

City of White Georgia
City Council Meeting
October 6th, 2025

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

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

Mayor Powell moved to the approval of the agenda for October 6th's meeting.

- Councilmember Nicholson asked to add a discussion of the Backhoe to the agenda.
- Powell stated they could add it to new business.

Councilmember Nicholson made a motion to add discussion of the backhoe to the agenda under new business and approve agenda. Councilmember Swank seconded the motion, and the motion was carried with a 5-0 vote.

Mayor Powell moved to the approval of the September 2nd meeting minutes and opened the floor for council discussion. None were heard and Powell asked for a motion. Councilmember Swank made a motion to approve. Councilmember Crisp seconded the motion, and the motion was carried with a 5-0 vote.

Mayor Powell moved to approve the minutes from September 8th's Special Called meeting and opened the floor for council discussion. None were heard and Powell asked for a motion. Councilmember Nicholson made a motion to approve. Councilmember Noland seconded the motion, and the motion was carried with a 5-0 vote.

City Clerk, Robin Cochran, addressed the council to give the report on business at City Hall.

- Cochran stated that during the special called meeting, the council had decided to let the two CDs mature and one CD was used to pay the city's debt to the IRS and Cochran was asking for guidance as to what to do with the other CD in the amount of \$44,834.24
- Powell stated he spoke with a citizen who informed him that Wells Fargo has pretty good rates for opening a savings account at 3.5% and that would give the city more flexibility in case we need any fast liquidity.
- Nicholson asked for the rate previously given at First Bank, Cochran reported it was 2.25% for 13 months and stated it was the best rate available.

Councilmember Nicholson made a motion to open a savings account at Wells Fargo with the money. Councilmember Swank seconded the motion, and the motion was carried with a 5-0 vote.

- Cochran reminded the council that early voting started on October 14th, 2025, and ends on October 31st, 2025, at the board of elections in Cartersville and election day voting will be on November 4th, 2025, at White Methodist Church from 7a-7p.
- Cochran stated the city had received two checks from the insurance company for the truck and trailer damaged in the train accident, the check for \$37,070.00 for the truck and \$850.00 for the trailer.
- Cochran had noted some campaign signs in the right of way of the state and stated that they needed to be placed elsewhere before the DOT removed them to mow or other maintenance. Also, she noticed some campaign signs on the city's right of way but assured the candidates that the city would remove the sign from the right of way if needed and call the owner of the sign to pick it up.

Police Chief Brad Loyd approached the council to give the statistics from the previous month;

- 136 traffic stops,
- One accident,
- 13 assists,
- 203 calls for service,
- 461 citizen contacts,
- 134 business escorts,
- Two arrests,
- 342 business checks,
- 76 citations, and
- 112 warnings.
- Councilmember Crisp stated he would like to see some enforcement on loud vehicles so early and stated he was continually getting shaken out of bed at 5:00am due to the noise.

Public Works Superintendent, Shawn Chastain addressed the council to give an update on his department;

- Chastain stated that mini excavator arrived the previous week, other than that it was business as usual.

The City Engineer, John Sweitzer, approached the council and began with a PFAS update.

- Sweitzer stated that the EPA grant project is underway due to the high PFAS levels and there were three ways the city could deal with the PFAS.
- Treatment of the wells, Sweitzer didn't think it was the most viable option as it was unlikely the city had the funds for treatment
- The city could find a new water source, which he felt was the most viable option but he was still looking at the option closely as Bartow County would be drilling two wells, one on the East and the other on the West of the City of White to test the water and stated that a new water source would take time (2-3 years), but he felt it was the best option.

- The final option was to tie into Bartow County's water, Sweitzer had already spoken with Bartow County and they were more than willing to allow this path but the city would not have to pay capacity fees to Bartow County and the city wouldn't have to deal with The City of Cartersville as Bartow County pulls the water directly from a spring and the connection would be at the end of Richards Road where Hendricks Road is the cross street, this option would be the fastest option for the city.
- Sweitzer explained further how each of these solutions would play out for the city;
- The county may give the city the wholesale rate, estimated 9 months to a year to get the project done, gave a price range of \$250k-\$350k to tie into Bartow County, the initial cost of funding a well with multiple sources, one being in production and one on standby, and he still couldn't be certain that the city would find water.
- Sweitzer stated the city could use the grant money to connect to county water.
- Councilmember Swank asked if any studies were being performed for filtration systems for the purification of PFAS.
- Sweitzer stated that there were a lot of other communities doing studies, but that these communities were bigger than the City of White and the cost of the filtration system and the maintenance was not cheap.
- Swank stated she spoke with a researcher at Ga Tech., and they told Swank that they were doing research for more cost-effective options for smaller cities.
- There was some discussion amongst Swank, Nicholson, Powell, and Sweitzer on the grant and the world-wide problems caused by PFAS and the only solution was to destroy the PFAS chemical.
- Jay, from Sweitzer's Engineering explained the PFOS result taken 6/25/2025 and stated the range was consistent with previous tests. Well #1, the PFOA was 26.6 and PFAS was 8.8, both ranging very high. Well #2 was ranging about the same as well #1, the PFOA was 29.3 and PFAS was 7.8.
- Jay stated the next compliance sample would be taken in November from well #s 1, 2, and 5.
- Swank asked about extended time frames and limit changes for smaller cities to which Jay stated nothing had been approved yet and explained how testing proceeded with the blank sample tests.
- There was some discussion amongst the council and Sweitzer.

Mayor Powell moved to new business and began with the first reading of the Private Permitting Ordinance.

- There was a new statute by legislation that allowed communities to reach out to third party reviewers for backlog and stated the ordinance would allow the city to have approved vendor list of reviewers and inspectors and opened the floor for public discussion.

None were heard and Powell closed the public speaking portion and opened the floor for council comments

- Councilmember Swank stated it was a great ordinance and felt it would keep the city as an independent municipality as it would provide a more accurate list of available inspectors, making the city more efficient.
- Councilmember Crisp spoke in opposition and stated that it would provide a conflict of interest by allowing individuals who are already working for bigger companies and their primary focus would be representing the company they work for and not the city.
- Powell stated that if an inspector or reviewer writes up the plans, they cannot be the one to approve it and explained that this would allow more flexibility and assist the city in getting projects done faster while staying in compliance.
- There was some discussion amongst council members Swank and Crisp, and Mayor Powell.
- Crisp asked if the city would have to pay any fees for this, Swank explained the process and Powell stated the city would not have to pay the review fees, the builder would.
- There was more discussion between Crisp and Swank

Mayor Powell moved on to talk about the purchase of pump #3 at the TOYO lift station and gave Public Works Superintendent Shawn Chastain the floor for discussion.

- Chastain stated the quote from Goforth Williamson pumps came in at \$32,070.00, included in this price, everything would be new at both stations.
- Powell stated he sent a letter to Chris Archer at TOYO to explain the damage caused by the employees' debris that continuously keeps getting flushed down the toilet and asked that TOYO help with the cost of a new lift station. Archer had since, sent that request to his team in Japan for approval.
- Powell asked Sweitzer if he spoke with TOYO about assisting them in adding a screen system at no cost to the city. Sweitzer stated that request had already been sent into Japan as well for approval.

Mayor Powell opened the floor for council discussion. None were heard and Powell asked for a motion. Councilmember Nicholson asked how the city would pay for it, Powell stated that the city had money in Short Lived Asset Fund that would cover it.

- Council member Crisp asked if the city had it in the general fund, Powell stated that the plan was to utilize the Short-Lived Asset Fund and slowly pay it back out of the general fund so that it wouldn't be hit so hard.
- Powell stated that the covenant required monthly payments until the agreed upon maximum was reached. Mayor Powell believed that the monthly deposit was around \$2600/month to build the account back up.
- Councilmember Swank asked if there was any other way of paying for it.
- Powell stated they could use the 2014 SPLOST.

Councilmember Nicholson made a motion to buy a third pump for \$32,070.00 using the 2014 SPLOST. Councilmember Crisp seconded the motion, and the motion was carried with a 5-0 vote.

Mayor Powell moved on to talk about the approval for the design and bid package for the sanitary upgrade and opened the floor for John Sweitzer to speak:

- Sweitzer stated there were 2 developments that needed sewer one of the lines, GM-3, goes under Cass White Rd. and into a trunk sewer.
- Sweitzer stated that the Point Grand Apartment Homes had used up the city's capacity in order to get another one, it would need to be upgraded. Sweitzer discussed the utilization of the capacity fee received by Pointe Grande to assist with the cost of construction. Mayor Powell asked Sweitzer to send a copy of that to him and the council
- Sweitzer estimated the price to roughly a couple hundred thousand dollars.
- There was some discussion amongst the council, mayor, and Sweitzer.

Councilmember Crisp made a motion to give John Sweitzer permission to work on a bid and design package for the sewer upgrade. Councilmember Nicholson seconded the motion, and the motion was carried with a 5-0 vote.

Mayor Powell moved to talk about the Whispering Pine Subdivision water line improvement design and bidding phase.

- Sweitzer stated this was a high priority and they were nearly completed with the design to replace all piping with C-900 and stated it had a thick wall and suggested the city got it tied into the main line.
- Mayor Powell stated that this project has been discussed for nearly two years and that since the previous audits have been completed, we could now request funding assistance. Sweitzer stated that Mayor Powell gave the go ahead back in January to start reviewing the proposed project.
- A citizen questioned how long citizens would be without water during this process, Sweitzer stated it would be for about 30 minutes.
- There was a lot of discussion amongst Sweitzer and the council.

Councilmember Crisp made a motion to proceed with the water line improvement and bidding phase for Whispering Pine Subdivision. Councilmember Nicholson seconded the motion, and the motion was carried with a 5-0 vote.

Mayor Powell moved on to the surplus of the Back Hoe.

- Councilmember Nicholson stated she wanted to use the profits from the back hoe used to extend the shop.

Councilmember Nicholson made a motion to make an amendment to ensure that the funds be allocated for shop extension. Councilmember Swank seconded the motion, and the motion was carried with a 5-0 vote.

Councilmember Nicholson made a motion to surplus the back hoe. Councilmember Noland seconded the motion, and the motion was carried with a 5-0 vote.

- There was discussion amongst the council to put the back hoe on GovDeals as previous experience showed that the city was able to get more money for the equipment using the site or having a sealed bid.

- Cochran reminded the council that they could not have it on GovDeals and a sealed bid. Councilmember Swank made a motion to surplus the back hoe and putting it up for bid on GovDeals. Councilmember Nicholson seconded the motion, and the motion was carried with a 5-0 vote.

Mayor Powell moved to mayor and council comments;

- Powell stated that he got a request for the city to join in the red ribbon week campaign started after DA Agent Enrique “Kiki” Camarena was killed on the job .
- Powell stated he signed the proclamation that the city would participate in Red Ribbon Week starting October 23rd-31st.
- Powell went into explanation of what Red Ribbon Week means and its importance.
- Councilmember Nicholson asked about the Trunk or Treat event and Powell stated that he really didn’t have anything to do with it, to speak with Deputy City Clerk, Brianna Shuping.
- Councilmember Crisp boasted about the Police Department’s aid in getting the drug problem in the city under control.

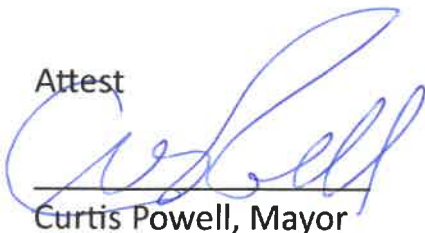
Councilmember Crisp made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Swank seconded the motion and the motion carried with a 5-0 vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 pm

Respectfully submitted,



Robin Cochran
City Clerk

Attest


Curtis Powell, Mayor