**A round white and black sign with a peach and nuts

AI-generated content may be incorrect.**

WORK SESSION MEETING AGENDA

MAYOR AND COUNCIL

MARCH 18, 2025 @ 6:00 P. M.

CITY HALL – 204 W. CHURCH ST.

Attended: Mayor Jeffery Lundy, Council Juanita Bryant, Council Carla Gowen, Council Laronda F. Eason, Council Henry Howard, Council Sandra B. Marshall, Council Fred Hartesveldt, Eddie Madison, Roscoe Miller, Rhonda Walker, Dir. Antonio Lopez Police Chief Flores, Atty Susan Langford, Recorder- City Clerk Diane Brown

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. INVOCATION- Council Eason
3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
4. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA
5. MEETING MINUTES REVIEW**-**February 2025
6. FLOST Meeting (Floating Local Option Sales Tax)
7. Work Session Meeting
8. City Council Meeting
9. ANNOUNCEMENTS-Mayor and Council
10. Mr. Rodney Henry-IMOLA ITALIA SMART CITY PROPOSAL

Chief Flores’ opinion from a public safety standpoint is we need all the assistance we can get, giving us better ways to serve the citizens of Fort Valley.

* Camera system based on call types
* The city controls the lamination of lights
* Facial recognition
* First in middle ga to have it.

Mr. Rodney Henry- Imola Italia Smart City

* 192 acres in Fort Valley
* Build a factory in Fort Valley
* Will provide and finance at the front end of the city
* Smart lights to deter crime, create a modern city
* Clean renewable power integrated with Wi-Fi network
* Will use existing infrastructure
* Currently have 2000 light poles
* In the first phase we will have 1000 lights, integrated cameras, facial recognition and license plate reader installed, to start the first phase this year

Mr. Lars – Give an overview of what to come in Phase 1

* 1000 luminary lights
* Solar energy needs power 5-megawatts for the plant
* 3-types of CAMERAS
  + 25-Surveillance

1. Detection and facial recognition
2. Good AI cameras for the P. D.

Phase 2 – Led Light Smart City

* 1000 luminaries
* Each luminary has its own IP address and can be controlled.
* This is a new look new image for the city, noise sensors will be added for gunshot detection
* In the first phase 5 megawatts will be installed
* Change to led lighting 40-60 watts
* Lights cost 1000 pieces $150,000 per yr.
* System $130,000 first 5 yrs. Imola will finance the system

Council Howard

2000 lights the city does not own the poles FVUTIL does

Mayor Lundy says the city pays light bill for the poles on the right of ways. With the new technology we control lighting in areas where crime is most likely to occur.

Council Marshall

Are they doing it in Pine Bluff Arkansas?

Mr. Henry has a package of every city they are doing. Planning on opening. It is the factory drawing rendering of the factor proposal is what they have and has nothing to do with lighting, they never heard of Imola.

We were all excited about Imola EV coming to bring wealth and prosperity to the city. We had a town hall meeting; rezoned land now where are we with the car company?

Not enough light or power in Fort Valley for the EV company. Ga Power does not have sufficient power, or MEAG, that is why they are willing to finance it all to put in power.

Mayor Lundy stated we are looking forward to the groundbreaking ceremony, the proposal went beyond the scope and apologized for what could be defamation for the Imola Company.

Council Eason

On page 3 financial modeling and pricing.

Mr. Lars answers.

The city will pay with savings they get from changing the lights $150,000 per year saving, $130,000 pay to Imola, 5 years.

Council Eason

You want us to sign an agreement for 99 years before you bring us the car company. Its feels like a bait and switch we were expecting one thing and up comes a whole new idea, I have not seen this across the US anywhere. We have the right to screen this, it does not make sense, Mr. Henry says it does not make sense to him either best you vote not to do it.

Council Bryant

She has not seen this Smart City anywhere.

Mr. Lars - It must be upgraded (grid) service, maintenance of lights, events of disaster and upgrades of new technology.

Mayor Lundy sent out the one from Pine Bluff and resented the correct updated one for Fort Valley.

Council Gowen stated just look at the saving, which is more than the cost, get a copy of the utility bill and compare it. The mayor will forward a copy of the city’s utility bill for comparison.

Mr. Turner stated that many cities use facial recognition, Big Brother is watching many are falsely accused this can help you or hurt you, just like to see the city safe like social media most things are done while the tv is watching. The license plate reader for the P. D./court will have to work out what can and cannot be done, really like to see the city safe tv screen on the wall.

PERSONS WISHING TO ADDRESS-MAYOR and COUNCIL

Ms. Wanda Clark did not appear

Mr. Bill Peterson postponed speaking until next month.

Ms. Juanita Bryant

Annexation status update, Mr. Gary Lee, City Administrator, is not at the meeting.

Advertise Elections omitted the qualifying fee we need to vote on a fee.

Overtime usage, the Department Heads need to set limits.

When Ms. Williams calls the City Administrator, she never gets an answer.

Ms. Angela Plant Williams asked the city to sponsor the Juneteenth/car show and never got an answer; she was not updated on the June 19th event.

Ms. Bryant says she would like to get updates on what is going on at City Hall, she is an elected official and needs to know in order to give those who ask an intelligent answer.

Council Marshall thanked the citizens for trusting and electing her to do the job, she receives phone calls about delinquent tax sales and why we don’t have tax sales in the past two years not had one.

Ms. Rhonda Walker

Discussion- surplus property.

Advertise

Send written bid

Up to the Mayor and Council to accept or reject bids.

After abatement, the Mayor and Council will get a list of properties, publish it, and give bids to Mayor and Council to decide.

Contact R. Walker, no she rather them contact Mayor and Council

Rhonda Walker-Discussion

Want the accurate land value of the property

Wants to see us move on some of the properties there are over 100 properties.

The church on Green St. next to railroad is city owned property, but zoning will not allow you to do anything with it.

All we do is cut grass on these properties, citizens want to live next to her Mom, they had been maintaining the property.

First, we advertise

Second get sealed bids

The mayor wants all property advertised the minimum bid start at price $3,000.

Council Eason

It has not come to the Council; it has not been followed through.

R. Walker $1000 is not a good bid

Council Eason there is more to that

PLANNING AND ZONING-Mr. Roscoe Miller

Mr. Pride rezone from Industrial to R-2. There only has to be one meeting to rezone/he will erect multi-family dwellings.

At the Planning and zoning Meeting the vote 1-abstain, 1 against.

Ms. Gosier requested 611 S. Camellia Blvd. be tabled, with only 3 members at the P/Z hearing. Hearing bounds over to Mayor and Council, hearing not a meeting, Mayor and Council shall appoint 6 members now only 3 on the board at that meeting, looking for more members is the duty of Mayor and Council. At the January City Council Meeting, Executive Session had she not come to the meeting would not have known, must have minimum of 5 members. Reason for rezoning must be listed on the sign.

Her lot is 1.29 acres, and has a right to access, no land lock, had a buyer now the zoning signs raised questions, the property line zig zags, businesses look at what the zones are, I am asking that this be paused until we get 6 members on the Planning and Zoning Board.

Green St was mentioned, spot zoning at 710 if it touches it, is spot zoning.

Sign Jan. 13, Jan. 14, work Session Meeting 15 days between the meeting.

Council Marshall stated Mr. Ralph Davis makes the 4th member, hold off do our part get the 6th member to be fair to both parties, Mayor Lundy stated put on the agenda for a vote.

Mayor and Council shall appoint 6 members

Resolutions to rezone 609 South Camellia Blvd. add to the next agenda for the vote.

* Resolution for Business owner Girish Patel to amend the Express 49 Truck Stop Business License Application. Change from previous owner Girish Patel to Mohini Patel and change business LLC, from Mangal Murti 2016, LLC to Ram Lalla, LLC with Girish Patel named the local manager of the business. (add the resolution to the next agenda for the vote)
* Resolution to appoint Mr. Ralph Davis as a member of the Fort Valley Planning and Zoning Board. (add the resolution to the next agenda for the vote)
* Resolution to purchase from Gresco Utility Supply, Inc. 40 - LED 100 WATTS LAMP BULBS unit price $ 325.00 each, total cost $13,000.00

(add the resolution to the next agenda for the vote)

* Resolution to purchase from Gresco Utility Supply, Inc. 40 – GLOBES unit price $305.00 each, total cost $ 12,200.00

(add the resolution to the next agenda for the vote)

Council Gowen

Question- if we are not going to use Imola maybe we should hold off purchasing all these bulbs.

They are city owned poles these bulbs are compatible with smart cities, will save the city money by converting to led.

Council Gowen- keep Imola in mind

Ms. Susan Langford- from Attorney Jim Elloitt’s Office

Section 74 Article 2 Planning Commission.

Six members shall be appointed by Mayor and Council for 5 years, and the vacancy is filled by Mayor and Council.

Mayor Lundy asked that she does research on “What to do if you don’t get 6 members?

Charged Ms. Langford is charged with bringing the correct information back to the Mayor and Council.

MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.

Motion- Council Bryant

Second- Council Eason

All in favor motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT- 7:38 P.M.