

7:00 – PM – CALL MEETING TO ORDER ROLL CALL

- PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- READING OF MINUTES/APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES
- COMMENTS/PUBLIC ISSUES
  - FINANCIAL REPORT (Hand out)

### **1. COUNCIL AGENDA /ISSUES/WORK UPDATES:**

**GARDEN** - Marcie - Updates? Need to get key for the donation box

**PARK** - Monte - Updates?

**COMMUNITY CENTER** - Walter - Update? Cracked tile has been repaired

**ROADS AND APPEARANCE** - Matt - Update? Eddie has gotten in touch with Akin to clear right away on Salem ... awaiting on bids on clearing and spraying

### **2. OLD BUSINESS:**

- Was it discussed with Danielle to see if she would be interested in cleaning the restrooms at the Park Pavilion also?
- We're still waiting on the last check from FEMA/GEMA concerning our reimbursement for ER Assist fees. Still waiting on copies of the documents from ER Assist also. I'll follow up with them again once everything has been finalized. Saturday, February 14th I sent an email to ER Assist to see if they have gotten any further information regarding the final check. ER Assist sent an email to Sharve (GEMA) inquiring about the state hold up. Apparently, it is PENDING FEMA closeout. Awaiting information -
- Wade installed a vent in the door at the community center but I've still got to rearrange items in the closet and get a small table or something to put the security camera, etc. on.
- Wade has finished the repairs in the gift shop. He replaced a couple spot lights, bulbs, wiring and cleaned out the ceiling area messed up due to squirrels apparently nesting and chewing wires.
- Wade has gotten the lights and bases for the memorial wall but still needs to install them. I still need to get some estimates on replacing the signs on the wall.
- Lesley Taylor confirmed that she has sent out the 2025 1099s.
- Sue, have you had a chance to try accessing and using the messaging system? Do you need to help?

### **3. NEW BUSINESS:**

- We need to swear in our two new council members - Walter Wright who will be filling the seat previously held by Renee Wright and [Marcie Rogers](#) who will be filling the seat previously held by Brenda Sells. I went to see Carey Alligood February 17th to see if she could give me some guidance in getting our Ethics Guidance Reporting information filed and submitted correctly. She has provided me with copies of documents that we need to ensure are submitted. Since there are some questions whether they have all been filled out due to several years of

turnovers in the posts it is best that we all fill out and sign them. Marcie (Post 3), Matt (Post 4) and myself our Next Election Year is 2027. Monte (Post 1) and Walter (Post 2) Next Election Year is 2029. Not permissible to forgo election fees therefore, Marcie and Walter will need to pay \$18 ea.

- Jansen Killian (The Tillery Firm) has so kindly come and will discuss options for us to proceed with the Duerfeldt property. She has drawn up an ordinance pertaining to the matter for us to use if we'd like. I've provided you with a copy to look over if you'd like to make any changes.
- I received confirmation that our SAM renewal registration has been activated. This is required for us to be able to acquire grants, etc. I also submitted this year's BAS (Boundary and Annexation Survey) February 11th.
- January 23rd, I received an email allowing us to go ahead and close out our State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLRFP) ... also referred to as our AARP grant. I submitted the information on February 14th.
- Stacie Avery has completed our Audit Reports. She will email me a copy and drop off a hard copy at the office Tuesday morning, February 17th.
- Sue Grisham attended the City Clerk Lunch & Learn for District 9 February 11th at the Pal Theatre in Vidalia hosted by GMA (Georgia Municipal Association).
- February 14th, I was going to go ahead and submit our DCA reports and surveys for 2026 however the links provided said they had already been submitted. I sent an email to DCA notifying them of the issue as the links appeared to 2025 related. They responded that everything is good with the exception of RLGF and the GOMI (Government Management Indicators). The RLGF is Stacie and I sent another email to Mandy Hickman at DCA and informed her also of my concerns. Awaiting response -
- I was informed while getting our property taxes done, we need to address increasing our property taxes. I'm still going to look into this; however, we received an email from Larry Hanson (GMA) concerning 2 bills that are being brought before the House concerning the Property Tax Legislation (Homestead Exemption). From my current understanding they are proposing to eliminate the property taxes and have cities, counties, etc. rely on taxes. It was suggested that we contact our local legislative delegations (Leesa Hagan and Blake Tillery) and share our concerns about this revenue shift. I can draft a letter for your review if you'd like once I confirm everything ... unless someone else would like to look further into the matter.
- I attended a meeting the county held in the Commissioner's office Tuesday, February 17th at 9:00am addressing the Expiration of SPLOST (Special Purpose Local Sales Tax) on December 31, 2026. The Agreement is for a period from the date of the Agreement until six (6) years from the date it becomes effective. However, if the SPLOST is not approved by the voters of Toombs County, then the Agreement shall be null and void. Our initial percentage was 1%. I believe the 21-26 split dropped it down to .65%. And it's proposed that the 27-32 it should be a .80%. I inquired why there was the decrease in our 1% and was informed that this was due to everyone's share for the new courthouse.

- I brought this matter to the council previously about Debbie/Barry Toole having some property that they are interested in selling. After discussing with Eddie, we believe that the city should purchase the land. We're thinking it would be a good location to possibly put a sewage facility of our own in the future as it's relatively close to the lift station. Debbie was initially looking at selling to David Evans but after she's reached out to him and not being able to get a response, she's willing to sell it to the city for \$3000. Do you approve of the purchase?
- After meeting Friday, January 09th with Hofstadter (Hayes) and Carol Southard to go over our goals, Hayes Hofstadter provided me with his first initial assessment of our needs, costs, etc. I had asked Eddie Wright to look over the assessment for opinion and suggestions. I also noticed that the map provided showed that the estimate included the dirt road (Dasher). I informed Hayes that it was a county-maintained road and not a city street. He adjusted his estimates and we have another scheduled meeting for him to meet with Eddie and myself to go over on Wednesday, February 18th at 11:00am. Carol stated that she won't be able to attend.
- We will not be having a meeting next month as our new council members will be attending the Newly Elected Officials training at that time in Tifton.
- I went ahead and purchased a 3 ft. snowman for \$200 (carved out of wood) for placing at the city hall. I'm wanting to leave it out permanently. The guy is located in Vidalia and mentioned that he might be able to do some other items for us. Should we look at what he can possibly make and get maybe a few more later to distribute throughout the city? I was mainly interested in them due to them being made out of wood and being heavy. We've had several of the inflatables that had to be replaced from last year. Either motors going bad or in the case of a couple the winds being so bad they ripped. The weather is rough on a lot of the decorations. I thought maybe these being made will hopefully last longer.