

**City of Bowdon
Mayor and Council Meeting
October 13, 2014
7:15PM**

I.-IV. Agenda Items:

The Mayor and City Council met during a regular session on Monday, October 13th, 2014, in the Mayor and Council Chambers, 136 City Hall Avenue, Bowdon Georgia. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Keith Crawford at 7:15PM. Roll call was conducted by City Clerk Susan Pierce.

Members present: Mayor Keith Crawford
Mayor Pro-tem Wes McEntyre
Councilmember Marty Johnson
Councilmember Jan Johnson
Councilmember Jim Chaffin

Staff present: Interim City Manager Mike Jackson
Police Chief Mark Brock
City Clerk Susan Pierce

The Invocation was led by Councilmember Jim Chaffin, and was followed with the Pledge of Allegiance.

V. Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of Mayor & Council Meeting of September 8th, 2014 were read and presented for approval. Motion by Councilmember Jim Chaffin to approve the minutes; second by Councilmember Jan Johnson; motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Crawford then asked to move item "D." on the agenda to second, between "A." and "B."

VI. Business Session

- A. Mayor Crawford welcomed guest Ronnie Tewksbury from the West Georgia Regional Library System, who presented an update on the Library system's 5-year Comprehensive Plan. Components of the Plan include ways to encourage young readers and offer more online access. She praised the Bowdon Library for the activity it has had and the services it has provided. Over the last year, the library was open 2059 hours, averaging 42 hours per week. The staff answered 12,366 reference questions. There were 22,634 visitors, and there were over 46,000 items circulated. They had 33 programs with 989 attendees, and they have over 3200 active patrons using the library.

- D. Mayor Crawford presented the final draft of the city's updated Comprehensive Plan for approval.
Motion by Councilmember Jim Chaffin to approve the updated Comprehensive Plan; second by Mayor Pro-tem Wes McEntyre; motion approved unanimously.

- B. Interim City Manager Mike Jackson presented drafts for 2 proposed policy updates, one being a new City Purchasing Policy, and the other a new City Financial Policy. He asked that Council read and review then get back to him with their ideas or changes they may have. He suggested a possible work session to go over the policies. He has also asked for feedback from the Department Heads. Councilmember Jan Johnson thanked Mike for his work on these policies.

He then reported on the delinquent water accounts. Last month, he reported that we had collected \$19,000 of \$52,000 in delinquent water bills. To date, we have collected over \$50,000 in delinquent bills. Margaret and Robin are doing a great job in collecting these outstanding accounts. We still have about six large delinquent accounts, one of which is in bankruptcy. The delinquencies spike after the 25th of each month; we are attempting to lower the amount of the spikes each month.

- C. Next, Mike stated that the Department Head reports were in the packages. He asked if that was what the Council wanted to see for their monthly updates, and if not, please let him know.
- E. Mayor Crawford next moved to the proposed Tampering Policy update. Mike reported that we have had several instances of people cutting locks, bypassing the meter and stealing water. He drafted a stricter tampering policy, and sent it to the City Attorney, who rewrote with different verbiage. The fines are as follows: \$250 for the first occurrence, \$500 for the second, and \$1000 for the third occurrence. We may also terminate service in the event of meter tampering. Perpetrators will also be subject to citations from the Police Department, and may have to appear in Municipal Court. Councilmember Chaffin suggested we put a copy of the updated policy in with our next water bills.

Motion by Mayor Pro-tem McEntyre to approve resolution for new tampering policy; second by Councilmember Jan Johnson; motion carried unanimously.

- F. At this time, there was discussion of the ownership of Freedom Park, located across from City Hall. The deed is still in the name of the Bowdon Woman's Club, so Mike feels that city employees should no longer be taking care of the park, since it is private property. After some investigation by Mayor and Council, it is believed that there is only 1 surviving member left of the Bowdon Woman's Club, Mrs. Jessie "Jett" Roop. She will be willing to sign a quit-claim deed turning the park over to the City. Mayor Crawford said the title would be "cloudy" for 7 years, but all agreed that the City does need to own the property. The first step is to contract for an updated survey. The expected cost is between \$1500 and \$2000 for the survey. Mike suggested that Council determine a cap amount for the cost of the survey.

Motion by Councilmember Chaffin to approve obtaining a survey for Freedom Park; second by Councilmember Jan Johnson; Councilmember Chaffin amended original motion to allow the Interim City Manager and the Mayor to make the decision on the survey; amended motion seconded by Mayor Pro-tem McEntyre; motion carried unanimously.

The next item was not on the agenda; Mayor Crawford presented a resolution identifying the signers for the new 2014 CDBG checking account.

Motion by Mayor Pro-tem McEntyre to approve resolution; second by Councilmember Jan Johnson; motion carried unanimously.

- G. Jan Lloyd, Main Street Director, presented a proposal for new, upgraded lighting for downtown streets. These would be white, LED lights, which will be brighter and shine farther than the present orange lights. Along with Bart Cater from Georgia Power, she went over the proposed plan with Mayor and Council. The best and most economical option would be to pay around \$16,000 up front for the installation, and will result in a lower monthly power bill payment. She has checked with the City Attorney, and it will be okay to use SPLOST funds from Historic Preservation to pay for the project. Councilmember Jan Johnson pointed out that upgrading the street lighting was also addressed in the new Comprehensive Plan.
- Motion by Mayor Pro-tem McEntyre to approve the lighting proposal with an upfront cost not to exceed \$18,000; second by Councilmember Chaffin; motion carried unanimously.

VII. Financial Session:

- A. Keith noted that the Cash Balances as of October 13, 2014 were handed out at the beginning of the meeting.

VIII. Public Comment:

Mignon Wessinger announced that she is in process of renovating the old Gulf Station. She has applied for a sign variance in order to erect the old, original Gulf Sign as it stood when the station was built.

Miss Fannie Sullivan thanked Cindy Inman and Mayor Crawford for attending her book signing at the library. She said she has been approached about making a movie based on the book. She also asked if Georgia Power could cut down the limbs along the power lines.

At this time, Mayor Crawford asked that Council move into Executive Session to discuss personnel and real estate matters.

Motion by Mayor Pro-tem McEntyre to enter into Executive Session; second by Councilmember Jan Johnson; motion carried unanimously.

IX. Executive Session.

Motion by Mayor Pro-tem McEntyre to move out of Executive Session; second by Councilmember Marty Johnson; motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Mayor Pro-tem McEntyre to adjourn Council Meeting; second by Councilmember Marty Johnson; motion carried unanimously.

X. Adjournment

Mayor Keith Crawford

City Clerk Susan Pierce