

**MINUTES**  
**City Council Meeting**  
**Monday, November 18, 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:** Mayor Holder presided. Council Members: Don Bethune, Bruce Campbell, Scott George, Bessie Kicklighter and Judy Shuman. **Absent:** Rosetta Cody

**Staff:** Ron Feldner, Deputy City Manager; Rhonda Ferrell-Bowles, Clerk of Council; James P. Gerard, City Attorney; Ben Brengman, IT Director; David Lyons, Chief of Police; Jimmy Crosby, Fire Chief; Charles Draeger, Water Operations Director; Pam Franklin, HR Director; Cliff Ducey, Recreation Director and Benny Googe, Public Works Director.

**Informal Public Comment:**

Ms. Sharon Bethune, 2621 Woodlawn Avenue, said I am speaking for my father. She said he is concerned about the house on Rommel Avenue by the water tower that the tree fell on a long time ago. She said nothing is being done to repair the house and it looks terrible. She said I took a picture of the house on November 1, 2013, so I can document that the man is not working on the house. She said there was a car parked at the house that was tagged and the car has been moved, but the house remains in terrible condition. She said I would like to request that Garden City strengthen their enforcement, by putting some teeth in code enforcement laws.

Mr. Roy Crager, 91 Azalea Avenue, said the house is making the City look bad. He said it is the topic of conversation and people are commenting about whether the City will ever do anything about it. He said this is really making the City look bad.

Chief Lyons said the man appeared in court about two months ago and was given six months by the Judge to finish the house.

Councilmember Bethune said about 95% of the property owners keep up their property up. He said it is the small percent that don't keep their property that makes the City look bad. He said we need to get some teeth in our code enforcement policies so these issues can be dealt with sooner. He said the guy didn't get his permit when he was supposed to. He said he should be held accountable for not doing what he was instructed to do.

Mayor Holder asked if there was anyone else who wished to address City Council. There being no further comments, Mayor Holder closed the informal public comment portion of the meeting.

**Public Hearings:**

**Alcoholic Beverage License Application, Southern Eagle Distributing** - Mayor Holder opened the public hearing on an alcoholic beverage license application by Gregory Evans Stringer to sell beer and/or malt beverages at Southern Eagle Distributing LLC, 1320 Highway 80, Garden City, Georgia, 31408.

There being no questions or comments, Mayor Holder closed the public hearing.

FY2014 Budget: Deputy City Manager presented the proposed Operating and Capital Budget for fiscal year 2014.

After the presentation, Mayor Holder opened the floor to receive public comment on the proposed budget for fiscal year 2014.

Ms. Sharon Bethune asked if City Council planned to hire a City Manager in 2014.

Mayor Holder said that the City Manager's position is budgeted in 2014 and we will be using a search firm to help us in our search for a new City Manager.

Ms. Bethune said that I do not see any money budgeted in the Water Department's budget for damage claims. She said I am in the construction business and I know they need money in the budget for damages that occur when they are making a repair.

Ms. Jessica Auner said I would like to know more about the library infrastructure and I heard someone say that the Garden City Police Department's budget is over 50% of the budget.

Deputy City Manager said we have an agreement with Chatham County to extend water/sewer and drainage to the new library facility.

Deputy City Manager said the public safety division is a little over 50% of the general fund budget. He said the city's overall budget shrank.

Councilmember Bethune thanked the residents for coming to the meetings. He thanked the Deputy City Manager, Clerk of Council and all the Department Heads for their work on the budget.

Councilmember Bethune said that we don't have anything budgeted for CIP in the general fund and this is the fourth consecutive year that employees don't receive raises. He said I am very concerned that our Police Department is 50% of the general fund budget. He said I compare the City's budget to that of my household budget and I would be concern if 50% out of my household budget was being consumed on one expense. He said our revenues have decreased and we still need to look at additional cuts in the Police Department.

Mayor Holder said we are not voting on the FY14 Budget tonight. He said the vote will take place at the December 2<sup>nd</sup> council meeting.

There being no further questions or comments, Mayor Holder closed the public hearing on the FY14 budget.

#### **City Council Minutes:**

Upon motion by Councilmember Kicklighter, seconded by Councilmember Shuman, City Council voted unanimously to approve the following minutes:

- City Council Meeting Minutes dated 11/4/13
- City Council FY14 Final Review Budget Workshop Synopsis dated 11/7/13

#### **Staff Reports:**

Water Operations Director presented the Water Operations Department's Monthly Status Report.

Fire Chief presented the Fire Department's Monthly Status Report.

Chief of Police presented the Police Department and Code Enforcement's Monthly Status Report.

Councilmember Kicklighter thanked the Police Department for holding this year's Christmas in the Park. Chief Lyons said the Christmas in the Park will be held on December 7<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Pro-tem George asked the Chief of Police how many officers are to a shift.

Chief Lyons said that there are five officers, a Lieutenant and two traffic units. He said when you consider vacation and training you average three persons on a shift. He said the detectives work an eight hour shift with one rotating on call.

Mayor Pro-tem George asked if the crime statics were up and had crime increased inside neighborhoods.

Chief Lyons said our drug activity continues to be high. He said we have a press conference this week at CNT on a big case that we worked on with CNT.

Chief Lyons said we continue to get positive comments on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Street four-way stop and we are looking at other four-way stops in the City.

**Items for Consideration:**

**Alcoholic Beverage License Application, Southern Eagle Distributing** - Mayor Holder said we have for consideration of an alcoholic beverage license application by Gregory Evans Stringer to sell beer and/or malt beverages at Southern Eagle Distributing LLC, 1320 Highway 80, Garden City, Georgia, 31408.

Upon motion by Councilmember Kicklighter, seconded by Councilmember Bethune, City Council voted unanimously to approve Gregory Evans Stringer alcoholic beverage license application for Southern Eagle Distributing.

**Resolution, FY14 Alcohol License Renewals** – Mayor Holder read a resolution to authorize renewal of Garden City alcohol licenses for the 2014 calendar year; to provide for review and limited investigation of said license holders; and for other purposes.

Upon motion by Councilmember Bethune, seconded by Councilmember Kicklighter, City Council voted unanimously to adopt the 2014 Alcohol License Renewals Resolution.

**Resolution, FY13 General Fund Budget Amendment & Supplemental Appropriation:** Clerk of Council read a resolution to amend the FY13 General Operating Fund Budget to adjust for the differences between the originally adopted and presently projected revenues and expenditures and to provide for a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$264,431 in order to fund the FY13 General Operating Fund Budget with respect to the difference between the projected revenues and expenditures for the City's various budgets.

Upon motion by Councilmember Shuman, seconded by Councilmember Campbell, City Council voted unanimously to adopt the FY13 General Fund Budget Amendment & Supplemental Appropriation Resolution.

**Resolution, FY13 Enterprise Funds Budget Amendments:** Clerk of Council read a resolution to amend the FY13 Enterprise Funds; to adjust for the difference between the originally adopted and presently projected revenues and expenses for certain of the various line items in the budgets of the four different enterprise funds.

Upon motion by Councilmember Campbell, seconded by Councilmember Bethune, City Council voted unanimously to adopt the FY13 Enterprise Funds Budget Amendments Resolution.

**Resolution, FY13 Other Governmental Funds Budget Amendments:** Clerk of Council read a resolution to amend the FY13 budgets for two governmental funds; to adjust for the differences between the originally adopted and presently projected revenues and expenditures for certain of the various line items in the budgets of the two governmental funds.

Upon motion by Councilmember Kicklighter, seconded by Councilmember George, City Council voted unanimously to adopt the FY13 Other Governmental Funds Budget Amendments Resolution.

**Agreement between Garden City Police Department & Georgia Ports Authority –** Mayor Holder said we have for consideration authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement between the Garden City Police Department and Georgia Ports Authority to allow deputized Georgia Ports Authority Police Officers to enforce parking violations and to control and direct traffic as directed by the Chief of the Georgia Ports Authority Police Department along State Highway 25 (Main Street) from the intersection of State Highway 307 south to Brampton Road.

Deputy City Manager said this is an agreement between the Garden City Police Department and the Georgia Ports Authority Police to address issues by Garden City property owners on Highway 25 (Main Street) regarding off-street parking. He said this agreement grants authority to GPA Police Officers to write citations to deter off-street parking along Highway 25.

City Attorney said GPA is performing this service free of charge. He said GPA's police officers will be cover under their workers compensation and the tickets they write will come to our court.

Councilmember Bethune said this is a good thing, because our police officers will not be tied up.

Deputy City Manager thank Chief Lyons for his work on the agreement.

Upon motion by Councilmember Kicklighter, seconded by Councilmember Bethune, City Council voted unanimously to authorize the Mayor to execute the agreement between GCPD and GPA.

**Adjournment:** Upon motion by Mayor Holder, seconded by Councilmember Campbell, City Council voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:00 p.m.