

City of White, GA
City Council Meeting
November 6, 2023

Present at the meeting were Mayor Curtis Powell, Councilmembers Stephanie Nicholson, Kim Billue, Gary Crisp, Charles Buttrum, City Clerk Robin Cochran, and City Attorney Elliot Noll.

Mayor Powell started with the pledge and Councilmember Nicholson led us in prayer. Mayor Powell asked for approval for the October 2nd minutes. Councilmember Nicholson made a motion for approval with Councilmember Billue seconding the motion. Councilmembers Buttrum and Crisp stated that they needed more time to read over them as the minutes are long and they hadn't had the time to look over them yet. The motion failed and was tabled until the December meeting.

Mayor Powell gave the report for the water department. Powell stated that there were two leaks and the pump in the cylinder went out on the trash truck and it's in the shop.

Chief Jason Smith stated he has filled his full-time position. Other than that, it has been business as usual in his department.

City Clerk Robin Cochran reported on city business by reminding everyone about voting for Mayor and two City Council positions the following morning beginning at 7a.m. Cochran stated that during a meeting with the poll manager he reminded everyone of what was and was not allowed during the voting process. Cochran continued her report with information on the incorrect water bills saying that she and Brianna spent all day sending out new water bill statements. Cochran reminded everyone that the trash rates did go up and it did reflect on this bill. Councilmember Buttrum asked if the mess up was on Harris's end. Cochran stated that this was not their fault and explained again that an update was made before she sent the file to Harris which caused the error. Councilmember Crisp asked if we could look into other accounting systems. Cochran stated that when she started working for the city in 2018, Mayor Billue and I looked into the other accounting systems, and it was going to cost \$200,000-\$350,000 to change. It just wasn't plausible given the current budget but that she'd look again and see if the prices had come down. Citizen William Watkins asked

Cochran if the issue is with Harris. Cochran responds with no it is not the issue is with whoever is putting the information into the system. Cochran reiterated that the water bill issue we experienced this month was completely her fault and had nothing to do with Harris or their product. Powell asked what the accounting firm had been assisting with for the past several weeks. Cochran stated that Brandi Parker with Williamson and Co. had been reconciling 2021 and 2022 to get ready for the audits.

Mayor Powell continued with unfinished business, Ballfield Lease. Councilmember Billue made a motion to approve and Councilmember Nicholson seconded the motion. Motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

Mayor Powell stated that the Adult Entertainment Ordinance was tabled at the last meeting and asked for a motion to approve. Councilmember Nicholson made a motion to approve and Councilmember Buttrum seconded the motion. Motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

Mayor Powell asked for a motion to approve the mold remediation bid for 75 Richards Rd house. There was talk among the council members about the steps that needed to be taken and the steps that have been taken to vote on this. Councilmember Nicholson made the motion to approve Hygena Pure bid for mold remediation and Councilmember Billue seconded the motion. Motion passed with a 3-1 vote with Councilmember Crips voting nay.

Mayor Powell stated that the rezoning applicants from Wayne Davis Concrete and Petro Partners have asked to defer until the December meeting but told Pastor Jude and Dr. Moore that they could still speak during the public comments portion.

Mayor Powell moved to new business, 2024 Budge First Reading. Powell stated that they will have a work session before the second reading in December.

Citizen Rick Moore gave a heartfelt speech about why he feels the city should keep the concrete plant out of the city. Citizen Jerry Jude explained he is against putting a concrete plant in our city as well as the noise and other potential problems would affect him directly. Councilmember Nicholson asked Jude why he built his house where he did if he knew there was already a concrete plant there and the Toyo plant across the road. Jude

stated that Toyo does not affect him, the concrete plant does. Nichelson stated that they've had a company come to ask to use the land when it's already clear no one will build a house there or put in a restaurant. These people are asking to come into our community. Citizen William Watkins asked how many house the council spends preparing for meetings and representing citizens. Councilmember Nichelson stated if just depend on what was needed of them. Watkins noted his frustration with certain council members being ill prepared, looking for understand as to why this is when it holds the city and citizens hostage. Citizen Kesha Fussell asked about the monthly minutes and Robert's rules and how it affects the citizens and the city. She explained her disappointment with Bartow County and feel they are turning this county in an industrial one. Fussell asked for the denial of the rezoning for the concrete plant.

Mayor Powell asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Buttrum made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Crisp seconded the motion. Motion passed with a 4-0 vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Regards,

Robin Cochran
City Clerk

Curtis Powell, Mayor