

MINUTES OF THE CITY OF HULL MAYOR AND COUNCIL

May 23, 2019

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, Marilyn Walton, Yvonne Davenport and Rose Branson. Attorney Graham was also present.

A moment of silent prayer followed the pledge of allegiance.

Minutes of the April meeting were approved after a motion by Brian Koepnick and a second by Yvonne Davenport.

The Clerk then presented the Financial Report and SPLOST account reports both of which were approved after a motion by Rose Branson and a second by Brian Koepnick.

Mayor Walton announced that the City had been given a grant in the amount of \$3,226.00 through LMIG to re-do the intersection and fix the piping etc. at Pope Miller Road. Adams Construction will be doing the work at an approximate cost of \$3,500.00. The City will only need to provide approximately \$968.00. Mayor Walton will meet again with Mr. Adams prior to starting work on the project. Council member Branson requested to be notified so that she could be present for the meeting.

Mayor Walton advised that he had met with Alan Lapczynski to try and trouble shoot the flashing sign and determined that the back of the box was full of ants; wires burned out, etc. so the board will need to be sent back to the company. Mayor Walton is waiting on Mr. Lapczynski to get back with him so that they can get the board off to be sent back. It was also decided to leave the sign where it is for now at least until there is further word on the county installation of sidewalks on Glenn Carrie.

The Clerk advised that she had spoken with Mr. Martinez at the Chamber of Commerce and he had provided an updated dues structure from what was presented at the April meeting. The Clerk gave an overview of the different dues levels and what was provided at each level. Brian Koepnick then made a motion that we go with the Silver membership at a cost of \$300.00. Yvonne Davenport seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Council member Rose Branson had nothing new to report on the Census. She is having trouble finding out who are contact person is with the County. The Clerk will look for this information and provide same to Rose.

Mayor Walton advised that he was still working on the City Flag design and it was not ready yet. He hopes to have something to review by the June meeting.

Mayor Walton also advised that he is working with Attorney Graham who is working with

County Attorney Pruitt with respect to the SPLOST contract with the County so that the language will be broader to allow the City to use the money for other purposes than the current SPLOST contract.

Mayor Walton advised that he had spoken with Cynthia McDonald who promises that they are working on the IT in a Box concept and that within thirty days they will have a much more affordable version. There was no action taken with respect to the City web site the consensus of Mayor and Council being that they would wait to see what changes are made to IT in a Box.

Council member, Rose Branson, advised that she had spoken with Tripp Strickland at Georgia Metals with respect to a new roof for the Well and he advised that they only sell the material and that they do not do the installation. No action was taken on a new roof for the Well at this time.

Attorney Graham provided everyone with a draft of the Ethics Ordinance and requested everyone to review and comment so that he can have a final version prepared for a vote at the June meeting, He will also have the Resolution that we adopt the Ordinance ready for the June meeting as well.

Mayor Walton and council commented that they felt like the meeting with NEGRC went well. Council member Koepnick did raise the issue of at what point we would need to begin considering updating the City survey. Council member, Yvonne Davenport stated that she thought it would be a good idea to have the July newsletter center around Mayor Walton and getting out the information about the zoning and other action being taken by Mayor and Council to move the City forward. The consensus was that this would be a good idea and would be a good way to get word out to the community. It was also suggested that it would be a good idea to get something in the newspaper as well. This was for information purposes only and no action was needed.

With respect to lawn maintenance Mayor Walton advised that he had met with Dustin and he now has new equipment and has provided proof of insurance so he is good to go to fulfill his contract. Mayor Walton also advised that there had been some other interest for others about being considered to provide our lawn maintenance which could be addressed at the proper time.

Under new business Mayor Walton advised that he had been in touch with the USDA regarding possible funding for construction of a new City Hall. There are several things that we have to provide to them so that we can obtain more information on this. Mayor Walton will keep everyone apprised of any developments with respect to same.

Mayor Walton inquired of Attorney Graham if he had had any luck locating our Interdepartmental Agreements. He advised that he is waiting on the County Attorney to get back with him.

The Clerk advised that she had issued a building permit for Scrub Brush cleaning to erect a new building to replace the burned down house at their location.

Mayor Walton also advised council that he and Attorney Graham had talked about Attorney Graham's attendance at monthly meeting that do not require his input. Attorney Graham advised that he is happy to attend every meeting but is just as willing to only attend those meeting that require his legal input. There would be some times when zoning; a new charter, etc. is being discussed that his presence would be necessary. The Clerk pointed out that it would be helpful for anyone having matters to be discussed at the meetings to let her know so that they can be placed on the agenda ahead of time so that Attorney Graham would be aware of what business would be discussed and whether his presence would be required. Also, anytime we have business that requires his presence those matters could be taken out of order to allow him to leave when his presence would no longer be required.

Mayor Walton advised that he is committed to Mayor and Council working toward a new Charter that hopefully would be ready to be presented by the end of this year that could become effective July, 2020.

Attorney Graham presented a revised contract for the Fire Department to address the issues raised at the last council meeting. However, Mayor Walton advised that he wanted everyone to sign off on the contract including the Fire Chief at the same time. Attorney Graham advised that he would need to revise the signature page therefore no action was taken at this time. Mayor Walton advised that he had attended the last meeting of the Fire Department and also that he had talked with some other Mayors around the State who advised that they pay their volunteer fire departments differently, some paying on a "per call" basis. This is something to consider going forward particularly if the HVFD continue to be unable to produce a budgeting showing where city monies are used.

Mayor Walton also advised that he had spoken with Kathy Grueter, principal at Hull Sanford Elementary School about using that facility for some "town hall" meeting about the zoning and future of the City of Hull. He will get back to council with those dates.

There being no further business at this time the meeting was adjourned after a motion by Rose Branson and a second by Brian Koepnick.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Pou, Clerk

MINUTES OF THE CITY OF HULL MAYOR AND COUNCIL

June 27, 2019

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, Marilyn Walton, Yvonne Davenport and Rose Branson. Attorney Graham was also present.

A moment of silent prayer followed the pledge of allegiance.

Minutes of the May meeting and the June agenda were approved after a motion by Brian Koepnick and a second by Yvonne Davenport.

The Clerk then presented the Financial Report and SPLOST account reports both of which were approved after a motion by Yvonne Davenport and a second by Marilyn Walton.

Members of the Hull Volunteer Fire Department were welcomed to the meeting.

Under old business Mayor Walton presented the 2019 Contract between the City and the Hull VFD which had been revised to correct a typographical error for approval. Motion was made by Yvonne Davenport and seconded by Rose Branson to approve the contract as revised. The Mayor, Clerk and Chief Evans signed the contract. Mayor Walton then spoke to the future support of the fire department with the idea of looking toward a "Pay per call" arrangement. There was discussion between the Mayor and Council and members of the fire department regarding this idea. Mayor Walton advised the members of the fire department that the City was looking into construction of a new City Hall that could be used as a safe place for resident to come for safety during bad storms, tornadoes, etc. Discussion followed between the Mayor and Council and the Fire Department with no action being taken. There was also discussion concerning the Tornado Warning Alarm that is not operational. The Fire Department was requested to present a budget to Mayor and Council for review for consideration going forward. Chief Evans gave a very informative run down on all that the fire department does to benefit the residents of the City of Hull above and beyond answering fire calls. He spoke to the low ISO rating which cuts down on homeowner's insurance costs and all that goes into obtaining and keeping the low rating. There are hours of training by members of the fire department as well as keeping up to date equipment, etc. Chief Evans also announced that he would be retiring as Chief at the end of the month and from the fire department after 25 years at the end of next year.

The Mayor then presented the Ordinance and Resolution which had been prepared by the City Attorney to designate the City of Hull as a City of Ethics. The Ordinance and Resolution were approved after a motion by Rose Branson and a second by Brian Koepnick. Mayor Walton will provide the clerk with information on where to send copies along with the \$85.00 application fee.

Council member Rose Branson reported on the repair of the drains on Pope Miller indicating that so far the repair seem to be working to solve the problems. There was a little more work to be

done. Mayor Walton then explained the application/project process to obtain the LMIG monies and that the original estimate was not adequate to apply for the monies so there was some extra work added to the estimate so that the City could qualify for the grant. The total cost of the project was \$4,000.00 with LMIG funds of \$3,226.68 and SPLOST funds of \$773.32 paying for the work.

Mayor Walton advised that initially he had some concerns about Adams Construction due to the fact that he could not make contact with Mr. Adams however those issues have been resolved and Mr. Adams had apologized and offered to refund \$500.00 however Mayor Walton did not feel that this would be necessary since he had done the work. Mr. Adams also offered to place the granite marker inside the bay area for the City until a determination could be made as to where to place the marker. Mr. Adams also gave a verbal estimate To place sidewalks on Easy Street to Chandler Ray Road in the neighborhood of \$40,000.00.

Mayor Walton advised that he was still waiting on Mr. Lapczynski or someone from the county to assist in removing the equipment to be sent for repair on the flashing sign.

The Clerk reported that she had sent in the membership dues to the Chamber of Commerce and we had received a “sticker” that had been placed on the bulletin board indicating our membership in the Chamber.

Council member Branson reported that she had spoken with the county liason with respect to the Census who had explained her role in the upcoming census and indicated that Eva Kennedy would be involved on behalf of the State in working with the county and cities on promoting, etc. the upcoming census.

Mayor Walton presented a sample of the City Flag that he has been working on. He indicated that he is working with a company called Signaroma out of Lawrenceville.

There was more discussion about IT in a Box and the development of a City web site however no action was taken.

With respect to Zoning Mayor Walton reminded us of our next meeting with NEGRC at 6:00 p.m. before the July meeting. He has spoken with Eva Kennedy and is in the process of obtaining a map of the water lines, providers, etc.

Mayor Walton also reported on the meeting with the USDA, the pre-application process and the steps that will be necessary to obtain funding for a new City Hall. He asked that everyone be transparent about the process and be willing to help as the City moves forward in the process. He had also determined that NEGRC will be available to help with the pre-application/application process.

Mayor Walton then spoke to the upcoming Town Hall Meeting. He provided some dates and after some discussion it was decided to hold the meeting on July 22, 2019, between the hours of 6-8 p.m. at Hull Sanford Elementary School. Mayor Walton addressed the structure for the

meeting with a member of the council introducing him followed by his introduction of members of the council, the Clerk and City Attorney. Notifications of the meeting will be sent to both city residents and county residents in the 30646 zip code area. Rose and Yvonne are both assisting in getting the word out through the newsletter, mailouts, etc. There was some discussion about possibly having T-shirts to either hand out or give away as a door prize. The Clerk will check with the Madison County Journal about getting an announcement in the newspaper.

The Clerk reported that the 2018 Audit had been completed and sent to the State by Hawkins and McNair. There were no issues found and we should hear something from the State in a month or so regarding approval.

Council member Rose Branson spoke to her concerns with the current lawn maintenance by Pro Cutz. After some discussion no action was taken however going forward it may be necessary to look at other options when the contract expires at the end of the year.

Mayor Walton and council member Walton reported on the Annual Convention and some of the information they were able to obtain from their attendance. Mayor Walton had attended a training session on Water Management.

There was some discussion about the cumulative amount of spending allowed by the Mayor without council approval. The Clerk will look back at the minutes and the matter will be addressed at the July meeting.

Council member Brian Koepnick had a question about the flags being displayed for the 4th. Mayor Walton indicated that he had spoken with Dustin Jackson and he assured him the flags would be out by tomorrow.

Mayor Walton cautioned members of the council with respect to social media.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned after a motion by Rose Branson which was seconded by Brian Koepnick.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Pou, Clerk

MINUTES OF THE CITY OF HULL MAYOR AND COUNCIL

July 25, 2019

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, Marilyn Walton, and Yvonne Davenport. Attorney Graham was also present. Council member, Rose Branson, was not present.

A moment of silent prayer followed the pledge of allegiance.

Mayor Walton introduced his grandchildren and welcomed them to the meeting.

Minutes of the June meeting and the July agenda were approved after a motion by Brian Koepnick and a second by Yvonne Davenport.

The Clerk then presented the Financial Report and SPLOST account reports both of which were approved after a motion by Brian Koepnick and a second by Marilyn Walton. Councilmember, Yvonne Davenport, did have a question about the amount of the Verizon bill. Mayor Walton explained that this bill included a Chrome Book that he had purchased for use by him for city business and included prorated amounts for current and upcoming service. Mayor Walton also advised that his understanding from Verizon was that it might be possible for other members of the council to add a city line to their existing cell phone without additional costs although he was not certain about the costs. Anyone interested could contact Verizon for further information.

Mayor Walton advised that the City would again be eligible to apply for LMIG funds and requested council to be thinking about potential projects that the money could be used for.

Mayor Walton advised that he was still waiting to get together with Alan Lapczynski with respect to the flashing speed limit sign repair.

Mayor Walton also advised that the finishing touches were being completed on the City Flag and hopefully it would be ready for final review by October.

Mayor Walton reminded everyone that the meeting with Ms. Kennedy (NEGRC) with respect to zoning matters had been postponed until 6:00 p.m. prior to our August council meeting.

Mayor Walton also advised that at the request of principal Register the Town Hall meeting had been moved from July 22nd until July 29th due to some issues at the school. Discussion followed with respect to format of the meeting; publicity to get the word out, etc.

Mayor Walton also asked Attorney Graham about the best and most efficient way to begin the process of revising the City Charter. Attorney Graham advised that working with the NEGRC would be the City's best resource. Mayor Walton requested members of the council to review the model charter he had e-mailed out previously and provide comments.

The Clerk then addressed the issue of spending parameters on the Mayor's spending allowance. She read an excerpt from the minutes where it was determined that the Mayor could spend up to \$1,000.00 without council approval however there was no determination as to how often this could happen. This poses a problem for the Mayor and the Clerk in making sure that public money is being spent properly. Attorney Graham advised that he felt it was a good idea for the Mayor and Council to draft a policy outlining specifically how this should be handled. This could also be included in the new charter.

Mayor Walton then provided some information about the IT in a Box and the city's use of this avenue to establish a web site. From reviewing the information it appeared that the costs to the City would be \$80.00 per month for the first year increasing thereafter. Motion was made by Brian Koepnick and seconded by Yvonne Davenport that the City proceed with setting up a web site. Council member Marilyn Walton volunteered to contact GMA to begin the process.

Mayor Walton then presented the Intergovernmental Agreement between the City and County concerning the distribution and uses for the SPLOST monies that would be used for the upcoming SPLOST vote. The City will receive 0.78% of funds received and the monies could be used for Construction, Maintenance and Improvement to City Buildings. Motion was made by Yvonne Davenport and seconded by Marilyn Walton approving the Agreement. Motion passed. The Mayor and Clerk signed the Agreement and Attorney Graham will deliver to the Commission Chairman.

The Clerk then presented a letter of resignation from council member Rose Branson. She regretfully tendered her letter of resignation due to family medical issues. Motion was made by Brian Koepnick and seconded by Yvonne Davenport to accept the resignation. Motion passed. Mayor Walton had a Certificate of Appreciation printed up and the Clerk will mail to Ms. Branson along with a check for service to date.

The Clerk in her capacity as Election Superintendent announced that the Special Election to fill Rose's position would be held on November 5, 2019, with qualifying being held on August 19th; 20th and 21st from 6 to 7 p.m. In addition, due to a mix up in the Legislation passed in 2018 the position currently held by Yvonne Davenport will be up for re-election this year as well. The election date and qualifying dates and time will be the same as the Special Election. Motion was made by Brian Koepnick and seconded by Yvonne Davenport to accept these dates and times as requested.

Mayor Walton requested that our October meeting be dedicated to meeting with the Fire Department and discussing their needs so that the City will be well-informed when working on the 2020 budget going forward. Mayor Walton advised that he had met with members of the Fire Department the previous week and they had provided a budget which the city has been requesting. There is still ongoing discussion about the City conveying the land where the fire department building is located to the department. Mayor Walton advised that his research revealed that the City owns the land until 2038 with the fire department having the right to lease the property.

Council Member Marilyn Walton presented some flyers for review regarding Christmas Decorations with the thought toward the city may be purchasing some new decorations. There was no action taken at this time.

Mayor Walton advised that he had spoken again with CSX Railroad and they had agreed to come out and clean up along the railroad tracks.

Mayor Walton also advised that he had spoken with Mike Reiley about the City possibly holding its monthly meetings at the Civic Club building. Mr. Reiley indicated that he would need to speak to the Board members and would get back to the Mayor however Mayor Walton had not heard back from him prior to the meeting.

There being no further business at this time the meeting was adjourned after a motion by Brian Koepnick and a second by Yvonne Davenport.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Pou
Hull City Clerk

MINUTES OF THE CITY OF HULL MAYOR AND COUNCIL

August 22, 2019

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 and, Marilyn Walton. Council member Yvonne Davenport was absent due to a death in the family. Attorney Graham was also present along with Councilmember elect, John Barber.

A moment of silent prayer followed the pledge of allegiance.

Mayor Walton welcomed Mr. Barber and expressed his thanks to him for coming aboard and that he and other members of the council looked forward to serving with him. Mr. Barber provided some background on himself to Mayor and Council. The Clerk announced that Mr. Barber would be sworn in at the September meeting.

Minutes of the July meeting and the August agenda were approved after a motion by Brian Koepnick and a second by Marilyn Walton.

The Clerk then presented the Financial Report and SPLOST account reports both of which were approved after a motion by Brian Koepnick and a second by Marilyn Walton.

Mayor Walton advised that he was still waiting on Mr. Lapczynski to get together with him to move forward on repairing the flashing signs. Mr. Barber advised that he was knowledgeable about the flashing signs as that was something he handled through his employment with Athens-Clarke County before his retirement. He and Mayor Walton will get together to see what suggestions Mr. Barber might have.

Mayor Walton advised that the City Flag was ready to move forward and design but he was still trying to get an image of the Well to be used on the flag. This matter was tabled until September.

Mayor Walton advised that with respect to the development of a City web site there had been some misunderstanding with the IT in a Box through GMA and the \$80.00 per month fee was just to host the web site not to design, set up, etc. In that connection Mayor Walton had spoken again the Cynthia McDonald and she had provided an estimate to set up, design, etc the web site which would also include hosting for 12 months of approximately \$1,439.87. The entire amount would not be required up front however since the City was in a position to pay the full amount motion was made by Brian Koepnick and seconded by Marilyn Walton to proceed with the web site through Cynthia McDonald and to pay the entire amount up front. The Clerk will contact her to see if there might be some discount for paying in full up front however if not, she will send a check for the full amount.

With respect to Zoning Mayor Walton advised that he had spoken with Ms. Kennedy and they felt like it would be better to postpone tonight's meeting until 6:00 p.m. on October 24th.

Mayor Walton thanked everyone for participating in the Town Hall meeting and indicated he

hopes to have another one at some point in the future.

Mayor Walton also advised that he was still reviewing the model charter and that we would be working with the NGRDC when we were ready to proceed with drafting a new charter for the City.

Under new business the Clerk reported that qualifying had ended on Wednesday and that council member Marilyn Walton had qualified to retain her seat for a two year term beginning January 1, 2020, with no opposition and that John Barber had qualified to serve the balance of the council seat previously held by Rose Branson. Both council seats will end December 31, 2021 and be up for re-election. In this regard the Clerk gave an overview of the actual Legislation that was passed in 2018 as compared to what the City had requested and the terms of office going forward, etc. These changes will allow the City to have two election cycles instead of three.

Mayor Walton advised that the homeowners in Hidden Falls had collectively paid Pro-Cutz to clean up the entry way to Hidden Falls however going forward he requested the council to consider including the maintenance of the entryway in the City maintenance contract. This matter was tabled until the September meeting since Mayor Walton and council member Marilyn Walton would have a conflict voting on this issue since they live in Hidden Falls. The Clerk will research the issue of ownership of streets, etc. to Hidden Falls as well as communicate with Dustin Jackson of Pro-Cutz with respect to the cost. The contract with Pro-Cutz ends on December 31, 2019, and there was some discussion about advertising for bids and/or entering into a new contract with Pro-Cutz however no action was taken.

The Clerk advised that she had received a letter for the Georgia Department of Audits indicating that the City's most recent audit had been approved with no corrections or revisions required.

Mayor Walton advised that the work being done in the City by Benton Gas Company was the installation of gas lines. He had spoken with a representative of the company and determined that they did have the proper permits however the city had not received any notice of the work that was being done.

There being no further business at this time the meeting was adjourned after a motion by Brian Koepnick and a second by Marilyn Walton

Respectfully submitted

Sandra Pou, Clerk