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**CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL**

**JANUARY 16, 2025 @ 6:30 P. M.**

**CITY HALL-204 W. CHURCH ST.**

Attended: Mayor Jeffery Lundy, Council Fred Hartesveldt, Council Juanita Bryant, Council Carla S. Gowen, Council Laronda F. Eason, Council Henry Howard, Council Sandra B. Marshall, City Administrator Gary Lee, City Attorney Jim Elliott and Recorder City Clerk Diane Brown.

1. **CALL TO ORDER-**6:30 P.M.
2. **INVOCATION-**Council Eason
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
4. **MEETING DECORUM**- Police Chief Flores
5. **MOTION TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION-6:34 P.M.**
6. **MOTION TO RESUME REGULAR MEETING SESSION-7:30 P.M.**
7. **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

**MOTION TO AMEND THE AGENDA-**Council Hartesveldt

Add to the agenda the consideration of the elimination of the Economic Development Department and the Economic Development Director Position.

Second-Council Marshall

Abstain-Council Bryant

Motion carried

**MOTION TO AMEND THE AGENDA**

**Motion- Council Hartesveldt**

**Second-Council Eason**

**Motion carried**

1. **MINUTES APPROVAL - December 2024**
2. Special Called Meeting
3. Committee Meeting
4. Work Session Meeting
5. City Council Meeting

Motion to approve minutes

Motion-Council Gowen

Second-Council Howard

Motion carried.

1. **ANNOUNCEMENTS -** Mayor and Council

Keep families that are going through bereavement in prayer.

Event at the Austin Theater with the Archway Program (Open to the Public: Saturday- Sunday) from 3-4:p.m.

All are invited to a gathering in Vineville at 4:00 p.m. regarding the bereaved family.

1. **AUDIT REP0RT -** Mr. Keith Hundley

Hand-out City of Fort Valley Financial Statements September 30, 2021

1. **CITY OF FORT VALLEY EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH**
2. Police Department - Alfred Edwards
3. Public Works Department - Anthony Howell
4. Administration Department - Staff
5. Fire Department - Sgt. Ian Lindsey
6. **REPORTS FROM THE DEPARTMENTS-**Reports attached.
7. Fire Department
8. Police Department
9. Public Works Department
10. Finance Department-Eddie Madison hand-out report attached.

* Revenue Received
* SPLOST/ARPA
  + SPLOST- Expenses and Balances
  + CASH-Balances
  + CHIP- Account remained open, while in process of closing out the grant.

ARPA Account- Moved ARPA Funds-Discussion followed.

* Council Marshall, did we ever discuss with the public and the taxpayers that we are moving grant money somewhere else? We need to let the taxpayers know what we are doing anytime we move the money, we vote on the fire trucks, we have always voted and now we are not.
* E. Madison moving funds does not require votes by the Council and that was done out of respect for the City Council and that was not a necessary guideline.

Council Marshall stated it is about the taxpayers trusting the City Council to do the best thing with taxpayers’ money and they have a right to at least hear what we are doing with the money.

* Mayor Lundy, we are reporting publicly, we report everything we have done, we are looking ahead at the Department Chairperson being the spokesperson reading the reports from the departments.
* Discussion-Council Bryant we got about 3.something million it does not add up?

E. Madison explained the money spent on the Lakay truck stop project.

Council Marshall truck stop was a new project, the ARPA money is for those adversely affected during the time of COVID. We voted then but now we cannot vote on what we are doing with the $139,000 so the public will know.

* Council Eason a consulting firm company comes in next Tuesday and will set-up our Finances so the public will know what we are doing with all the money, in next couple of months everyone will see what we are doing; all checks cut what it is for everyone will see what the city is doing financially, the Finance Department will be totally transparent.

1. Planning and Zoning Department

Meeting with ISO, about the building side to rate insurance completed the 18-pages questionnaire along with the finance director.

New Construction Locations.

200 Elm Street

409 Spillers Street

Commercial Remodeling Locations.

121 and 123 Main Street

103 N. Camellia waiting for some materials on back order.

Council Marshall-received calls the public want to purchase some land, a list of City owned properties will be forwarded to Council.

115 Commercial Heights Little Ceasars waiting on equipment to come in.

1010 State U. waiting on the engineers’ plans.

New structure on Pine Street, but 719, 723 Pine Street, two properties next to it need attention. Code Enforcement- Rhonda Walker address concerns of Council Bryant about the process of getting properties on the tax digest.

1. **CITY OF FORT VALLEY ETHICS BOARD MEMBERS**

Mr. Stanley Williams, Mr. Herbert Grace, Mr. James Khoury, Ms. Mary Edwards, and Mr. Calvin Jones, Sr.

Ms. Artiffany Stanley with the Georgia Municipal Association was contacted, and she will get them the formal training they will need.

1. **RESOLUTIONS**

RESOLUTION TO RE-APPOINT MR. CALVIN JONES, SR., AS BOARD MEMBER TO THE FORT VALLEY HOUSING AUTHORITY

City Administrator Mr. Gary Lee read Mr. Jones’ letter of interest regarding re-appointment.

Motion-Council Gowen

Second-Council Howard

Discussion-Council Marshall about advertising in the newspaper.

All in favor by the raising of the hand.

Yes-Council Gowen, Council Eason, Council Hartesveldt, Council Howard

Opposed-Council Marshall, Council Bryant

Motion carried. 01:10:31 recorded.

**AMENDMENT TO AMBOLISH THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT AND THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT POSITION**

Motion-Council Bryant

Second-Council Gowen

Discussion

Vote-Yes/6

Mayor not voting

Motion carried

COUNCIL HOWARD-AMENDMENT TO THE AGENDA TO ACCEPT THE BID OF MEDINA CONSTRUCTION & RENOVATIONS, LLC TO RENOVATE FIRE STATION 2.

COUNCIL EASON-AMENDMENT TO THE AGENDA TO INCLUDE THE CONTRACT OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR

MOTION TO AMEND THE AGENDA

Motion-Council Bryant

Second-Council Eason

All in favor motion carried.

Motion to accept the estimate bid of Medina Construction & Renovations, LLC.

Motion- Council Hartesveldt

Second- Council Gowen

Motion carried.

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE AMENDMENT TO THE AGENDA FOR THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR CONTRACT.

Motion- Council Eason

Second- Council Hartesveldt

Vote-Yes ( Council Eason, Council Hartesveldt, Council Howard, Mayor Lundy)

Opposed-Council Marshall, Council Gowen, Council Bryant.

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR’S CONTRACT.

Motion-Council Hartesveldt

Second- Council Eason

Discussion- $150,000 and during the six-month probationary period the salary can by Mayor and Council increase or decrease.

Council Marshall- there is a monthly $500 car allowance included in the contract.

Council Howard – also listed in the contract is he’s been charged with extra duties as the City’s Administrator.

Mayor Lundy calls for the vote.

All in favor with the salary to be included to accept the contract.

Vote Yes- 4

Mayor Lundy, Council Eason, Council Hartesveldt, Council Howard.

Opposed- 3

Council Marshall, Council Gowen, Council Bryant.

Motion carried to accept the contract.

Mayor Lundy asked if there is anything else an amendment before we call for adjournment.

Council Bryant- The annexation of Willow Lake area, we voted to annex, where are we with that $150, 000 administrator. Mayor Lundy suggested that Council Bryant have a conversation with the City Administrator.

Does not want an amendment, it should be where we can discuss it we have constituents here wanting to know the status of the annexation.

We have enough covenants according to the Municipal Association to get it done, there are only a few steps left.

1. **EXECUTIVE SESSION-6:34 P.M.**

**Motion to go into executive session. Council Eason**

**Reason- Personnel and Real Estate**

**Second- Council Hartesveldt**

**Opposed-Council Marshall**

**Motion carried.**

**REGULAR SESSION MEETING RESUMED-7:30 P.M.**

**Motion-Council Gowen**

**Second-Council Eason**

**All in favor motion carried**

1. **ADJOURNMENT- 8:45 P.M.**

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion- Council Hartesveldt

Second- Council Howard

All in favor motion carried.