

MINUTES
City Council Meeting
Monday, June 16, 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 Campbell 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; Tonya Roper, Interim Zoning Administrator and Ben Brengman, IT Director.

Proclamation: Mayor Holder presented to Ms. Barbara Powers a proclamation in honor of her retirement effective July 2, 2014.

Presentation: The Parks & Recreation Director recognized the volunteer coaches and the members of the Garden City Eagles 10 & under and 12 & under baseball teams for their outstanding performance and placement in the Coastal Athletic Association group.

Informal Public Comment: Mayor Holder opened the floor to receive informal comment from the audience. He said we cannot receive comment on the property tax, because we have already held the three public hearings so the time for public comment on the matter is closed.

There being no questions or comments from the audience, Mayor Holder closed the informal public comment portion of the meeting.

Public Hearings:

Alcoholic Beverage License Application (Kishan VB2 Inc., Hwy. 80): Mayor Holder opened the public hearing to receive public comment on an alcoholic beverage license application by Bhartiben Patel to sell wines, beer and/or malt beverages at Kishan VB2 Inc., 80 Quick Stop, 305 US Highway 80, Garden City, Georgia.

Mayor Holder asked if there was anyone in the audience who wished to speak for or against the application. There being no questions or comments, Mayor Holder closed the public hearing.

Alcoholic Beverage Manager License Application (Kishan VB2 Inc., Hwy. 80): Mayor Holder opened the public hearing to receive public comment on an alcoholic beverage manager license application by Viralkumar Patel to sell wines, beer and/or malt beverages at Kishan VB2 Inc., 80 Quick Stop, 305 US Highway 80 Garden City, Georgia.

Mayor Holder asked if there was anyone in the audience who wished to speak for or against the application. There being no questions or comments, Mayor Holder closed the public hearing.

City Council Minutes: Upon motion by Councilmember Bethune, seconded by Councilmember Daniel, City Council voted unanimously to approve the City Council Meeting Minutes dated 6/2/14 and the City Council Workshop Synopsis dated 6/9/14.

Staff Report:

Human Resources Director presented the Human Resources Department's Monthly Status Report. Water Operations Director presented the Water Operations Department's Monthly Status Report. Public Safety Director presented the Public Safety Department's Monthly Status Report.

City Manager Updates: City Manager said I have no updates to present at this time.

Items for Consideration:

Alcoholic Beverage License Application (Kishan VB2 Inc., Hwy. 80): Mayor Holder said we have for consideration an alcoholic beverage license application by Bhartiben Patel to sell wines, beer and/or malt beverages at Kishan VB2 Inc., 80 Quick Stop, 305 US Highway 80 Garden City, Georgia.

Upon motion by Councilmember Bethune, seconded by Councilmember Daniel, City Council voted unanimously to approve the alcoholic beverage license application for Bhartiben Patel.

Alcoholic Beverage Manager License Application (Kishan VB2 Inc., Hwy. 80): Mayor Holder said we have for consideration an alcoholic beverage manager license application by Viralkumar Patel to sell wines, beer and/or malt beverages at Kishan VB2 Inc., 80 Quick Stop, 305 US Highway 80 Garden City, Georgia.

Upon motion by Councilmember Campbell, seconded by Councilmember Cody, City Council voted unanimously to approve the alcoholic beverage manager license application for Viralkumar Patel.

Facility Rental Policy: Mayor Holder said we have for consideration a rental policy and guidelines to govern the users that rent the Garden City Gym and Cooper Center and for the purpose of establishing priority of users and rental rates.

Upon motion by Councilmember Tice, seconded by Councilmember Cody, City Council voted unanimously to approve the facility rental policy.

First Reading, Roll-out Cart Ordinance Amendment: Mayor Holder read for the first reading an ordinance to amend the Code of Ordinances of Garden City, Georgia, as amended, to amend Section 62-49 of Chapter 62, Article II, Division 2, for the purpose of changing from 7:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. the earliest time a resident may place a roll-out garbage cart near the curb for trash collection one day prior to the collection date; to repeal all ordinances in conflict herewith; to provide an effective date; and for other purposes.

City Manager there is not a lot of change to the ordinance. He said the amendment simply defines the time a roll-out cart can be out by the curb.

Upon motion by Councilmember Bethune, seconded by Councilmember Daniel, City Council voted unanimously to approve the amendment to the roll-out cart ordinance on the first reading.

Upon motion by Councilmember Bethune, seconded by Councilmember Campbell, City Council voted unanimously to suspend the rules of council to hold the second reading of the ordinance.

Second Reading, Roll-out Cart Ordinance Amendment: Mayor Holder read for the second reading an ordinance to amend the Code of Ordinances of Garden City, Georgia, as amended, to amend Section 62-49 of Chapter 62, Article II, Division 2, for the purpose of changing from 7:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. the earliest time a resident may place a roll-out garbage cart near the curb for trash collection one day prior to the collection date; to repeal all ordinances in conflict herewith; to provide an effective date; and for other purposes.

Upon motion by Councilmember Campbell, seconded by Councilmember Bethune, City Council voted unanimously to adopt the ordinance on the second reading.

Fee Schedule: Mayor Holder said we have for consideration a revised fee schedule that was previously adopted on December 3, 2013 and made effective on January 1, 2014. In summary a revised set of City facility rental rates were incorporated into the fee schedule as well as a penalty for customers that fail to adhere to the City's residential roll-out cart ordinance.

City Manager said the 2014 fee schedule has been revised to reflect the new facility rental rates and to include a \$7.00 enforcement fee to encourage people to pull their cart(s) back off the road so it is not a hazard.

Councilmember Bethune said I am concerned that the roll-out cart enforcement fee is low. He said I would like to have a designated phone number setup for people to call to report roll-out cart violations so they don't have to go through the switchboard.

Upon motion by Councilmember Bethune, seconded by Councilmember Daniel, City Council voted unanimously to approve the revised fee scheduled for fiscal year 2014.

Resolution, Quitclaim Release of Easement on Teston Property: Mayor Holder read a resolution to quitclaim the City's interest in a 15 foot wide utility strip running through Lot 2-A and a portion of Lot 2, Dean Forest Village Center Shopping Center at the corner of Dean Forest Road and Prosperity Drive in Garden City.

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

Resolution, City Council Meeting Summer Schedule – Mayor Holder read a resolution to amend the regular meeting scheduled of the Garden City Council for the period of July 1, 2014 through September 30, 2014. The amended meeting schedule is proposed as follows:

Regularly Scheduled Meeting	July 7, 2014	Canceled
Regularly Scheduled Meeting	July 21, 2014	Affirmed
Regularly Scheduled Meeting	August 4, 2014	Canceled
Regularly Scheduled Meeting	August 18, 2014	Affirmed
Regularly Scheduled Meeting	September 1, 2014	Canceled
Regularly Scheduled Meeting	September 15, 2014	Affirmed

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

Resolution to Set Millage Rate – Mayor Holder read a resolution of the Mayor and Council of Garden City, Georgia, to set the Ad Valorem Tax Rate of Garden City for fiscal year 2014; and for other purposes.

Councilmember Bethune made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Daniel to set the millage rate at 4 mills for fiscal year 2014.

Mayor Holder said we have a motion and second to set a millage rate of 4 mills. He asked if council had any comments.

Mayor Pro-tem George said I hope we take our time and think about what we are doing. He said this is an important decisions that will affect approximately 9,000 people. He said I want to make sure that you all understand that the millage rate will eventually go up. He said we have not had to lay off employees. He said our public safety departments are doing a good job repairing their vehicles. He said Garden City has an “A” credit rating and everyone should be proud of that. He said we only have one loan coming out of the SPLOST fund for City Hall. He said other projects are coming out of other funds. He said the senior center is fully funded. He said if someone knows something then let me know, because I don’t see it. He said I would like those in the audience to stand who are against property taxes.

Councilmember Bethune said we have been seventy-five years without property taxes and I don’t know how the past mayor and council members did it. He said we have cut the budget every year since I have been on council. He said I have a responsibility as a city council member to make sure we have the necessary resources to operate in order to deliver services to citizens and provide for the safety of our employees. He said our employees have been overlooked for the last couple of years. He said our employees have not had a raise in the last three or four years and in order to be able to retain our employees we have to be able to compensate them. He said we need to have a competitive compensation and benefits package that will attract and retain employees. He said no matter what the outcome it is going to be sad for Garden City. He said I have looked at it, done my due diligence and I don’t feel we have no other option. He said 4 mills is lower than the mileage rates imposed by our surrounding cities.

Mayor Pro-tem George said I have here thirty suggestions from business owners and residents of things we could look into to doing. He said could I make a motion to table this resolution.

City Attorney replied yes.

Councilmember Daniel said I have done my due diligence and I have been bullied and my family threaten. She said I have not heard any suggestions on how we can get out of this financial bind. She said property taxes are going to come whether it's this year or next year.

Mayor Pro-tem George said I understand what you are saying, but I am asking you to wait one more year.

Mayor Pro-tem George made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Campbell to table the resolution to set a millage for fiscal year 2014.

Mayor Holder said we have a motion and a second to table the resolution. He asked the Clerk of Council to take a roll call vote of council.

Mayor Holder – Opposed
Mayor Pro-tem George – For
Councilmember Bethune – Opposed
Councilmember Campbell – For
Councilmember Cody – For
Councilmember Daniel – Opposed
Councilmember Tice – Opposed

Mayor Holder said the motion to table the resolution fails by a vote of four to three.

Mayor Holder said we have a motion by Councilmember Bethune, seconded by Councilmember Daniel to adopt the resolution to set the ad valorem tax rate at 4 mills for fiscal year 2014. He asked the Clerk of Council to take a roll call vote of council.

Mayor Holder – For
Mayor Pro-tem George – Opposed
Councilmember Bethune – For
Councilmember Campbell – Opposed
Councilmember Cody – Opposed
Councilmember Daniel – For
Councilmember Tice – For

Mayor Holder said the motion to adopt the resolution passes by a vote of four to three.

Adjournment: Mayor Holder made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Bethune to adjourn at the meeting. City Council adjourned the meeting at 7:54 p.m.

*Transcribed by Clerk of Council
Approved by City Council: 7/21/14*