

MINUTES
City Council Meeting
Tuesday, January 22, 2013 – 7:00 p.m.

Call to Order: Mayor Holder welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Opening: Mayor Holder offered the opening prayer and invited everyone to join in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Roll Call:

Members Present: Mayor Holder presided. **Council Member:** Don Bethune, Bruce Campbell, Rosetta Cody, Scott George, Bessie Kicklighter and Judy Shuman.

Staff Present: Brian Johnson, City Manager; Ron Feldner, Deputy City Manager; Rhonda Ferrell-Bowles, Clerk of Council; James P. Gerard, City Attorney; Ben Brengman, IT Director; Pam Franklin, HR Director; Scott Allison, PED Director; Cory Salley, Finance Director; David Lyons, Chief of Police; Jimmy Crosby, Fire Chief; Charles Draeger, Water Operations Director; Cliff Ducey, Parks & Recreation Director and Benny Googe, Public Works Director

Presentation by City Council to Fondarific: Staff along with City Council recognized and presented a plaque to Ms. Laura Darnall and Ms. Lois Judy, Owners/Operators of Fondarific for their recent achievements.

Board & Committee Reports: PED Director presented the Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals minutes dated 1/8/13.

Informal Public Comment: Mayor Holder opened the floor to receive informal public comment.

Mr. Lenard Hodges, 3801 Old Louisville Road, asked if the City Manager had heard anything from Chad Reese, Chatham Area Transit Chairman on getting a bus stop in the area of Heidt Avenue and Old Louisville Road.

City Manager said I spoke with Mr. Chad Reese, CAT Chairman about the request. He said Mr. Reese said that the CAT Board has not had a chance to look into the request yet.

Mr. Hodges said I would like to ask the City to help on getting the bus stop.

Mr. Hodges also expressed concerns regarding the pickup of dry trash in the Old Louisville Road area.

City Manager asked if Mr. Hodges had talk with the Public Works Director regarding the issues.

Mr. Hodges said I met with the Public Works Director and they did a good job when they picked up the dry trash. He said my issues are with the people you all contract with to pick it up.

City Manager asked Mr. Hodges to talk with the Public Works Director and Deputy City Manager after the meeting about his concerns so they could pass them along to Waste Management.

Public Hearings:

PC1301, Text Amendment: Mayor Holder opened the public hearing to receive public comments on a request by the City of Garden City to amend the Code of Ordinances of Garden City, Georgia, as amended, by amending Chapter 90, Article I & II thereof, to add taxi cab companies to the permitted uses listed in Code Section 90-47(b) which use shall be permitted in "C-2," "C-2A (B&W)," and "I-1," zoning districts in Garden City, subject to certain conditions; to repeal all ordinances in conflict herewith; to provide an effective date; and for other purposes.

Mayor Holder asked if there was anyone who wished to speak for or against the text amendment. There being no questions or comments, Mayor Holder closed the public hearing on PC1301.

City Council Minutes: Upon motion by Councilmember Bethune, seconded by Councilmember Kicklighter, City Council unanimously approved the minutes dated 1/7/13.

Staff Reports:

Finance Director presented the Finance Department's Year-End Report.

Director of Water Operations presented the Water Operations Year-End Report.

Fire Chief presented the Fire Department's Year-End Report. Fire Chief introduced Sparky the Fire Dog to City Council. He said this is a grant funded position to teach fire prevention in the schools, etc.

Chief of Police presented the Police Department's Year-End Report.

City Manager Updates: City Manager said the Public Works Director and Deputy City Manager met with Mr. Hodges in response to his concerns on resurfacing work needed on Old Louisville Road.

City Manager said the City contacted Norfolk Railroad in response to Mr. Steve Backman's concern of a train blocking the roadways on a weekend. He said the railroad said that there were children on the tracks and that the engineer stopped the train until the children could move off the tracks.

City Manager said I will have a statement from the Ports on the noise mitigation at the next City council meeting.

City Manager said staff followed up with a formal letter to GDOT regarding the potholes on Highway 21. He said staff also met with Waste Management on concerns that had been expressed by residents regarding recycling and household pickup.

Councilmember Kicklighter said this is not the first time that the train has blocked the neighborhood roadways on Saturdays. She said people are generally blocked for about 20 to 30 minutes by the train.

City Manager said staff will contact the railroad again about the matter.

Items for Consideration:

Resolution, Qualifying Fees: Clerk of Council read a resolution by the City Council of Garden City, Georgia, pursuant to Section 21-2-131(a)(1) of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, to fix and publish a qualifying fee of One Hundred Eight (\$108) Dollars for each Office of Councilmember to be filled in the upcoming general election in November 2013.

Upon motion by Councilmember Bethune, seconded by Councilmember Kicklighter, City Council voted unanimously to adopt the resolution.

Resolution, Municipal Superintendent of Elections: Clerk of Council read a resolution by the City of Garden City, Georgia, to authorize The Board of Elections of Chatham County, Georgia, to perform all duties as the municipal superintendent of elections in Garden City, Georgia, with the exception of the qualification of candidates which shall be the responsibility of the Clerk of Council, and that the Chatham County Board of Elections further perform the duties of absentee ballot clerk. Pursuant to Section 21-3-132(c)(3) of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, qualifying for City Council will take place at Garden City City Hall commencing August 26, 2013 at 8:30 a.m. and ending August 29, 2013 at 4:00 p.m.

Upon motion by Councilmember Kicklighter, seconded by Councilmember George, City Council voted unanimously to adopt the resolution.

Appointments: Consideration of making the following appointments:

James P. Gerard, City Attorney
Tom Edenfield, Municipal Court Judge
Doug Andrews, Municipal Court Judge Pro-tem

Upon motion by Councilmember Kicklighter, seconded by Councilmember Shuman, City Council voted unanimously to approve the appointments.

Councilmember Bethune made a motion, seconded by Councilmember George to enter into executive session to discuss pending litigation. City Council unanimously voted to enter into executive session.

Councilmember Bethune made a motion, seconded by Councilmember George to close the executive session and enter back into regular session. City Council voted unanimously to enter back into regular session.

Adjournment: Mayor Holder made a motion to adjourn the meeting with City Council unanimously voting to adjourn at 8:47 p.m.

*Transcribed by Rhonda Ferrell-Bowles, Clerk of Council
Adopted by City Council 2/4/13*