

City of White Georgia
City Council Meeting
September 2nd, 2025

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

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

Mayor Powell began with the review and approval of the agenda for the meeting and opened the floor for council discussion. None were heard and Powell closed the council's comments and asked for a motion. Councilmember Nicholson made a motion to approve, and Councilmember Swank seconded the motion. The motion was carried with a 5-0 vote.

Mayor Powell moved to the review of the August 4th council meeting minutes and opened the floor for council comments. None were heard and Powell closed the council's comments and asked for a motion. Councilmember Crisp made a motion to approve, and Councilmember Swank seconded the motion. The motion was carried with a 4-0 vote, the mayor abstained.

Mayor Powell opened the floor for public comments, Citizen Eddie Billue approached the council to speak on the development going on at the Vaughn Property on Old Tenn Hwy and gave the council this information:

- Billue stated that the development is not inside the city limits but the development butts up right to it.
- Billue stated his concerns as the warehouse is over 14k sq ft.
- Billue said he was concerned about the traffic increase in the city due to this development.
- Billue asked for support from citizens and council to attend a Planning Commission Hearing at 6:00pm September 22nd in Bartow County.
- Billue continued speaking on property values
- There was discussion between Billue and Mayor Powell about how far the county was into this development already.
- Billue stated the commissioner would have a meeting on October 1st at 10am.
- Mayor Powell stated he would get a copy of the county's traffic study.

Mayor Powell moved to announcement and reports. City Clerk, Robin Cochran, addressed the council to give the City Hall report.

- Cochran began speaking about the two maturing CDs held at, what is now, First Bank. previously known as Century Bank and Southern State's bank.
- Cochran gave the rates; 8 months at 4.4% and 13 months at 4.2%. One CD was worth \$82,644 and the other was worth \$44,672. She asked the council what they would like to do as the CD's mature on the 19th of September.
- Councilmember Swank stated she recommended the 13 months at 4.2%

There was discussion amongst the council on rates and length as they didn't want to come back in 8 months for .2% difference. Councilmember Nicholson made a motion to accept the 4.2% rate for 13 months. Councilmember Swank seconded the motion. The motion was carried with a 5-0 vote.

- Cochran gave the bank balance report; \$44k left over from the sewer project, \$307,273 in the water fund, \$82,248 in short lived asset, 6 CDs valued at \$350k, 2020 SPLOST had \$785,304, the 2014 SPLOST had \$71,653, and there was \$92k in the general fund.
- Cochran continued by announcing the 6 citizens who qualified for council seats; D.J. Bennett, Eddie Billue, Charles Buttrum, Gary Crisp, Jerry Jude, and Stephanie Nicholson.
- Cochran stated that if any citizens weren't registered to vote, they had until October 6th to do so at the Board of Elections Office.
- Cochran gave voting dates; Early Voting starts on October 14th and ends October 31st at the Board of Elections office and on election day voting will be held at the White Methodist Church in White, Ga on November 4th 7a-7p.
- Cochran gave an update on the 2024 audit and stated that city was finally in good standing per the Department of Accounting and Audits.
- Cochran wrapped up her announcements by reminding everyone of the City's Trunk or Treat event on Halloween night and asked for any interested parties to contact, Deputy City Clerk, Brianna Shuping to register.

Mayor Powell stated that Police Chief, Brad Loyd, was unable to attend the meeting and gave the floor over to Officer Davis Banks.

- Banks gave the report from the Police Department; 141 traffic stops, 1 accident, 9 assists, 211 calls for service, 372 citizen contacts, 180 business escorts, 1 arrest, 331 business checks, 78 citations, and 84 warnings.

Public Works Superintendent, Shawn Chastain, addressed the council to give an update from his department.

- Chastain stated that he spoke with the city's insurance company regarding the service truck that was struck by the train and received two quotes from Candy Apple and Stiles; one quote was around \$27k and the other was around \$30k.

There was some discussion amongst the council, Chastain, and Cochran regarding the estimated time frame and the cost of the repair vs. the cost of the vehicle.

- Mayor Powell stated a new diesel truck would be \$80k - \$88k and asked Shawn about water leaks the previous month.
- Chastain stated there were 4 in Whispering Pine subdivision.

Mayor Powell stated that the city's engineer, John Sweitzer, was unable to make it as he was sick. And stated that since the city is in compliance since the audits are complete, they have released the grant funding for the PFAS study and moved to unfinished business.

- Powell began to discuss the new tap fees for water and sewer service and stated the main reason for the increase was because of the new developments, the city is seeing just how much everything has gone up, the current rates were unsustainable.
- Powell stated he pulled data from GEFA and other organizations and saw the city was way below the rates anywhere near the City of White, including but not limited to, the city's peer cities and he opened the floor for public discussion.
- Councilmember Crisp asked about the new equipment that was recently purchased in the Public Works department Mayor Powell stated that the fee schedule was broken into two different price points; one price point was the city doing the work and the other price point was the owner doing the work/hiring a third party to do the work.

There was some discussion amongst the council and the audience on how the prices came about and the situational examples in which the prices would be implemented.

- Citizen Jerry Jude asked about certifications of the city's employees and Powell stated that the water systems operator is certified.
- Council member Swank asked if the tap fees were for existing taps, to which Powell responded "No".
- Councilmember Crisp stated that if current citizens have a tap they didn't pay for will they pay and Powell stated that it wouldn't be fair, he wanted to implement these new rates going forward.
- Crisp stated his frustration with the previous administration putting in the tap without the owner paying and stated that the purpose was to charge the tap fee when the owner connected. Powell stated that it was already done, and he didn't feel right charging them for something that was already done 9 years ago.

Mayor Powell asked for a motion. Councilmember Swank made a motion to approve the new tap fee schedule for water and sewer services. Councilmember Noland seconded the motion. The motion was carried with a 5-0 vote.

Mayor Powell moved to New Business and started with the purchase of a new excavator;

- Powell stated he got an additional quote for a JCB excavator which featured more attachments than the previous quote for the John Deer excavator for about \$15k less and stated he wanted to revisit the matter and asked for an amendment.
- Councilmember Nichelson stated she wanted to change her vote to purchase the JCB excavator.
- Councilmember Crisp stated that he has used both John Deer and JCB and stated that John Deer was a far better machine and he did not want to sacrifice quality for price.

There was a lot of discussion on the two different excavators between the council and audience.

- Chastain stated that the JCB excavator would come with three buckets including a bushhog attachment.

Councilmember Swank made a motion to purchase the JCB excavator instead of the John Deer excavator. Councilmember Nichelson seconded the motion, and the motion was carried with a 4-0 vote, Councilmember Crisp voting against.

Mayor Powell moved to the first resolution - to add a ballot question in November's election; Should the city be authorized to issue licenses for the sale of distilled spirits within the city limits (gas station/store).

- Councilmember Swank said they should let the citizens vote for what they want.

Councilmember Nichelson made a motion to approve the resolution to add the ballot question should the city be authorized to issue licenses for the sale of distilled spirits within the city limits. Councilmember Swank seconded the motion. The motion was carried with a 5-0 vote.

Mayor Powell continued with the second resolution – to add a ballot question in November's election; Should the city be authorized to issue licenses for the sale of distilled spirits by the drink to be consumed only on the premises where sold (restaurants) and opened the floor for discussion. None were heard and Powell asked for a motion. Councilmember Nichelson made a motion to approve the resolution to add the ballot question should the city be authorized to issue licenses for the sale of distilled spirits by the drink to be consumed only on the premises where sold. Councilmember Swank seconded the motion. The motion was carried with a 5-0 vote.

Mayor Powell moved to Mayor and Council comments and opened the floor for council discussion.

- Councilmember Nichelson asked if the backhoe could be surplus and to use the money to extend the shed at the shop.
- Powell stated that it was up to the council and said he would put it on the agenda to talk about at the next council meeting.

Mayor Powell closed the mayor and council comments portion of the meeting and asked the council if an executive session was needed. It was not needed and Powell asked for a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Crisp made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Nicholson seconded the motion, and the motion was carried with a 5-0 vote. The meeting adjourned at 7:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Robin Cochran
City Clerk

Attest



Curtis Powell, Mayor