DUE TO COVID 19

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Paul Walton. Those in attendance in addition to the Mayor were the Clerk, and council members Brian Koepnick, John Barber, and, Marilyn Walton. Due to the current State of Emergency due to Covid 19 the meeting was held via Zoom. In addition Ms. Donna Sherrer-Gantt joined the meeting as a guest along with Attorney Freddrell Green; CPA Keith Terrell; and Rita Parham

A moment of silent prayer followed the pledge of allegiance.

The minutes from the January meeting and the January financial reports having been provided to Mayor and Council prior to the meeting were approved unanimously after a motion by Brian Koepnick and a second by John Barber.

The Clerk reminded everyone of the special election scheduled for March 16th to fill former council member Yvonne Davenport's unexpired term. Early and Advance is taking place for the next three weeks at the Board of Elections Office in Danielsville. The election on the 16th will take place at the Civic Club. The Clerk advised that she had spoken with the Board of Elections Office and at that time no one had voted. The Clerk encouraged everyone to vote. The candidates are Donna Sherrer-Gantt and Rita Parham.

Attorney Frederell Green then updated Mayor and Council with respect to the ongoing situation with the previous auditor, Hawkins and McNair. Attorney Green sent a letter on February 5, 2021, to Hawkins and McNair demanding a refund of the \$2,000.00 deposit paid toward the 2019 audit which had not been completed. Hawkins and McNair had 10 days to respond. Attorney Green has had a couple of conversations with Mr. McNair wherein he discussed at length their position on the refund and the possibility of his firm moving to enforce the initial agreement as well as other causes of action. Mr. McNair expressed his position that there were extenuating circumstances that were no fault of his firm with Covid-19 being the main obstacle. He advised that he had done work on the audit although he was not able to complete it. He requested a 10 day extension to formerly respond so that he could attend the funeral of his partner's son who had recently passed away. Attorney Green indicated that he was not encouraged by the conversation with Mr. McNair but did give him until Monday to formally respond to the demand for refund. Attorney Green advised that if the City was not able to reach an agreement there were other options available to the City. Due to the modest amount of the monetary amount litigation could prove costly to the City however the City could consider filing a formal complaint with the Licensing Board who would then do an investigation and based upon their findings this could assist Mayor and Council in deciding how to move forward. Attorney Green further advised Mayor and Council that in addition to general Covid Issues Mr. McNair advised that he had had personnel effected by Covid and that he had received a request from the Mayor to change priorities from the audit to other matters. Council Member Koepnick expressed that he did not want to be insensitive to Hawkins and McNair's issues and would be interested to know how many other audits are incomplete, etc. but did feel like if they have not done the work they should not refuse to reimburse the City for the amount paid. Council member Marilyn Walton expressed her concern that the deposit had been paid in the first place. No action was taken at this time and the matter was tabled until the March meeting.

Mr. Keith Terrell, the new City auditor, advised Mayor and Council that despite many

challenging including not being able to obtain any information from the prior auditor, specifically with respect to depreciation, he had been able to complete the 2019 and the required reporting by the February 15th deadline. He also gave an overview of certain reports that were not able to be generated due to the lack of the use of technology by the City which should have been communicated to the City long before now. He strongly encouraged the City that it was pertinent going forward that we utilize technology in keeping records and that Quick Books was a good program to use to be able to move forward so that everything could be done totally electronically. He did advise that although there were challenges the documents and information provided by the City were substantially accurate. He did advise however that due to the amount of time required to complete the audit and report that his original quote would not cover the cost. Mayor and Council thanked Mr. Terrell for his hard work and pledged to work together going forward to provide what he needs in terms of utilizing more technology and to be able to provide information electronically.

Council Member Marilyn Walton advised that she was working on the Newsletter and it should be mailed the first week of March but needed clarification on a couple of things.. Particularly she needed to verify information about the election and the upcoming landscape project.

Mayor Walton then advised Council that we were very close to finalizing the Zoning Ordinances however some issues with signage has come up. He had been speaking with Ms. Kennedy and Mr. Jacques and they had pointed out some potential problems. They felt like Mayor and Council along with their office needed to have another work session to address this matter. They had hoped to meet on March 12th but due to time constraints with notice the consensus was that this matter should be tabled until the March meeting and Mayor Walton would have some other dates for the work session to be considered.

Mayor Walton advised that he has been in contact with GDOT and they have received everything and the City should have the permit next week and College Pro will be able to begin their work shortly thereafter. Council member Koepnick expressed some concern about when they start to dig that there is no damage to existing utilities. Mayor Walton advised that College Pro will locate all utilities before they begin. He expects the work to be started before the end of March. Council Member, Marilyn Walton, expressed her concerns about the looks of the median on Highway 72. Council Member Koepnick advised that the sweeper company that had done some cleaning previously had been sold but that he would be glad to get another estimate from the new company. Mayor Walton advised that he had spoken with GDOT and they are going to look into the matter to see if it is something they can do. No action was taken at this time.

Mayor Walton advised that he had been in communication with Senator Frank Ginn with respect to the new City Charter and that there were some revisions and additional language needed before it could be presented. This has been communicated to Attorney Green and he is working on this and the new Charter should be approved by the end of March.

Mayor Walton reminded everyone about the Food Distribution in conjunction with the Northeast Georgia Food Bank taking place this Saturday. Mayor Walton advised that this is a great way for the City to serve and assist the citizens of Madison County. He and council member Walton had been in touch with the Food Bank Program Manager Tonya Bolton, view Zoom and had been able to view some very helpful video. The food distribution starts at 8:00 a.m. and Mayor Walton is requesting all volunteers to be there by 7:00 a.m.

The Mayor along with the Clerk advised council that in order to comply with the request by the

new auditor to be able to have the records and reports needed she would need some assistance with going back to the 2020 records and entering them into the Quick Books program as well as some training to learn how to do this moving forward. The new City Laptop already has the program. The Clerk is requesting that her son, Jonathan Pou, who is very familiar with Quick Books, has taken classes in Quick Books and is about to complete his associates degree in accounting, be compensated by the City to set up the program; enter the 2020 information and train her in the use of Quick Books. This is an advantage to the Clerk because of the flexibility in them working together at more convenient times. The consensus of Mayor and Council is that this should be a good option once more information is provided with respect to costs, etc. Council member, Marilyn Walton, suggested that this could be paid from the training budget. No decision was made at this time.

Mayor Walton, before introducing the candidates for the council seat, expressed his desire to see more involvement by members of council in helping the community and listening to the citizens about what they would like to see the City do moving forward. The Mayor and Council then heard from candidates Rita Parham and Donna Sherrer-Gantt as to their qualifications and reasons for wanting to serve the City. Both candidates were thanked for their willingness to serve and wished good luck moving forward.

Mayor Walton advised that unless anyone had an objection we will be going back to in persons meeting beginning with the March meeting. We will be meeting at the meeting room at the Jackson EMC Building. He does not anticipate a lot of business on the agenda for March other than those matters tabled from tonight's meeting. He will be delivering the State of the City Address and has some other things planned as well.

Mayor Walton advised council that he and council member Marilyn Walton had been invited to several schools in honor of Black History Month and had been able to read to students at Comer Elementary and he had taken part in several activities at Colbert Elementary and he has an event coming up a Hull Sanford.

Prior to adjourning Mayor and council again wished good luck to both candidates with respect to the upcoming special election.

There being nothing further the meeting was adjourned after a motion by John Barber and a second by Marilyn Walton and a unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Pou
Hull City Clerk

INCOME/EXPENSE STATEMENT
CITY OF HULL
February, 2021

Beginning Balance (2/1/20)		\$53,584.89
Revenue received during February		\$18,474.49
LOST	3473.71	
TAVT	268.00	
Business Licenses	150.00	
Insurance License Fees/ Franchise Fees	13,095.92	
Excise Tax (Misc. Inc.)	510.70	
Qualifying Fees	39.50	
Civic Club (misc. income water reimbursement)	162.66	
Universal Concepts (stop payment)	774.00	
Checks written during February		\$ 4,984.92
AT&T (Clerk Internet)	40.00	
MC Water Dept.	26.00	
Hull VFD	705.41	
Walton Gas	80.15	
Verizon	118.97	
Clarence Sorrells (lawn maintenance)	1180.00	
Card Service Center (credit card payment)	937.04	
Mainstreet News	350.90	
Madison County BOC (neighborhood Watch signs)	196.45	
Green Law Firm, LLC	945.00	
Food Bank of NE Georgia	350.00	
Postmaster (stamps)	55.00	
Jackson Electric Drafts		981.00
City of Hull	813.00	
City of Hull	44.00	
City of Hull	55.00	
City of Hull	69.00	

February Ending Balance

\$66,093.46

SPLOST ACCOUNT STATEMENT
Commercial Bank - Bond Account
February, 2021

Beginning Balance (2/1/20) \$98,645.89

Interest for February \$ 37.09

\$ 98,682.98

Less:

BALANCE END OF FEBRUARY \$ **98,68.98**

City of Hull

3/11/2021 10:30 PM

Register: City of Hull - General Account

From 02/01/2021 through 02/28/2021

Sorted by: Date, Type, Number/Ref

Date	Number	Payee	Account	Memo	Payment	C	Deposit	Balance
02/01/2021	2841	Hull VFD	Service Agreement wit...		705.41			53,653.48
02/01/2021	2842	Green Law Firm	Legal Fees		945.00			52,708.48
02/01/2021	2843	Madison County Boa...	Miscellaneous	Neighborhood ...	196.45			52,512.03
02/01/2021	2844	Clarence Sorrells	Grounds Upkeep		1,180.00			51,332.03
02/01/2021	2845	Mainstreet News	Accounts Payable	Legal Advertisi...	350.90			50,981.13
02/02/2021			Qualifying Fees	Deposit			360.00	51,341.13
02/02/2021			-split-	Deposit			288.02	51,629.15
02/02/2021	2846	Food Bank of Northe...	Miscellaneous		350.00			51,279.15
02/04/2021	EFT	Jackson EMC	Utilities:Electricity		813.00			50,466.15
02/04/2021	EFT	Jackson EMC	Utilities:Electricity		69.00			50,397.15
02/04/2021	EFT	Jackson EMC	Utilities:Electricity		44.00			50,353.15
02/04/2021	EFT	Jackson EMC	Utilities:Electricity		55.00			50,298.15
02/12/2021			State Ins. License Fees	Insurance Lice...			765.00	51,063.15
02/12/2021			-split-	Deposit			418.22	51,481.37
02/12/2021	2847	Postmaster	Office Expenses		55.00			51,426.37
02/17/2021	2848	Madison County Wat...	Utilities:Water Expense		26.00			51,400.37
02/17/2021	2849	Walton Gas	Utilities		80.15			51,320.22
02/17/2021	2850	AT&T	Utilities		40.00			51,280.22
02/21/2021	2851	Verizon Wireless	Utilities		118.97			51,161.25
02/21/2021	2852	Card Service Center	-split-		937.04			50,224.21
02/25/2021			Local Option Sales Tax	Deposit			3,473.71	53,697.92
02/26/2021			-split-	Deposit			11,970.92	65,668.84
02/26/2021			-split-	Deposit			424.62	66,093.46