

City of White Georgia  
City Council Meeting  
December 2, 2024

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

Mayor Powell called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and led with the pledge of allegiance. Councilmember Nicholson followed with the invocation.

Mayor Powell started with the review and approval of the agenda for the meeting and opened the floor for council discussion. Councilmember Nicholson asked to add employee Christmas bonuses to the agenda. Powell said he wanted to add the City Engineer's recommendations to approve the White Town Home preliminary plat. Powell asked for a motion. Councilmember Nicholson made a motion to approve the additions to the agenda. Councilmember Crisp seconded the motion. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

Mayor Powell moved to the approval of the November 4<sup>th</sup> minutes making a change for "R-1 to 6,000sqft with an optional density of 4,000sqft if it meets LEED requirements" asking for a correction in the minutes from the previous month's meeting. Powell opened the floor for council discussion. There was none. Powell stated a motion was in order. Councilmember Nicholson made a motion to approve corrected minutes. Councilmember Swank seconded the motion. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

Mayor Powell moved to public comments. Mr. James Kirk addressed the council to speak about his property on Oak St with no address or mailbox about code enforcement. Kirk stated after talking with Code Enforcement Officer, Brian Waters, issues that needed to be taken regarding a tractor trailer that had been parked there for 30 years, required fencing, and the requirement of moving the other vehicles/trailers on the property. Kirk goes on to express his health issues and his financial situation, explaining why this is hard for him to do at the time and asked for mercy suggesting he could use a privacy netting cover over the tractor trailer and putting up a 6-8ft horse fence and cover that with the privacy netting that provides 90% blockage. Powell stated that he would give him more

time to fix the problems and consider the solutions Mr. Kirk presented after he looked at the property. Citizen Eddie Billue addressed the council referencing the section of the budget regarding Fines and Forfeitures giving averages over the last 7 years asking the council to reevaluate the budget.

Mayor Powell moved to announcements and reports. City Clerk, Robin Cochran addressed the council regarding the city's Certificate of Deposits (CD) and their current interest rates and their term length at Truist Bank asking the council for permission to move the CDs that are about to expire to Southern States Bank. Councilmember Nicholson made a motion to approve the request. Councilmember Swank seconded the motion. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote. Cochran continued by reminding the citizens of the Cookies with Santa event on 12/7/24. She went on to say that the water billing was complete and on track to be mailed out the following day and gave an update on city hall holiday closures and trash schedule adjustments for the last two weeks of December into the first week of January 2025. Police Chief Jason Smith addressed the council and stated that his department had partnered with Bartow County School system receiving donations right before Thanksgiving from different stores to give to the citizens in need of food for the holiday stating it went very well.

Mayor Powell moved to unfinished business starting with the zoning ordinance stating he was still waiting on a response from a few people and wanted to get those answers before they moved forward. Powell recommended tabling until the answers he was waiting on came in. There was chatter amongst the council and a citizen, DJ Bennett, about cutting citizens slack when they are showing an effort regarding code enforcement and whether it would be good to enforce the ordinance that has been in place or not as some citizens have issues with that thought. There was more chatter amongst the council, DJ Bennett, and Eddie Billue. Citizen Charles Buttrum spoke on the matter a little bit to voice his concerns on burdening citizens with new developments in the area and he felt like the police officers in the city were hunting for something to do rather than taking care of the people that currently live in the city.

Mayor Powell moved to new business beginning with the second reading of the proposed FY 2025 budget and opened the floor for discussion amongst the council. Councilmember Crisp questioned the increased budget for the administrative department. There was discussion between Chief Smith and

Councilmember regarding the reasoning for his budget increase and Mayor Powell stated with the townhome development the population of White will double; therefore, they are looking to hire another full-time police officer. Councilmember Swank said that one of her goals is to attract nice restaurants that would want to come into the city, but they would require a license to pour liquor by the glass and other cities get tax revenue from liquor sales, which is something the City of White did not currently allow. Councilmember Crisp suggested another work session to go over the budget. There was a lot of chatter amongst citizens and the council. Powell goes on to explain that the cost of everything has gone up and that the city has to replace fluoride pumps and chlorine pumps for the current year. Powell asked for a motion. Councilmember Nicholson made a motion to approve the FY 2025 budget. There was no second motion, the motion failed. Powell asked for another motion. Councilmember Crisp made a motion to have another work session and table the budget until January 2025 meeting. Councilmember Nicholson seconded the motion. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

Mayor Powell moved on to discuss the Tax Allocation District Resolution that Bartow County passed and opened the floor for city attorney, Harold Lemoine. Mr. Lemoine spoke on the Aubrey Site development, 16,000 acres of land East of the city creating 10,000 jobs and accruing \$6,010,000.00 in additional payroll per year valuing at 2.6 billion dollars at the end of developmental completion stating that a portion of the land developed on is in the city limits. Lemoine goes on to explain why this is important to the city. There was chatter amongst DJ Bennett and the council about which citizens this would affect and the possibility of annexation. There was more chatter amongst the council and a couple of citizens in the audience. Mayor Powell asked for a motion. Councilmember Swank made a motion to approve the resolution. Councilmember Crisp seconded the motion. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

City Clerk, Robin Cochran addressed the council to open the sealed bids for the surplus vehicles; a 2005 and a 2010 Crown Vic. Cochran read the bids aloud for the 2005 Crown Vic. Councilmember Crisp made a motion to accept the highest bid of \$800.00. Councilmember Swank seconded the motion. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote. Cochran went on to read the bids aloud for the 2010 Crown Vic. Councilmember Crisp made a motion to accept the highest bid of \$1,150.00. Councilmember Swank seconded the motion. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

Mayor Powell moved to discuss the bids for the tree removal at 75 Richards Rd. Public Works Superintendent Shawn Chastain addressed the council. Chastain stated he got 2 quotes, one from Georgia Tree Master for \$1,800.00 to cut down the tree and haul it off and \$1,200.00 to cut the tree down and leave it for the city to haul off. The second quote was from Woodpeckers, and they quoted \$1,850.00 to cut down the tree and haul it off and \$1,300 to cut the tree down and leave it for the city of haul off. There was some discussion amongst the council about a second tree needing to be cut down on near the property on Old Tennessee Hwy. Councilmember Nichelson made a motion that Georgia Tree Master cut the tree down for \$1,200.00 and the city be responsible for hauling it off and to ask them if they would cut the city a deal to cut the second tree down the same day. Councilmember Swank seconded the motion. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.


Mayor Powell moved to discuss Christmas bonuses for city employees and proposed \$50.00. Councilmember Nichelson added to make it cash to prevent dealing with gift card fees. Council members concurred. Powell stated a motion was in order. Councilmember Nichelson made a motion to approve \$50.00 cash bonuses for employees. Councilmember Crisp seconded the motion. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

Mayor Powell moved to the White Townhomes Preliminary Platt off Old Cass White Road and opened the floor for Council comments. There were none and Powell asked for a motion. Councilmember Nichelson made a motion to approve. Councilmember Swank seconded the motion. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

Mayor Powell moved to Mayor and Council comments. Councilmember Crisp questioned Shawn Chastain about the lead pipe letters sent out. Chastain explained that he started working during the last 3 weeks of the waterline inventory being due, the inventory list submitted as unknown, and the city got a 3-year extension. Chastain goes on to explain that if there is lead piping on the city's side of the water meter, the city will need to replace it, and if lead piping found on the customer's side of the water meter, it would be the customer's responsibility to replace the lead pipe. Councilmember Swank reminded the citizens that she will be in the Reception Hall the second Tuesday of every month from 2:30-4:30 if anyone wanted to come and discuss city business with her as well as her community social event held at the same time equipped with games and puzzles.

Mayor Powell asked for a motion for adjournment. Councilmember Swank made a motion for adjournment. Councilmember Nicholson seconded the motion. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote and the meeting adjourned at 8:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Robin Cochran  
City Clerk

Attest:



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Curtis Powell, Mayor