CITY OF KINGSLAND, GEORGIA

CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES • AUGUST 10, 2015

Regular Meeting | **City Council Chamber** | **6:00 PM**

107 South Lee Street - City Hall, Kingsland, GA 31548

I. PUBLIC HEARING - STARTS AT 6:00PM

Mayor Smith opened the Public Hearing at 6:00 P.M.

1. Public Hearing - the City of Kingsland, Georgia Will Conduct a Public Hearing for the Purpose of Considering the Application for the Sale of Beer/Wine from "GtracXpress Inc" Owner Yuvrajjit Gill. Location of This Business is 5289 Laurel Island Parkway, Kingsland, Georgia 31548. Notice is Hereby Given that a Public Hearing on This Application is Scheduled for Monday August 10, 2015 at 6:00P.M. in the Council Chamber at City Hall. Formal Consideration of This Application Will Take Place During the Regular Council Session on Monday, August 10, 2015 -

No one came forward to speak regarding the Alcohol License.

2. Public Hearing- FY 2015-16 Budget -

Ms. Filiz Morrow addressed the Mayor, Council and public regarding the FY 2015-16 budget. Ms. Morrow addressed the ten (10) changes that were made to the budget since the last Public Hearing.

1. Remove the computer replacement program.
2. Remove time clock system.
3. Remove IT position request.
4. Fire Department part time hours to full time hours.
5. Records retention - put the cost into the court technology funds.
6. Hold off on the energy audit.
7. Remove three (3) vacant positions from Water and Sewer Department.
8. Change 2 1/2 % raise to a $750.00 performance incentive.
9. Add money into Police Department's education and training budget.
10. Add money to Police Department's Travel budget.

Mayor Smith asked if any work had been done on any salaries.

Councilman McClain stated the Council had not reached a consensus on that item.

No one from the public came forward to speak.

The Public Hearing was closed at 6:07 PM.

II. CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME GUESTS

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order at 6:07 P.M.

III. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

Officer Belcher, Kingsland Police Department gave the Invocation and led the audience in the Pledge to the Flag.

IV. ROLL CALL

Alex Blount	Mayor Pro Tem
Jim McClain	City Councilman
Charles Grayson Day Jr	City Councilman
James Ham	Councilman
Kenneth E Smith Sr	Mayor

V. CONSENT DOCKET

Councilman McClain made a motion to amend the Consent Docket by adding an Executive Session, Personnel Matter, under New Business, Item 4. Councilman Ham seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

RESULT:	**APPROVED AS AMENDED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Jim McClain, City Councilman
SECONDER:	James Ham, Councilman
AYES:	Blount, McClain, Day Jr, Ham

A. Approve the Council Minutes of the last regular Council Meeting
B. Approve the Agenda as Presented
C. Approve the Payments of Accounts Payable as Due and Funds Available

VI. RECOGNITION

1. Life Saving Award: Ronney Blevins, FF/EMT, Kevin Foster, FF/Paramedic, Scott Gregory, FF, Chris Martin, FF/EMT, Blake Stephens, FF/EMT, Brandon White, FF, Jeremy Wright, FF/Paramedic -

Chief Smith presented Firefighter/EMT Blake Stephens with a plaque, The other Firefighters, EMT's, and Paramedics were on call at a fire and could not be present to receive their award.

VII. GRANTING AUDIENCE TO THE PUBLIC

Mr. Nelson Cummings, 233 Woodbridge Road, Kingsland addressed the Mayor and City Council. Mr. Cummings stated he lives in the Meadows and was there on behalf of the citizens concerning their water bills and their services that were interrupted. Mr. Cummings asked the Mayor and Council if there was any way that the citizens could be notified ahead of time that there water would be interrupted.

Councilman Blount addressed Mr. Cummings concerns stating that the outstanding balance for the enterprise fund (water and sewer fund) was $248,000.00 and has now dropped to $143,389.00. Councilman Blount stated that the fund was not going to survive without a water rate increase at some point if the city did not tighten up the amount of past due. He also said that no one is happy that anyone's water was shut off and perhaps we can find other ways to notify customers.

Councilman McClain suggested the Finance Department look into a robo-call or texting system to notify citizens.

Mayor Smith stated that this is money we have to collect and we cannot fall behind in paying a revenue bond. Mayor Smith suggested that maybe the city can make it bolder on the water bill or have door hanger notices.

Mr. Donald Griffin, 116 Ashcroft Street, Kingsland addressed the Mayor and City Council. Mr. Griffin questioned where the fee money went and said he was not one of the citizens whose water was shut off, but he came to speak for the residents of Kingsland. Mr. Griffin stated that over nine hundred (900) people had their water cut off and had to pay a $25.00 cut off fee and a $20.00 late charge. Mr. Griffin said that no one was forewarned that this was going to happen and he wanted to know where the money went that was collected in fees.

Councilman Blount addressed Mr. Griffin's concerns and stated that the money collected can only go to the water/sewer fund.

Councilman Day stated that the city reached a point where it couldn't allow accounts to be two to three months overdue and still have service. Councilman Day questioned Ms. Filiz Morrow about the notification process. Ms. Morrow explained that a notice was included on the last four (4) water bills, it was announced in the Tribune & Georgian, it was put on the city's website and posted in city buildings; Ms. Morrow also stated that people who paid their bills in person were told verbally.

Ms. Morrow stated that she is looking at other options and she and Mr. Lee Spell, City Manager met with a vendor recently who can notify though email notification.

Ms. Harriett Waye, 316 Greenacres Drive, Kingsland addressed the Mayor and City Council and stated that she did not have a problem with the policy change but with the notification process. Ms. Waye suggested the city use bold print on the bill or a highlighted label on the bill's envelope.

Mr. Michael Haines, 107 Camelia Court, Kingsland suggested the best way to communicate with people was by cell phone, perhaps text messaging.

Mr. Lee Spell, City Manager stated that the city will look into these options. Mr. Spell reported that the new software that the city is currently looking at has the capability for the customer to select the option for their notification.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

None

IX. PLANNING AND ZONING

1. APPLICATION FOR FINAL PLAT – Bennett Surveying, Inc. -

Bennett Surveying, Inc. requests consideration for a final plat consisting of 25 lots on 10.45 acres on Walnut Way on behalf of Soncel, Inc. (Lake Victoria IIB-3). Zoning is PD/R-1. This platting restores the original Lake Victoria platting that was reversed for tax reasons. Planning Commission recommends approval.

RESULT:	**APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Alex Blount, Mayor Pro Tem
SECONDER:	Charles Grayson Day Jr, City Councilman
AYES:	Blount, McClain, Day Jr, Ham

2. Discussion - Draft Zoning Amendments and Downtown Overlay District -

Mr. Troy Hoper, Chairman of the Downtown Development Authority addressed the Mayor and City Council. Mr. Hoper passed out a draft for the downtown redevelopment overlay district and went over some of the details with the Mayor and Council.

Mr. Ken Kessler, Director of Planning and Zoning answered questions asked by Council.

Councilman Blount stated that the people that own the properties that are in the overlay district need to be notified.

Councilman McClain said that a phone call should be made to all of the owners. Councilman McClain stated that there are certain types of buildings that are good for only certain uses and the city needs to tread lightly on what the owners can do.

Councilman Day stated that everyone in the overlay district should be contacted and a meeting should be scheduled.

X. NEW BUSINESS

1. Approval Of: Alcohol Beverage License for the Retail Sale of Beer/Wine to Go from Gtrac Xpress Inc., Owner Yuvrajjit Gill, Located at 5289 Laurel Island Parkway, Kingsland, Georiga 31548. -

RESULT:	**APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Alex Blount, Mayor Pro Tem
SECONDER:	Charles Grayson Day Jr, City Councilman
AYES:	Blount, McClain, Day Jr, Ham

2. Approval of: Living Well Employee Clinic MOU -

Councilman Blount inquired if all of the departments within the city had been briefed from the county regarding the clinic. Mr. Lee Spell, City Manager stated they had except for the Police Department which is scheduled.

Councilman Blount stated we don't know what our insurance costs will be next year, however, this was put in place to help reduce the cost and he questioned whether the cost to fund the clinic would be better served by paying towards the insurance premium. Mr. Spell advised Council that the annual Health and Safety Fair was coming up and the clinic will be heavily marketed.

RESULT:	**APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Alex Blount, Mayor Pro Tem
SECONDER:	Charles Grayson Day Jr, City Councilman
AYES:	Blount, McClain, Day Jr, Ham

3. Discussion: Purchase of Replacement Utility Truck -

RESULT:	**APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Jim McClain, City Councilman
SECONDER:	Charles Grayson Day Jr, City Councilman
AYES:	Blount, McClain, Day Jr, Ham

4. Executive Session - Personnel Matter -

Councilman McClain made a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:09 P.M. Councilman Ham seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Blount made a motion to rejoin the meeting from Executive Session at 8:12 P.M. Councilman Day seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Smith stated the session was regarding personnel issues and no vote was taken, discussion only.

XI. MAYOR AND COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENT

None

XII. ADJOURNED

Councilman Blount made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Day seconded the motion.
The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:14 P.M.

____

Kenneth E. Smith, Sr., Mayor

ATTEST:

____

Linda M. O'Shaughnessy, City Clerk