A round white and black sign with a peach and nuts

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CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MAYOR AND COUNCIL

APRIL 17, 2025 @ 6:30 P. M.

CITY HALL – 204 W. CHURCH ST.

Attended: Mayor Jeffery Lundy, Council Fred Hartesveldt, Council Juanita Bryant, Council Sandra Marshall, Council Carla Gowen, Council Laronda F. Eason, Council Henry Howard, City Administrator Gary Lee, Plan and Zone Mr. Roscoe Miller, Police Chief DJ Flores, Recorder City Clerk, Diane Brown

1. CALL ORDER-6:34
2. INVOCATION-Council Eason
3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
4. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Motion- Council Eason

Second-Council Hartesveldt

All in favor motion carried.

Motion -Council Bryant to amend the agenda to add Personnel

Second-Council Gowen

All in favor motion carried.

1. MINUTES APPROVAL **–** March 2025

* Work Session Meeting
* City Council Meeting
* Special Call Meeting -Presentation

Master Plan Development Group

* Special Call Meeting Imola Presentation
* Motion- Council Eason
* Second- Bryant
* Discussion followed, Council Marshall in the minutes it’s stated the Fort Valley Utilities do not have enough power for the EV Company; was it said, and is that true?

Motion -Council Eason that the minutes are approved with any necessary corrections.

Second-Council Gowen

All in favor motion carried

1. ANNOUNCEMENTS-Mayor and Council

* Hunt Educational & Cultural Center

Basketball and Kickball /May 1st, 2-6:pm, contact Rev. Ricky Jackson

* Poetry Under the Stars-April 26th, change of location moved to Ulrica’s Corner
* Technical Industry Partners Exchange (TIPE) April 23-24 at the Pettigrew Center
* Autism Walk-Saturday, April 26th, 9 a.m.- 12 noon, at Lane Packing
* Easter Sunrise Service-Sunday, April 20th, at 7: a.m., Everett Square Park
* National Day of Prayer- Thursday, May 1st, 12: noon at City Hall and Peach Co Courthouse sponsored by First Baptist Church
* Georgia Cities Week-Tuesday, April 22nd Coffee and Donuts with the Mayor and Council.

Monday - Saturday, April 21-26, 2025, Trivia QR Code Scavenger Hunt ~ Throughout the City DDA - will provide the QR Codes and place the QR Codes around the city.

Wednesday, April 23, 2025, 8am-9am ~ Coffee and Donuts with Mayor and Council at City Hall

Wednesday, April 23, 2025, 11am-4pm Lunch with Mayor and Council ~ City Hall ~ 40

ABC Catering LLC Food Truck - Will set up next to City Hall and will provide 40 meals. The Public will need to sign up for the tickets at City Hall. The Public is welcome to purchase from ABC Catering Food Truck.

Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc**.-** Golden Anniversary on April 25-27, 2025. Anniversary Gala on Saturday, April 26, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. in the Health and Physical Education Complex at Fort Valley State University.

Peach County Neighbor- free cloths giveaway every Monday.

Easter Egg Hunt-Sat. April 19th,1-3 p.m. at Festival Park.

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

* Administration Department – Ms. Keisha Baldwin

Executive Assistant to the City Administrator’s Office

* Fire Department – Chad Davis
* Police Department – Brad Mays, Detective
* Public Work Department – Damion Jackson

1. RESOLUTIONS

* Resolution to appoint Mr. Sam Williams as a member of the Planning and Zoning Board.

Motion-Council Bryant

Second-Council Howard

Vote- 6-1

Abstain-Council Marshall

Motion carried

Mr. Roscoe Miller said we now have 5 members on the board and have one will be applying on Friday.

* **Resolution of the Mayor and Council of The City of Fort Valley, authorizing the conveyance of property, and for other purposes. Tax parcel # F04A 056, located at 1016 State University Dr.**

Mr. Gary Lee, the City’s Administrator, stated the land will be used for a retention pond at the location of the 5 new building for student housing.

Motion- Council Hartesveldt

Second-Council Eason

Discussion-Council Marshall

What are the other purposes?

Mr. Gary Lee explained the city will donate land for use of having a retention pond for student housing. Mr. Gary Lee will communicate to J. Elliott, City Attorney to amend the resolution to remove “and for other purposes”, and state clearly that the donated property uses is for a retention pond.

All in favor motion is passed with the amendment to the resolution.

Motion carried.

* **Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the City of Fort Valley, authorizing the conveyance of property, and for other purposes.**

**All that tract or parcel of land situate, lying and being in Land Lot 180 of the Ninth (9th) Land District of Peach County, Georgia, being know and designated as that certain 3.38 acre shown on a plat of survey prepared by Shawn Bean, Georgia Registered Land Surveyor no. 3331, a copy of which is attached hereto.**

Motion- Council Hartesveldt

Second-Council Eason

Discussion-Council Marshall

Council Marshall stated before the resolution is voted on, she would like to see the contract Mr. BJ Walker stated he would bring the contract back for the Mayor and Council’s review.

Mayor Lundy-the part that deals with the contract is after the property approval is what we are here for, as stated in the resolution and then the contract will be looked upon by all our legal department.

All in favor Vote- 6-Yes

Abstain (1)-Council Marshall

Motion carried.

* **Resolution of the Mayor and Council to give funding support to the Peach County Family Connection-Ferst Reader Program by donating $10,000.00.**

Motion- Council Bryant

Second-Council Gowen

Discussion followed.

Council Eason would like to see a packet other than the flyer, of how the money will be used.

City Administrator Mr. Lee, we need inside of the proposal, how the money will be allocated toward the programs.

Motion-Council Bryant to wait, after the Mayor and Council receives the proper paperwork then we give the money. Where will the money come from the Council Howard asked? From which line item will the money come asked Council Marshall?

Mayor Lundy APRA funds that can be allocated to different things the balance is $139,000 and talk about

$166,000 owed towards the utility credits.

Mayor Lundy stated the residents who are entitled to but did not receive the $100 utility credit should come to City Hall and put their name on the list.

Council Bryant stated we were supposed to have had a meeting, and they can tell us who got the credit.

* Motion to table the resolution support to the Peach County Family Connection-Ferst Reader Program by donating $10,000.00.

Motion – Council Hartesveldt

Second- Council Eason

All in Favor motion to table carried.

Majority (4) Votes- Councils, Eason, Gowen, Hartesveldt, and Howard.

* **Resolution for Mayor and Council of the City of Fort Valley to approve or deny the request for Beer and Wine Package only sales over the counter at 407 Anderson Ave.**

Motion- Council Hartesveldt

Second- Council Howard

Discussion followed.

Mr. Roscoe Miller said all requirements were met.

Chief Flores stated Mr. Peterson has been approved.

Mayor Lundy, any other discussion-Council Marshall had a brief meeting with Mr. Harris today concerning Lakeview

Motion carried

Majority Vote

Vote-5/1

Abstain- Council Marshall

**AMENDED AGENDA SECTION-ADDED PERSONAL**

Council Bryant was supposed to have set up a meeting with Fort Valley Utilities to discuss the $100 credit, so to find out who got paid and who did not receive the credit.

Truck Stop

Council Bryant-Grand opening of the Truck Stop

Mayor Lundy, Mr. Patel, is currently stocking the shelves for a soft opening, he will give a date for the grand opening. Council Bryant stated to include the former Mayor Barbara Williams in the Truck Stop Grand Opening.

Annexation

Council Bryant-Where are we with the annexation?

Mr. Gary Lee, consulted with Attorney Elliott, the covenants he received were copies, he needs the original covenants to move forward.

Council Bryant used to receive reports of operations in the city once a week and ask Mr. Gary Lee to start it back, giving reports every week so she will know what is going on.

Election’s Qualifying Fee

Council Bryant asked for the public’s interest, what are the qualifying fees, was it placed in the newspaper? The Mayor and Council must vote to approve and set the election qualifying fees.

Mr. Gary Lee, Attorney Elliott said it is done fee has been set, it’s okay and he will ask City’s Attorney Elliott consult with Council.

DOT Project

Council Bryant- question about DOT, the Commercial Heights truck turn around?

Mr. Gary Lee, County Commissioner Wade Yoder, is the contact for that project.

Police Department

Council Bryant ask Chief Flores why we are losing so many officers.

Chief Flores says he does not have individual reason for their leaving. Some go for different jobs.

When asked Chief Flores stated to Council Bryant Officer leaving has nothing to do with him.

Mayor Lundy for the record, let’s make sure we are not counseling in situations that deal with personnel, and it becomes litigation and comes back to hurt us.

Council Bryant asks how many police officers are you missing, how many do you need to hire for a full police force? Chief Flores will have to look at those numbers and added he hired two yesterday (Wednesday).

Overtime Pay

Council Bryant - Overtime has not been resolved; do we need to go into executive sessions to solve this.

Mayor Lundy stated the budget we are operating under, no department has exhausted or exceeded the overtime budget. All overtime is approved by the Department Heads; they look at their budget and the City Administrator signs off on it. We have not exceeded by department or the budget and making sure our service deliveries are carried out.

Council Marshall stated overtime last year was $300,000, ask each department head what was your budget to give a breakdown overtime and the events, overtime is $50,000 and we have had no events. Two emails were sent asking about the budget amount of each department, no one replied it is disrespectful to her, citizens and taxpayers, overtime is paid to non-essential workers, and there were no events to justify the pay.

Festival Park Event

Council Bryant asked what the breakdown of the Sunday night party at Festival Park was. The ordinance is in the books. She called several times; they would turn the music down and back up.

Chief Flores was understood to be a tent party with some sorority group and was not expecting a DJ.

Council Bryant, stated after the DJ was there, asked why something wasn’t done.

Chief Flores say we evaluated, addressed and moved forward.

Police Officers were there, and something should have been done that night

Still there, the breakdown was in your department.

Chief Flores say we evaluated, addressed and moved forward.

Council Bryant-did not want the event to shut down just tone it down

Chief Flores stated we evaluated it, addressed it and moved forward.

Council Marshall asked was event DJ approved in the application.

If it was something different, from what on the application why did you move forward with it.

Chief Flores walked through the communities and talked to the residents about all that.

they don’t have that (DJ) on the application.

Council Marshall moving forward we are going to do something about it.

Council Bryant says we can’t do anything about what happened on Sunday night but in the future, it must be done.

Chief Flores stated we evaluated it, addressed, and moved forward.

Council Bryant says in the future let’s handle it.

1. EXECUTIVE SESSION-No

Motion to adjourn meeting.

Motion – Council Eason

Second- Council Bryant

All in favor motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT-7:35 P.M.