

# The City of Williamson

P.O. Box 9

Williamson, Georgia 30292

Steve Fry, Mayor  
Stephen Levin, City Council Post 1  
Bob Harrison, City Council Post 2

Tom Brown, City Council Post 3  
Carol Berry, City Council Post 4  
Steve Davis, City Council Post 5

## MINUTES REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING 13 July 2023 7:00 PM

\*\*All council present and noted by their initials\*\*

- I. **CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE, WELCOME.....**Mayor Steve Fry: 7:06PM
- II. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA** (O.C.G A. § 50-14-1 (e) (1)): SD/SL 5-0
- III. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** (O.C.G.A. § 50-14-1(e) (2))
  - A. Minutes from Meeting held 15 June 2023: CB/SL 5-0
- IV. **FINANCIAL REPORT:** MF reported General Fund has \$746,014.60, Water Fund has \$253,151.01, and SPLOST has \$91,198.12. TB/SL 5-0  
Council also approved June 15 Financial report CB/SD 5-0

### V. **REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENTS, COMMITTEES AND BOARDS**

- A. City Clerk Report: Reported business as usual
- B. Council Members, Including Review of GMA Annual Conference

CB: Impressed with other small cities' accomplishments that she learned about at the GMA Convention, shared how the city of Hiawassee adopted a plan to transport hikers to and from the trail head which resulted in an increase in revenue in the city.

BH: Stated the conference was very educational and was appreciative of being able to attend. Discussed classes he attended and how they will help him in his position as councilmember. Discussed GIS mapping of water meters. Advised that the city needs to work on and implement a short-term rental ordinance.

SD: Noted the speed warning sign was not functional. MF has the battery and plans to install it soon. Inquired about status of old building at Drewry & Highway 362. MF will contact the owner for details. Advised he was out of town and unable to attend the conference.

TB: Noted Sanoah Springs was doing wine tastings. Commented on trash service concerns with implementation of the OneBin solution, such as personal items being sorted through. MF stated the city produces 10 tons of trash each week and everything is loaded on an 18-wheeler and taken to AmWaste's Alabama sorting facility. Inquired about security camera installation at the park, advised phase 2 of Ashley Glen does not yet have internet, stated council members need keys to city property, and stated Virgil Herndon does not have a license but did electrical inspection at library. MF advised Mr. Herndon operates under David Pitts' license.

SL: Expressed excitement over grant opportunities available for completion of the park amphitheater or a new city hall and inquired about a grant writing company.

- C. City Attorney Report: Rob Morton discussed the park property acquired from Mr. Coggin in 2021 for \$2500 and advised that he was never authorized to do a title search. Motion to allow Mr. Morton to do title search CB/SL 5-0. Requested a copy of the new AmWaste contract once signed and requested a copy of the Mauldin & Jenkins audit bid. Advised Planning Commission needs to adhere to meeting laws such as public notices, agendas, minutes and suggested the council discuss who should be responsible for this. Further discussed recent changes to state zoning laws.

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- D. Mayor's Report: Advised of drainage issues on 2<sup>nd</sup> District since repaving. Motion to request McLeRoy Construction assess and provide solution to the problem BH/SL 5-0. Talked about classes and noted the convention was very informative.
- E. County Matters: Rob Morton notified that the board approved tax exemptions for seniors 70+ and the board approved AmWaste taking over operation of the transfer station.
- F. Library Report: Milla Riglin reported 182 patrons, \$20 income, and 56 book donations; Rid-A-Critter sealed the building and is checking traps. Advised that the 15<sup>th</sup> was her last day and the 22<sup>nd</sup> was Lily's last day. She discussed all the work she had put into the library such as partnering with Life Springs and getting the story board walk at the park started. She voiced concern that it would be for nothing, and the opportunities would be lost if a qualified candidate was not hired. CB advised 23 applications were received and only one person removed themselves after learning the starting pay rate. CB then asked about interviewing candidates and it was decided this needed to be discussed in executive session.

## **VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- A. Discussion Regarding Possible City Auditor Candidates: Received bid from Bambo Sonaike, motion to accept contingent upon his ability to do an abstract audit for 2022 and a full audit for 2023 and for no more than bid amount of \$10,000 TB/BH 5-0
- B. Water System Audit and GEFA Assistance Pre-Application Progress: New money available this week for lead & copper work; MF to provide breakdown of \$5,000 cost to have environmental review done by Carter & Sloope.
- C. Williamson Amphitheater and Park Facilities Updates: MF reported things were in progress. TB noted the council does not have the approved plan changes which led to discussion about plan changes and funding. It was suggested to use the funds to install a pickleball court or other citizen usable amenities instead. MF advised Southside Steel and AmWaste are offering funding for the amphitheater, which had SD inquiring if that was a conflict of interest. Mr. Morton advised it was not as long as everything was disclosed publicly. Motion to schedule workshop for further discussion SL/CB 5-0.
- D. Continued Blighted Property Discussions and Progress: Progress ongoing at Little St, discussion of old building at Drewry and Highway 362. MF to speak with Mr. Cochran, the owner.
- E. GA Hwy 362 Traffic Control Update: No details or plans, possible location of round a bout to be closer to Dollar General and Whistle Stop.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Receipt of Zoning Recommendations from Planning Commission: Parcel 062A078 (741 Highway 362)- removal of restrictions on the C-1 property were discussed and the planning commission unanimously recommended denial of application due to parking concerns and inability to meet building requirements.
- B. Public Hearing Concerning Potential Zoning Actions: Ray Horton, property owner, spoke in favor of the rezoning and plead his case. He stated removal of the restriction of only allowable use being the detail shop would assist in being able to sell/lease the property. Mr. Galloway spoke on behalf of Williamson Methodist Church in opposition of the request. He stated while he was sympathetic to Mr. Horton's condition that he had to consider the impact rezoning would have on the church. He suggested selling the property and then having the new owner apply to rezone it and advised the church could work with them if they knew what the property would be used for. MF suggested planned-mixed use, but parking would still be an issue since the property is a pre-existing, non-

conforming lot. Concerns on this parcel sharing a septic with parcel 062A079 were also discussed. Mr. Horton stated he has an easement for the septic and parking that he would provide a copy of to the city. Motion to deny application due to property not meeting requirements of C-1, parking issues, and sanitation issues TB/SL 5-0

Public Hearing closed at 8:43PM

**VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION:** (O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3, If needed) Motion to enter executive session to discuss personnel BH/CB 5-0 8:56PM-9:21PM

**IX.** Motion to interview 9 applicants SL/TB 5-0. Motion to authorize BH and CB to interview applicants alongside Mayor SL/TB 5-0.

**X. PUBLIC COMMENT:** None Requested.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT:** SL/BH 5-0 9:24PM