

## MEETING MINUTES

### Attendees

#### Voting Members

Lucretia Houts, Fire & Utility Commissioner  
Mike Norris, Police Commissioner  
Terry Powell, Parks & Rec / Animal Control Commissioner  
Monda Wooten, Street Commissioner

### I. WORKSHOP

Workshop began at 6:01 PM

#### 1. Approval of agenda

Move to consent agenda for approval

#### 2. Approval of previous meeting(s) minutes

##### A. January 2023 Minutes

Move to consent agenda for approval

#### 3. Any Proclamation or Board Appointments

N/A

#### 4. Any SPLOST Approval

Motorolla Quote:

Mayor Case, Police Commissioner Norris and Chief Steve Beaudoin met regarding this for patrol cars. Informational only at this time. Mayor Case stated on the IT side that Motorola had bought out Watchguard. Currently, we have 5 awaiting parts that are out of date. Several people met with Motorola and the body camera was discontinued. They have moved to the b300 now, which is \$995.00 each. As technology changes, the camera system for cars and body cameras. We have 5 that need repair and they do not know when they will have parts to fix. Motorola will still work but will need software upgrades. They can pull evidence for servers onsite. The price of a camera is \$6315.00, the life expectancy of it is unknown. But it is coming. We have 3 new cars to get done, worried about old technology onto new car. Think of going to upgrade to newer cars now. Right now we are looking at \$6315.00 and \$995.00. They met over a month ago and just got this information this morning. We are asking to update equipment for safety, looking at approx \$21930.00 out of SPLOST for all 3 vehicles. Commissioner Norris stated it could cost more later and Mayor Case stated that we would also have to go into cars again to upgrade later. Mayor Case

stated he is not happy with them right now because they met over a month ago and received this information this morning.

#### **5. Accounting and Financial Software: Attachments 5-1 through 5-3**

Presented quotes for Financial Software for review. We have outgrown QuickBooks and there are a lot of manual entries that have to be done, such as tax bills. We have quotes from 3 different companies; Harris Local Government, EdmundsgovTech and Gworks. Mayor Case asked Clerk April Keith to talk about the ones we have looked at since she was involved in contacting them and getting information. April stated that Edmondsgovtech came out and did a very detailed demo showing what their software is capable of doing for us. She also received emails from other users that are very pleased with the software and support this company provides. They will come out and train us prior to going live, they will extract all of our data from QuickBooks so there will be nothing for us to have to pull. This will be cloud based and we can have upto 10 users at a time on the system and we can access it from any computer. They can also do direct deposit, which almost all of the employees have expressed interest in. With QuickBooks, we have 2 computers with it in the office. Harris Local Government provided a quote but no demo as to their software capabilities and they were more than double in cost than Edmunds. Gworks provided a quote for part of the items we needed as they were checking on the ability to work our tax bills in their system so that was not included. Later after receiving their quote, they called and asked how big of a deal breaker it would be if they could not do our tax bills. They were told if they could not do the tax bills, then that was a complete deal breaker. April's recommendation was to go with EdmundsgovTech. Commissioner Wooten asked if we would check because she thought she read they could change the rate at any time without notice to us. April will verify and get back with the Mayor. This will be brought back next month.

#### **6. Update on BrewPub Ordinance: Attachments 6-1**

Mayor Case provided an update on the BrewPub Ordinance from the city attorney. Mayor Case sent the revised copy out to commissioners as well as Ryan for review and to bring forth any questions. Ryan Faircloth had a question: if they hosted an event offsite, would they be able to use this license there? Mayor Case stated possibly a special use permit. The mayor would contact the city attorney for clarification. The next thing would be to put out for public input 2 or 3 dates for citizens to come in to voice their opinion. Add it to the consent agenda and send it to the media for a public hearing.

#### **7. Trenton DDA (Downtown Development Authority)**

Mayor Case presented information about the Trenton DDA (Downtown Development Authority). This has been on the books since 1985 and there has been talk about what can be done for investors, kind of like IDA for larger corporations. There are grants that can be done and things to help businesses to come in. Need to decide if this is what we want to do. Article 2 section 2 under the Downtown Development Authority in unicode talks about how things can be done. Also, Ga Municipal Association, we need to see if this is something that we want to do to maintain businesses. Commissioner Wooten spoke about how the DDA was beneficial in the past. The last director of the DDA helped secure the 250k StreetScape grant. Mayor Case stated that they did continue with that but several things happened and ran out of time. Mayor Case stated there were 2- two year terms, 2- four year terms and 3- six year terms that rotate for people. Also encouraged the commission and public to go to GA Municipal Association and look at it. We have a lot of empty store fronts that we would like to see businesses come in. We have a lot of property that people are looking at and it would be great to be able to offer something to make it easier for them to come into the city. Ryan Faircloth spoke up and stated when he was talking to people in Chattanooga about

coming to our town to do business he was asking what incentives are available to get businesses to come in. Mayor Case stated some, like East Ridge, gave a percentage of the tax back to the business. Mayor Case mentioned there is a training session coming up in April in Athens that he plans to attend. Ryan mentioned this would be something he would like to be part of. Move to consent agenda.

## II. REGULAR MEETING

### 1. Call to Order: Mayor Joseph A. Case

### 2. Invocation

### 3. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America

### 4. Commissioners Roll Call

Present: Commissioner Houts, Commissioner Norris, Commissioner Wooten, Commissioner Powell

### 5. Departmental Reports

#### A. Police - Commissioner Norris

Commissioner Norris presented the Police Department Report

#### B. Parks - Commissioner Powell

Commissioner Powell presented the Parks/Rec Report

#### C. Fire/Utilities Commissioner Houts

Commissioner Houts presented the Fire and Sewer reports

#### D. Streets - Commissioner Wooten

Commissioner Wooten presented the Street Department report. Also mentioned was needing 2 seasonal people for streets. Commissioner Wooten went on tour with IDA to different industrial businesses: Vanguard, they showed the steps from beginning to end making a trailer, Integer couldn't show very much due to clean rooms being closed off, and went to Trenton Pressing.

#### E. Mayor - Mayor Case

Mayor Case presented the Financial Report for the month of December (2 months in arrears). Mayor Case also mentioned we have the results of our audit that will be ready to give out next month. Mayor Case, Commissioner Houts and Dewayne Moore met with engineers in regards to the steps of upgrading the sewer department.

Commissioner Powell motion to approve and Commissioner Wooten second.

Motion made by: Terry Powell

Motion seconded by: Monda Wooten

Voting:

Lucretia Houts - Yes

Mike Norris - Yes

Terry Powell - Vote Not Recorded

Monda Wooten - Vote Not Recorded

## **6. Appearances**

### **A. Tree City - Eloise Gass**

Eloise Gass was not present. However, Jennifer Blair spoke and stated with Commission approval they would like to get the rest of the items planted in a couple of weeks. A couple of weeks ago, dozens of trees were installed along the town creek by the courts facility. They did several cleanups of the area. There were several plants that did not get planted and they would like to schedule another day to finish planting them. It was recommended that they be placed in the city park behind the lot where the first segment of the trail began. There is a Dade County High student who has taken an interest and would like to organize the other day as long as the commission approves.

### **B. Dade County Public Library - Mindy Haworth**

Mindy Haworth presented the presentation for the Dade County Library.

### **C. Alliance for Dade - Sandy White**

Jane Dixon presented the presentation for Sandy White and the Alliance for Dade. Sandy was out of town this week.

## **7. Legal Matters**

Commissioner Norris mentioned the new policy and Mayor Case stated will add to new business.

## **8. Unfinished Business**

## **9. Citizens Participation**

Nathan Wooten spoke at the 1945 Dade County Fair. He presented a handout to the commissioners. Included was the Special Event Application for commissioner review. The biggest issue last year was there were no pet signs in the park. He voiced his concerns about animals when it comes to loud noises and such, so all of their information has been going out saying no pets. Mayor Case, we would put in the New Business and get approval done with no pets and to co-sponsor the event again. Since it is the same streets again, we can just approve it tonight instead of holding it for further review.

Commissioner Norris asked if there is a problem with pets in the park, does the police need to start enforcing it? Mayor Case stated as well as Commissioner Wooten, they have been approached by people wanting to possibly have a place for animals to go. This will be something that will take some further thought and discussion.

## **10. New Business**

Commissioner Norris had mentioned that we need to get approval for the new policy for the police department to do blood draws. Trey Williams has been certified to do this for the police department and the policy has been reviewed and revised as needed by the city attorney. Mayor Case stated it will be included in the consent agenda items.

### **A. Consideration of all items on workshop agenda**

Motion made by Commissioner Powell and second by Commissioner Wooten to approve the

agenda, minutes from previous meeting(s), SPLOST equipment for police department, new cameras and body cameras, information on accounting software will scan all information to commissioners, approval to start public hearing on brew/pub (we will set dates as soon as we verify with attorney), DDA information to get it revised and move forward.  
Motion made by Commissioner Powell and second by Commissioner Wooten.

Need approval on the event application and co-sponsorship of the 1945 Dade County Fair and special use of the park and community center in the past.  
Motion made by Commissioner Powell and second by Commissioner Norris.

## 11. Executive Session

N/A

## 12. Adjournment

Motion by Commissioner Powell for adjournment and second by Commissioner Wooten.

Motion made by: Terry Powell

Motion seconded by: Monda Wooten


Voting:

Lucretia Houts - Yes

Mike Norris - Yes

Terry Powell - Vote Not Recorded

Monda Wooten - Vote Not Recorded



Mayor Alex Case



City Clerk April Keith