

City of White Georgia
City Council Meeting
January 2, 2024

Present at the meeting were Mayor Curtis Powell, Councilmembers, Stephanie Nicholson, Gary Crisp, Unsworn Councilmembers, Jean Swank, and Karissa Noland, City Clerk, Robin Cochran, and City Attorney, Elliot Noll.

Mayor Powell started with the pledge of allegiance and Councilmember Nicholson followed with a prayer.

City Attorney Noll started the meeting by swearing in the newly elected officials: Mayor Curtis Powell, Councilmember Jean Swank, and Councilmember Karissa Noland.

Mayor Powell requested a motion to add the Foxfield apartment complex to the agenda regarding sewer capacity as well as adding the credit card purchasing policy. Councilmember Nicholson made a motion to approve with Councilmember Swank seconding the motion. Motion carried with a 4-0 vote.

Mayor Powell asks for a motion to approve the December 4th council meeting minutes. Councilmember Nicholson made a motion to approve with Councilmember Crisp seconding the motion. Motion carried with a 4-0 vote.

Mayor Powell continued with the Water Department report stating that although we did get the trash truck back, it wasn't at 100%, but the part needed should be in mid-January. Powell stated there was one leak in December and it had been repaired.

Chief Jason Smith gave his report on the Police Department for 2023 traffic stops 521, 275 warnings, 246 citations, 25 vehicle accidents, 10 agency assists, 762 calls for service, 3798 citizen contacts, 885 business escorts, 12 arrests, and 1965 business checks.

City Clerk Robin Cochran gave an update on the food pantry and asked for donations and reminded everyone of operating hours. Cochran asked for a

motion to approve the city observed holidays for the 2024 year. Councilmember Nichelson made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilmember Crisp. Motion carried with a 4-0 vote. Cochran continued by informing everyone of the water rate increase beginning with the February 2024 billing. She asked the council to reappoint herself as the Election Superintendent. Councilmember Nichelson motioned for approval of the request and Councilmember Swank seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 4-0 vote. Cochran moved to the first reading of the Georgia Municipal Association ordinance concerning the employee's retirement plan which we must restate due to Federal law. She continued by informing the council that she and Brianna Shuping will attend training in February and asked for a motion to move the meeting from Monday, February 5th, to Wednesday, February 7th. Councilmember Nichelson motioned to approve with Councilmember Swank seconding the motion. Motion carried with a 4-0 vote.

Mayor Powell moved to unfinished business, the second reading for the zoning application 09-2023-001 S Nelson Properties from Industrial to R1. Powell opened the floor for public comments. No public comments. Mayor Powell asks for a motion to approve. Councilmember Nichelson made a motion to approve the rezoning request and Councilmember Noland seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 4-0.

Mayor Powell continues with the second reading of the annexation request for Talmar Properties wanting to rezone from A1 to R4. Councilmember Nichelson asks Mayor Powell about the letter from our city engineer. Powell continued by saying he got a letter from our city engineer about the 8-inch line with Bartow County stating it looked abandoned, but it is still maintained by Bartow County. Powell says we could service that water with the City's existing line but not fire flow. Powell opened the floor for public comments. Citizen, Buddy Noland asked if the city is going to handle the garbage. Carl with Talmar Properties stated it will be handled by the HOA; landscaping, trash, etc., but if it would help add revenue to the city then, he's sure the HOA would look at it. There was chatter amongst the council about possibly needing to hire an independent contractor to handle the trash for the subdivision. Councilmember Crisp states that a year ago over 120 people signed a petition stating they don't want any property rezoned to R4. Councilmember Swank suggested that after consideration most citizens have changed their mind and are looking forward to positive growth of the city with this development. Councilmember Swank continued

by stating if we don't annex the property, Bartow County will do it and the City would miss out on that revenue. Councilmember Crisp rebuts by stating that in the past month he's gotten at least 50 phone calls from citizens opposing the rezoning. Councilmember Nicholson says she agrees with both councilmembers. She stated Bartow County will rezone this property, so either way, it's happening, and she gives thanks to Bartow for helping the city. Nicholson restated we need to know where we are with our sewer and water capacity. More chatter amongst the Councilmembers and Carl from Talmar Properties. Carl stated that if there isn't enough capacity for the sewer then it'd be up to the developer (Talmar Properties) to make sure it was updated, and if it becomes an issue in the future the developer is responsible for upgrades to ensure the city's sewer capacity. Mayor Powell suggests making a motion to approve upon the contingency that the developer is willing to not burden the city with the cost of any upgrades if needed. Powell opened the floor for public comments. Hearing none, he asked for a motion. Councilmember Nicholson asks about the Foxfield letter. Powell stated that it expired September 2023. Councilmember Nicholson makes a motion to approve rezoning of the Talmar properties from A1 to R4 with the contingency that they will be responsible for upgrading the water or sewer lines if needed. Councilmember Swank seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-1 vote with Councilmember Crisp opposing. Mayor Powell opened the floor for public comments on the annexation of the Talmar project. Hearing none, Mayor Powell asked for a motion to approve the annexation. Councilmember Nicholson made a motion to approve, and Councilmember Swank seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 4-0 vote.

Mayor Powell moves to the 2024 budget resolution. Councilmember Noland asked about the animal control portion of the budget. Powell informed her the city contracts with Bartow County. There was chatter amongst the council about how un-useful Bartow County has been in handling the city's animal control needs but concluded that whether it's contracted through Bartow County, or the city looks into other options, there will be a cost associated. Powell asked for a motion to approve the 2024 Budget. Councilmember Nicholson made a motion to approve. Councilmember Crisp seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 4-0 vote.

Mayor Powell asked for nominations for Mayor-Pro Tem. Councilmember Crisp nominated Councilmember Swank, Councilmember Swank nominated Councilmember Nicholson. With two nominations, Mayor

Powell asked the Councilmembers for a vote. Councilmember Nicholson was voted in as Mayor Pro-Tem with a 3-1 vote. Councilmember Crisp didn't vote, by abstaining he votes with majority per charter which changes the vote to 4-0.

Mayor Powell presented a resolution to have Mayor Pro-Tem, Stephanie Nicholson, added to all bank accounts. Councilmember Swank made a motion to approve the resolution. Councilmember Crisp seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 4-0 vote.

Mayor Powell asked to approve the no trucks down the remainder of Richards Road resolution. There was chatter amongst the council. Mayor Powell asked for a motion. Councilmember Crisp suggested changing it from no trucks allowed to no through trucks allowed. Councilmember Nicholson made a motion to approve no through trucks allowed down the remainder of Richards Road. Councilmember Crisp seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 4-0 vote.

Mayor Powell asked for a motion to approve John Sweitzer as our city engineer. Councilmember Crisp made a motion to approve. Councilmember Nicholson seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 4-0 vote.

Mayor Powell moved on to the Foxfield renewal request. Councilmember Crisp made a motion to table until the next meeting. Councilmember Nicholson seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 4-0 vote.

Mayor Powell continued the meeting with a request to approve the credit card purchasing policy. There was chatter amongst the council regarding credit card limits and auditing authorized buyers. A citizen asks who will be getting a card. City Clerk Cochran stated that no one gets a card. She said she will keep all the cards and when a purchase needs to be made after the approval of the mayor, the card will be used by that department and the card returned to her with the receipt which will ensure we can audit each department correctly. Mayor Powell asked for a motion to approve the credit card purchasing policy. Councilmember Crisp made a motion to approve. Councilmember Nicholson seconds the motion. Motion carried with a 4-0 vote.

Councilmember Nicholson made a motion to go into executive session to discuss potential litigation. Councilmember Swank seconded the motion.

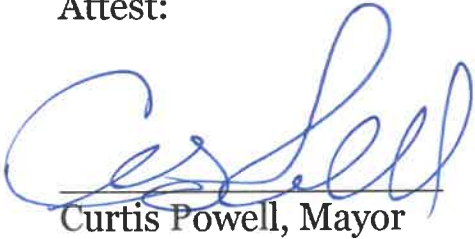
Motion carried 4-0 vote. The council returns at 8:55 pm. Citizen Tim Nicholson addresses the council asking about the possibility fireworks on the fourth of July and a festival. Councilmember Crisp made the motion to adjourn. Councilmember Swank seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 4-0 vote. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Robin Cochran
City Clerk

Attest:


Curtis Powell, Mayor