CITY OF KINGSLAND, GEORGIA

CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES ● APRIL 28, 2014

Regular Meeting	City Council Chamber	6:00 PM

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

I. CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME GUESTS

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

II. ROLL CALL

Alex Blount	Mayor Pro Tem
Jim McClain	City Councilman
Daniel Minckler	City Councilman
Charles Grayson Day Jr	City Councilman
Kenneth Smith Sr	Mayor

III. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

Mr. Howard Sepp, Jr of Southeast Georgia Health Care System gave the Invocation and led the audience in the Pledge to the Flag.

IV. CONSENT DOCKET

Councilman McClain stated he wanted to amend the Consent Docket to add under Old Business: Appointment to Ethics Committee. Councilman Blount made a motion to approve the amendment of the Consent Docket. Councilman Day seconded the motion. The motion carried.

RESULT:	**ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
AYES:	Blount, McClain, Minckler, Day Jr

A. Approve the Council Minutes of the last regular council Meeting

1. City Council - Regular Meeting - Apr 14, 2014 6:00 PM

B. Approve the Agenda as Presented

C. Approve the Payments of Accounts Payable as Due and Funds Available

V. RECOGNITION

Mayor Smith read a Proclamation that was given to the City of Kingsland, St. Marys and Camden County. The Proclamation recognized the cities and county as a Coast Guard community.

VI. PRESENTATION

Ms. Trish Jared, Downtown Development Director presented a check in the amount of $3,972.64 to Ms. Angela McManigal, the local representative for the Juvenile Diabetes Association. This check came from the proceeds of the annual car show held this year on March 15, 2014.

1. Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation Check Presentation

VII. GRANTING AUDIENCE TO THE PUBLIC

Ms. Kathy Passarella of 126 Wolfbay Circle addressed the Mayor and City Council. Ms. Passarella stated that she has reached out to Councilman Day about a drainage issue she is having behind her home.
Ms. Passarella stated she reached out to Councilman Day because she had lodged many complaints and received no answers. Ms. Passarella stated she never had a drainage issue until a development went in behind her home.

Mr. Ken Kessler, Director of Planning and Zoning stated that he has visited the site and Donnie Mounsey, Code Enforcement Officer is monitoring the site on a daily basis. Mr. Mounsey stated that there is some severe drainage issues. He removed railroad ties to help with the drainage.

Councilman Day asked Ms. Passarella to please send some pictures.

Ms. Passarella stated that a neighbor behind her put in a french drain in their backyard and it runs from their property to her property.
Ken Kessler reported that the problem is on the other side of the subdivision .

Mayor Smith stated that the information will be provided to Mr. Spell, Acting City Manager and he will make sure that the work is getting done to assist with this problem.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

Councilman McClain appointed Mr. Jimmy Johnson to the Ethics Board.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

1. FY 2012-13 Audit Presentation by Baird & Company, CPAs, LLC

Mr. Butch Whiddon, CPA from Baird and Company addressed the Mayor and City Council to go over the audit conducted with the Finance Department. Mr. Whiddon stated that there were no significant difficulties and the staff was very professional and helpful. Mr. Whiddon stated they found one small issue for compliance and made a few general recommendations.

Mr. Whiddon reported that the compliance issue was a small clerical error that was fixed the following month.

Mr. Whiddon went over the financial statements and stated that he welcomes any input from the Mayor and City Council prior to the audit. He stated that the Mayor and City Council should feel very confident with their staff.

Councilman McClain thanked him,

2. APPROVAL OF: County Health Clinic MOU

Mr. Lee Spell, Acting City Manager stated that he has been working on this for a long time and has submitted this to Council for approval.

Councilman Blount said this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has gone through the process and these numbers are our best estimate and this is a sign of cooperation between the cities and the county.

Councilman Blount stated that the city is only committing for one year at which time it can be re- evaluated. Councilman Blount stated he is excited for the employees and he charged the Department Heads to make sure the information gets out to all of the employees.
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RESULT:	**ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Alex Blount, Mayor Pro Tem
SECONDER:	Jim McClain, City Councilman
AYES:	Blount, McClain, Minckler, Day Jr

3. Franchise Fee Review - Presentation by Greg Fender

Mr. Greg Fender, Georgia Municipal Association stated he has been working with municipalities to recover franchise fees.
Mr. Fender said that he contacted Mr. Lee Spell about the possibility to help the City of Kingsland. Mr. Fender reported that there has been a decline in our franchise fees; he noted that after he looked at our supporting documents that the bills are paid with a lump sum amount and he questions if the city is collecting what they should be. Mr. Fender recommended doing an audit for the past four (4) years to see if the cable companies are paying correctly.

Mr. Fender reported that the cost to do this for Kingsland is a flat rate of $6,000. Once the audit is done Georgia Municipal Association would only charge the first half ($3,000), if there is no money to collect they would not charge the other $3,000.00. Mr. Fender also reported they would provide legal guidance.

Councilman Blount asked Mr. Fender if our agreement with TDS would fall under this agreement. Mr. Fender stated, yes and TDS would have to provide the information for cable. Councilman Blount asked if this is just for cable? Mr. Fender stated yes, and it will include the telephone company (TDS), but they would only pick out the video, not the internet service or telephone.

Mayor Smith thanked Mr. Fender and stated the Mayor and Council would get back to him.

4. Discussion Of: Collection of Delinquent Taxes

Mr. Wendall Bullard, GTS addressed the Mayor and City Council about a proposal for delinquent tax collection.

Mayor Smith stated the Mayor and Council would take this under consideration and get back to him.

5. Discussion and Approval Of: Bid Award for Police Pursuit Sedans

Councilman McClain made a motion for discussion. Councilman Day seconded the motion.

Councilman Blount asked Mr. Ronnie Wise, Director of Fleet Services and Chief Griffis, Police Chief for their recommendations.

Mr. Wise addressed the Mayor and City Council and he stated that he would recommend the 3.7, 2014 Ford Interceptor Sedan, all wheel drive from Clint Brannen Ford for a price of $23,740.00. Mr. Wise stated that twelve (12) dealerships responded and the low bidder overall gave a bid for a 2015 and they only requested bids for a 2014.

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RESULT:	**ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
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SECONDER:	Daniel Minckler, City Councilman
AYES:	Blount, McClain, Minckler, Day Jr

6. Discussion Of: Sign Ordinance......Councilman Day

Councilman Day stated that over the past year he and other City Council Members have received many complaints on signs then in any other year. Councilman Day stated he is not complaining about code enforcement, but is wondering if the Sign Ordinance is good for the city.

Councilman Day said he asked the question is it good for the city, is it good for public safety and is it good for business growth? The Councilman stated he cannot produce a good answer.

Councilman Day reported that most recently he was made aware of a successful local business forced to pay $200.00 on a replacement of a vinyl decal on their business; he proposed a moratorium on signage until the Council can meet and look at the Sign Ordinance. Councilman Day feels what the city is doing now is over reaching.

Councilman McClain stated that he agreed. He said that when a law abiding business owner treated his window with decals that his franchise requires him to have, and the city is enforcing rules that are on the books we need to apply common sense.

Mayor Smith stated that this has been an on going issue for many years and folks need to realize that businesses pay a lot of taxes and they don't use many services, we need to use more common sense in how we treat our businesses.

Councilman Blount stated he is glad that the Mayor brought this up and he feels without a doubt this is an outdated Ordinance. Councilman Blount said we are not doing Planning and Zoning any favors and we need to expedite the process of a fairly extensive rewrite.

Councilman Minckler believes the city needs to use some discretion in signage. He stated the way the company was assessed was incorrect and feels that $150.00 should be refunded to the customer.

Councilman Day amended his motion to state a motion for a moratorium on signs and refund the $150.00 to the business.
Councilman McClain seconded the motion. The item passed unanimously.

7. Discussion Of: Replacement of Aging Fire and Rescue Fleet....Councilman Day

Councilman Day presented a power point presentation to the Mayor, City Council and audience regarding the aging fire and rescue fleet. Councilman day thanked Stuart Sullivan and Captain Weaver who helped him put this together.

Councilman Day stated that after touring the facility his eyes were opened to the severe level and the age of the fire and rescue fleet. The firemen keep everything looking new which can hide some issues, but cannot hide the fact we have only one (1) vehicle that is in compliance with code. Councilman Day stated this is a major issue and two thirds of our vehicles are at the age where they should be put in reserve or be retired.

Councilman Day stated that our guys have been doing a heck of a job with this, but they need to be driving vehicles that are safe.
Currently the fire department needs a pumper truck and a ladder truck, the ladder truck costs over a million dollars and takes one year to be built. Councilman Day stated there is an imminent need to identify funds.

Councilman Day suggested the city look at hotel/motel taxes that the city puts into the general fund, he suggested making this an on going fund to be used as a safety fund. Why the hotel/motel tax Councilman Day asked; because the city needs the ladder truck height for the motels and hotels and it would be fair to place that burden on the tourist that visit.

Councilman Blount stated that if the city uses hotel/motel taxes then something else will need to be cut. Councilman Blount stated the recommendations for age of vehicles coming from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) do not take into account the fact that the vehicles in Kingsland do not go through the same stress as a truck from Savannah. Councilman Blount stated he was very appreciative of Councilman Day for putting this together and would like to be pro active with these funds.

Mayor Smith asked that Mr. Spell look into grant money that may be available. Mayor Smith stated he had heard that Homeland Security may have some grant money available. Mayor Smith stated he appreciated Councilman Day for working on this, because of the economy the city has not been able to put fire trucks in the budget. The city tries to provide the best for it's citizens.

Ms. Tonya Rosado, Tourism Director said the city can create a funding source by creating a CID around the Exit Three location. The city can create a district and tax that district to support these funds.

Councilman McClain stated that we are deeply involved in consolidation and this is a good time to bring this up. It is imperative that we find ways to work together. Partnering with county will be one way we can solve this problem;

8. McKinney Medical Center Letter of Support

Councilman McClain stated he is thankful to the County for donating this land. This facility will take care of people who cannot afford the care or are uninsured.

RESULT:	**ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Jim McClain, City Councilman
SECONDER:	Alex Blount, Mayor Pro Tem
AYES:	Blount, McClain, Minckler, Day Jr

9. Executive Session: Personnel

The Executive Session was cancelled.

X. MAYOR AND COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENT

None

XI. ADJOURNED

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:51 P.M.