

MINUTES
City Council Meeting
Monday, June 2, 2014 – 7:00 p.m.

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

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

Roll Call:

Members: Mayor Holder presided. **Council Members:** Don Bethune, Bruce Campbell, Rosetta Cody, Marcia Daniel, Scott George and Kim Tice.

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

FY2013 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report: Mr. Chris Lightle, Auditor with the firm Karp, Ronning & Tindol presented a brief overview of the City's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for fiscal year ended December 31, 2013.

Councilmember Bethune said when I worked with the Savannah Fire Department they had a five year capital improvement projects plan. He said they would take money from their general fund ever so often and put it in a fund that was set aside for capital projects. He said what is lacking in our budget is a five year CIP Plan, because we have no way of funding those projects from general fund. He said don't most municipalities set aside money from their general fund for capital projects.

Mr. Lightle said it is not advised to have such a tight budget. He said most municipalities rely on SPLOST funding for most of their capital improvement projects. He said the City of Savannah does put aside money in their general fund for capital projects, but it is not advised if you have such a tight budget.

Councilmember Bethune said we run the risk that SPLOST could be turned down by the voters.

Mr. Lightle said it is not only up to Garden City voters. He said it is up to the Chatham County voters as a whole.

Mayor Pro-tem George said how long have you been the auditor here?

Mr. Lightle said since the 1990's.

Mayor Pro-tem George said have you ever proposed a fund to be set up in the past.

Mr. Lightle said I am not proposing that you set up a fund.

Mayor Pro-tem George said our debt service is funded by SPLOST.

Mr. Lightle said if you look at page D-6 of the CAFR, your SPLOST funding was used for the City Hall debt service and you used maintenance improvement grant funding for a road rehabilitation project.

Mayor Pro-tem George said over the last five year or ten year period do you know of any money that was set aside for this building.

Mr. Lightle said I don't think so. He said I believe you benefited from the sale of the old City Hall. He said it is very unusual for smaller cities to have a separate fund other than SPLOST. He said Savannah being a larger City happens to have a separate fund other than SPLOST.

Informal Public Comment: Mayor Holder opened the floor to receive public comment from the audience. There being no questions or comments from the audience, Mayor Holder closed the informal public comment portion of the meeting.

City Council Minutes: Upon by Councilmember Bethune, seconded by Councilmember George, City Council voted unanimously to approve the City Council Meeting Minutes dated 5/19/14, Property Tax Public Hearing (1) Synopsis dated 5/5/14, Property Tax Public Hearing (2) Synopsis dated 5/16/14 and Property Tax Public Hearing (3) Synopsis dated 5/19/14.

Staff Reports:

Interim Zoning Administrator presented the Planning & Zoning Department's Monthly Status Report.

Mayor Pro-tem George asked if City Council generally receives grand opening invitations when a new business opens in Garden City. He said there have been two new businesses to open and we didn't receive anything regarding their grand opening.

City Manager said no grand opening invitations have come through me.

IT Director presented the Information Technology Department's Monthly Status Report.

Public Works Director presented the Public Works Department's Monthly Status Report.

Councilmember Bethune said in my travels today along Highway 80, I saw the public works crews working. He said every time I went by the employees were working. He said there was one time I rode by and they were taking a break and when I came back by they had already started back to work. He said if a resident was only traveling Highway 80 once at that particular time they could have accused them of not working. He said I don't think public works employees get enough recognition for the work they do. He said I want to commend the public works employees for the good job they do.

Parks & Recreation Director presented the Parks & Recreation Department's Monthly Status Report.

City Manager said I have no updates tonight.

Mayor Holder said we have no items for consideration on tonight's agenda.

Mayor Pro-tem George said I had a couple of calls about the ad in the newspaper today. He said why is there a difference in the number from the presentation at the property tax public hearings.

City Manager said we did research of the information the County provided us. He said the number you see is the gross revenue number which does not take into account the appeals, billings and collections, delinquencies and unpaid taxes. He said we are looking at a net revenue number in the range of \$960,000 to \$1.1 million in net revenue as result of 4 mills at the end of the process.

Mayor Pro-tem said the report number represents the gross.

City Manager said yes, it does not include the appeals.

Mayor Pro-tem said if 4 mills, then what are we looking at in net revenue range?

City Manager said \$960,000 to \$1.1 million net range.

Adjournment: Mayor Holder made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Bethune to adjourn the meeting. City Council adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

*Transcribed by: Clerk of Council
Accepted by City Council: 6/16/14*