

City of White Georgia
City Council Meeting
March 4, 2024

Present at the meeting were Mayor Curtis Powell, Councilmembers Stephanie Nicholson, Jean Swank, Karissa Noland, Gary Crisp, and City Attorney Brandon Bowen.

Mayor Powell led with the pledge of allegiance and Councilmember Nicholson followed with the invocation.

Mayor Powell began with the review and approval of the March 4th agenda. Mayor Powell asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Councilmember Nicholson made a motion to approve. Councilmember Noland seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Mayor Powell asked for a motion to approve the February 7th minutes. Councilmember Nicholson made a motion to approve. Councilmember Swank seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Mayor Powell asks for a motion to approve the February 16th minutes. Councilmember Swank made a motion to approve. Councilmember Nicholson seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Mayor Powell opens the floor for public comments. Hearing none, Mayor Powell moved to the first reading of the rezoning by SA Land Group going from R1 to R4. Mayor Powell opened the floor for public comments. Adam Baker from SA Land Group approached the council. Baker explained what his company expects regarding the townhomes, the community of the townhome residents, and the landscaping his company intends to do on the property. Councilmember Nicholson asked about the capacity of schools after the townhome residents moved in. Baker explained how the federal and states funds worked when it came to capacity for the schools and assured the council that if the city decided to grow with the approval of this rezoning it would be a non-issue and explained how the county decides what to do when a school is at capacity. Councilmember Swank asked about lighting in the subdivision. Baker stated that all municipalities have a streetlight code they follow, and he would abide by whatever code and rules necessary. Councilmember Noland asked who would maintain vacant properties. Baker stated that there would be an HOA and it would be their

job to maintain the community. Mayor Powell stated his main concern was with traffic. Baker stated that the worst-case scenario, it would increase the traffic by 3% and that is if no one from TOYO tire bought a townhome. Also, he did not foresee a traffic increase due to the planned turning lanes. Citizen Eddie Billue addressed the council as an employee of TOYO tire. Billue informed the council that TOYO tire was working on an incentive housing program for its employees that have been employed for a year. TOYO tire will be calculating a dollar amount, to be determined at a later date, to give its employees that will go towards the cost of buying a house. Billue introduced COO and President of TOYO Tire, Patrick Lens. He stated his support of this project as the majority of his employees drive 45 minutes to an hour a day one way to make it work. Powell closed the public comments section.

City Clerk, Robin Cochran started by reminding everyone about the food pantry at City Hall stating we have an average of six families each week. Cochran stated that City Hall will close March 29th for Good Friday. She continued by announcing that councilmember Swank has proposed to start a senior social that begins April the 9th from 1:30-3:30. She reminded everyone of early voting for the Presidential Primary on Super Tuesday.

Police Chief, Jason Smith addressed the council. Smith asked the council for the use of SPLOST funds for body cameras and terabyte storage. Smith let everyone know that he was still getting bids, but he was asking for \$2100 for 3 body cameras with 5 terabytes of storage. Mayor Powell asked for a motion to approve. Councilmember Crisp made a motion to approve. Councilmember Nicholson seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0. Smith continued by asking the council to surplus four taser X46-es to sell. Mayor Powell asks for a motion to approve. Councilmember Nicholson made a motion to approve. Councilmember Crisp seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Mayor Powell moved to unfinished business. He begins by addressing the tree near the Public Works building and opens the floor for discussion amongst the council. Councilmember Crisp motioned to table the topic until the next meeting. Councilmember Swank seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Mayor Powell moved to new business and began with the adoption of the proposed sewer capacity fees. City Engineer, John Sweitzer addressed the

council. Sweitzer explained that with the three potential residential developments, the capacity of the sewer will be maxed out, but we can do upgrades. Councilmember Nichelson asked Sweitzer if the White capacity fees are the same as Bartow County fees. Sweitzer clarifies that for the ones that are outside the city limits, but proposed a price break for those who are inside of the city limits. Mayor Powell asked for a motion to approve. Councilmember Swank makes a motion to set the capacity fees as proposed by Mr. Sweitzer. Councilmember Nichelson seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Mayor Powell continued by addressing the quote for upgrading DELTA Municipal Supply/Neptune for meter reading and water billing software. Councilmember Nichelson verifies this is just for the upgrade of the reading and billing system. Councilmember Crisp asked if they got a quote from any other company. Mayor Powell informed the council that he did get a quote to replace the entire system and software and it was \$140,000.00 that came with 225 meters. There was chatter amongst the council about replacing current software and purchasing new meter reading and water billing software. Cochran reminded the council that they just need to upgrade the software before it stops working. Cochran went on to explain that this an update to the same system, and that they did not get quotes from other companies for new software, this is a mandatory update from the company the city currently uses and if they do not upgrade, the software will stop working. There was chatter amongst the council. Mayor Powell stated the plan is to use 2020 SPLOST for this new system and the system would read the meters automatically and upload to the billing software. Councilmember Crisp stated that he believes this upgrade is a waste of money as we will be dealing with the same people and problems and stated he recommends spending the money on a new system. Councilmember Nichelson rebutted it by saying she did not want to spend the \$140,000.00 to replace what is already working and that she thinks they should upgrade the system. Mayor Powell asked for a motion to approve. Councilmember Nichelson made a motion to accept the DELTA Municipal Supply/Neptune quote for updating software/meter reading from the current version using the 2020 SPLOST. Councilmember Noland seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-1 with Councilmember Crisp voting against it.

Mayor Powell continued with the CD at Century Bank that is due for renewal stating his suggestion is to move it to the General Fund. There was discussion amongst the council. Councilmember Swank asked about

shopping around for better interest rates vs renewing. Councilmember Crisp agreed. Mayor Powell asked for a motion to approve. Councilmember Nicholson made a motion to move the CD to the General fund with the contingency that they would shop around for better interest rates and not spend the money. Councilmember Swank seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Mayor Powell continued by stating on March 18th they got a request for the renewal of the SPLOST for 2026, and he will meet with Bartow County and other municipalities to discuss how funds will be divided up and there will be a new SPLOST referendum on the ballot in November.

Mayor Powell asked for a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Crisp made a motion. Councilmember Nicholson seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:11pm.

Regards,



Robin Cochran
City Clerk

Attest:



Curtis Powell, Mayor