# CITY OF KINGSLAND, GEORGIA

**CITY COUNCIL**

**MINUTES ● SEPTEMBER 22, 2014**

| **Regular Meeting** | **City Council Chamber** | **6:00 PM** |
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**107 South Lee Street - City Hall, Kingsland, GA 31548**

## I. PUBLIC HEARING - STARTS AT 6:00PM

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

1. Public Hearing

Mr. Charles J Loomis, owner of Loomis Bar-B-Q Inc a license franchise of Sonny's Real Pit BBQ, currently holds a beer and wine license on premise consumption with food which was approved on October 13, 1997 council meeting. Mr. Loomis would like to add Liquor license. This business is located at 1380 Boone Road East, Kingsland Georgia 31548. Public hearing on this application is scheduled for Monday, September 22, 2014 at 6:00p.m. in the council chamber at City Hall. Anyone having any objection to adding Liquor to the existing license should address their concern to the Mayor and Council at the public hearing. Formal consideration of this application will take place during the regular council session on Monday September 22, 2014.

No one came forward to speak about the liquor license.

2. Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment

Amendment to add 'Turkey Shoots' to list of special permit uses allowed in the C-2 General Commercial District.

No one came forward to speak about the Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment.

The Public Hearing was closed at 6:03 P.M.

## II. CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME GUESTS

Mayor Smith called the City Council Meeting to order at 6:04 P.M.

## III. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

Bishop Verdell Griffin, Jr gave the Invocation and led the audience in the Pledge to the Flag.

## IV. ROLL CALL

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

## V. CONSENT DOCKET

Mayor Smith stated the Consent Docket would need to be changed. Item #6, under New Business Co-Location Agreement - Planning Services would be removed.
Councilman McClain made a motion to approve the Consent Docket as amended. Councilman Minckler seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

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

**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 Safety Awards

Interim Captain Terry Smith, Kingsland Fire Department recognized and gave awards to the following fire fighters for their heroic acts in saving a woman's life: Camden County - Fire Fighter/Paramedic Brian Lukas, Fire Fighter/EMT - Stuart Sullivan, Kingsland Rescue - Fire Fighter/Paramedic Kevin Foster, Fire Fighter/EMT Gregory Jackson.

Fire Fighter Charles Roney addressed the Mayor, Council and audience.
Fire Fighter Roney stated that he was there to recognize nine year old Josiah Harris for his act of bravery. Josiah woke up to smoke in his home and alerted his family and helped them to escape. Josiah's heroic deeds that day saved his family.

## VII. PRESENTATION

1. Paramedicine by Mr. Robert Shad, Region 9 EMS Director

Mr. Robert Shad, Region 9 EMS Director addressed the Mayor and City Council and spoke about the upcoming changes and reforms in the Health Care System with regard to emergency medical services. Mr. Shad stated that community paramedicine is new to Georgia, however it is not new to the United States. Mr. Shad stated that the Association of County Commissioners (ACCG) is supporting and encouraging the Governor to get involved with this opportunity and not wait for the federal government to mandate it. Mr. Shad said this program would need to be specific to our community.

Mr. Shad encouraged the City of Kingsland to maintain their license with the state of Georgia.

2. Co-Location Presentation - Planning Services, Coastal Regional Commission

Ms. Lupita McClenning, Director of Planning and Government Services with the Coastal Regional Commission addressed the Mayor and City Council with a power point presentation. Ms. McClenning was responding to the request from Camden County and the City of Kingsland for recommendations for efficiencies and improvements to organizational elements and service delivery of Planning and Development Services. The presentation gave an analysis of current services and the feasibility of co-locating and moving into consolidating planning and development services.

Ms. McClenning stated that Camden County is the last community along the Eastern seaboard not developed.

Councilman Blount stated he would like to authorize Mr. Lee Spell, City Manager to coordinate this effort.

## VIII. GRANTING AUDIENCE TO THE PUBLIC

Mr. Rick Winters, Mariners Landing, Kingsland, Georgia addressed the Mayor and City Council. Mr. Winters stated that he came to speak to the Mayor and Council because the Agenda included Item 11 (Lease Agreement Life Support Ambulances).

Mr. Winters stated that he would argue whether the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) is not profitable and feels that getting out of this service is a political decision.

Mr. Winters stated that EMS has a whole realm of responders and the City of Kingsland mirrors the nation, four out of five calls to the Fire Department are for EMS. Mr. Winters stated that he felt letting this service go would be taking a step backwards and it is not that costly to maintain, but could be the difference between life and death. Mr. Winters asked what the cost of one life was.

## IX. OLD BUSINESS

1. Selection Of: Bond Counsel-EPIC Project

Councilman McClain made a motion to bring the items under Old Business back to the table. Councilman Day seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Minckler made a motion to approve Attorney Jon Pannell as Bond Council. Councilman McClain seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

2. APPROVAL OF: Zoning Text Amendment - Signs

**ZONING ORDINANCE TEXT AMENDMENT** - Amendment proposes multiple changes to the City of Kingsland sign regulations and movement of the Colerain Overlay District with changes to Section 65 of the zoning ordinance. Planning Commission recommends approval.

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| **RESULT:** | **APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]** |
| **MOVER:** | Jim McClain, Daniel Minckler |
| **SECONDER:** | Alex Blount, Mayor Pro Tem |
| **AYES:** | Blount, McClain, Minckler, Day Jr |

# X. PLANNING AND ZONING

1. APPLICATION FOR SPECIAL USE - Howard Davis

Howard Davis, 103 Scrubby Bluff Rd is requesting a Special Use Permit to operate seasonal turkey shoots. Zoning is C-2.

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

2. APPROVAL OF: Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment

Amendment to add "Turkey Shoots" to list of special permit uses allowed in the C-2 General Commercial District.

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| **RESULT:** | **APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]** |
| **MOVER:** | Daniel Minckler, City Councilman |
| **SECONDER:** | Jim McClain, City Councilman |
| **AYES:** | Blount, McClain, Minckler, Day Jr |

# XI. NEW BUSINESS

1. 1120 : APPROVAL OF: RESOLUTION #2014- 20: Adoption of FY 2014-2015 Operating Budget

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

Councilman Blount stated that Thursday he thought the budget was all set, however on Friday a new document was sent out. Councilman Blount stated he feels this document needs to go before the public.

Councilman Blount stated that in the budget was an 8% increase for employee health care, there were items removed and the budget included up to a $500.00 one time employee bonus. Councilman Blount stated that the city is not asking the employees to split the increase for employee health like they do in the private sector.
Councilman Blount stated the city should have two full months in the fund balance and giving someone a larger raise today given the fact that the tax digest went down again puts employees jobs at risk; he stated he would not go along with employees loosing their jobs so others could receive a higher raise.

Councilman McClain stated that is a very good summary and there are three proposals on the table, 5%, 3% and $500.00 flat. Councilman McClain stated he was trying to find some common ground and he has been working with finance to help work this out. Councilman McClain stated that the past five years our employees have not received a raise yet the consumer index has gone up; he reported the five year trend for raises is from 2.7% to 3%. The average raise is 2.8% in the service industry and the federal government has given a 1.5% raise.

Councilman McClain stated that there is a formula that says it takes $111.0 to buy what $100.00 would buy in 2011 and our employees have gone five years without a raise. Councilman McClain also stated that the Council has cut $781,000.00 from the budget.

Councilman Blount stated the points were good, but the federal government can work with a deficit a municipality cannot.

Councilman Day stated to the employees that were present the first budget proposed included a $500.00 bonus which would be approximately a 2% to 2.5% increase and would be given to the employees all at once when they most need it. Councilman Day further stated that the bonus will not have implications for the future where the city is stuck with an increase and would have to lay off employees if the economy continues down the road it is on.

Councilman McClain stated he would like to see a compromise somewhere between the high end of 5% and the low end of $500.00, he felt a little more time was needed.

Councilman McClain made a motion to table to the next meeting. Councilman Minckler seconded the motion to get a little more time for a clearer understanding.

Mayor Smith stated there is a motion to table to the next meeting; he stated the city is down eleven employees and close to $800,000.00 was saved and he felt the city has a way to give these employees some relief, if not we will have a bare bone city with no employees.

The vote to table to the next meeting was:
Councilman Blount- no,Councilman McClain - yes, Councilman MInckler - yes, Councilman Day - no Mayor Smith voted yes to break the tie.

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| **RESULT:** | **TABLED [2 TO 2]** |
| **MOVER:** | Jim McClain, City Councilman |
| **SECONDER:** | Daniel Minckler, City Councilman |
| **AYES:** | McClain, Minckler |
| **NAYS:** | Blount, Day Jr |

2. APPROVAL OF: 2014 Millage Rate

Ms. Filiz Morrow, Finance Director addressed the Mayor and City Council and stated the millage rate would be set at 8 mills, no change from last year.

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| **RESULT:** | **APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]** |
| **MOVER:** | Jim McClain, City Councilman |
| **SECONDER:** | Daniel Minckler, City Councilman |
| **AYES:** | Blount, McClain, Minckler, Day Jr |

3. PROCLAMATION: Honoring "Pink Out Friday" for Breast Cancer

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

4. JOINT PROCLAMATION: of the Camden County Board of Commissioners, City of St. Marys, City of Kingsland and City of Woodbine Honoring Congressman Jack Kingston

Mayor Smith spoke on the Joint Proclamation honoring Congressman Jack Kingston.

5. APPROVAL OF: Liquor License for Mr. Charles J. Loomis, Owner of Loomis Bar-B-Q, Inc.

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

6. DISCUSSION: Proposed Change to the Kingsland Police Review Board

Councilman McClain stated he asked for this discussion in light of the recent incidents in the country. Councilman McClain asked Chief Griffis, Kingsland Police Department to speak about this.

Chief Griffis addressed the Mayor and Council and thanked them for the opportunity. Chief Griffis stated the City of Kingsland currently has a manual on how police officers will respond and police officers are held to a higher standard. Chief stated occasionally a situation will occur and it is important that all reporting is transparent to our citizens if physical force is used.

Chief stated he has reviewed this and feels the process can be improved by adding two civilian members to the board who will require training.

Councilman Day asked Chief Griffis if he had explored having two officers outside of the department on the board. Chief Griffis stated he was advised the best process for the size of Kingsland is to have two civilians that way the community will feel it is not a one sided review board.

7. BID AWARD: Timber Harvesting

Mayor Smith stated that only two companies had turned in bids.
The highest bid was Paulk Timber Company.

Councilman Blount made a motion to approve Paulk Timber. Councilman Day seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

8. BID AWARD: Custodial Services

Ms. Filiz Morrow, Director of Finance addressed the Mayor and City Council and stated that the city went out for bid to replace an employee who had retired and that is where the comparison for the bids were.

Councilman Blount made a motion to decline all bids. Councilman Minckler seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

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

9. Revisions to GMEBS Health Plan Participation Documents - Compliance with Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act ("ACA")

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| **RESULT:** | **APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]** |
| **MOVER:** | Jim McClain, City Councilman |
| **SECONDER:** | Daniel Minckler, City Councilman |
| **AYES:** | Blount, McClain, Minckler, Day Jr |

10. Lease Agreement - 2 Advanced Life Support Ambulances, Camden County

Councilman Blount stated this lease agreement is the result of the exploratory committee set up with the cities and county. Councilman Blount stated that it was agreed that the county would set up a fourth zone in the county, however, until they are able to do that it was discussed that a short term lease from the City of Kingsland for these ambulances be added. Councilman Blount also added that the city owns three ambulances and currently operates two and holds one for back-up; the county is the zone priority for all 911 calls. Councilman Blount stated that the county would staff and maintain the ambulances according to the proposed agreement. Councilman Blount stated that if they are not convinced they want to evolve out of the EMS business than this would be a good way to go, as a result of the exploratory committee the county would take short term possession of the vehicles.

Councilman McClain stated he was not sure the city would gain financially with the annual lease sum of $1.00. Councilman McClain stated that times have changed for EMS business and when this study was done paramedicine was not explored. Councilman McClain stated that part of the city's mission was to take care of their citizens.

Mayor Smith stated he was concerned about the equipment side of this, and wondered what kind of mileage or condition they would come back to the city in.

Councilman Blount stated that there is nothing standard about this, this is the first time the city has had the political will to work together with the county. Councilman Blount stated these trucks are staying in use in the community and the county is making a huge commitment.

Councilman Day asked Mr. Shad, Region 9 EMS Director if the City of Kingsland needed the ambulances in order to keep their license. Mr. Shad stated that we do not need ambulances to keep our license and you do not need ambulances to do paramedicine.

Councilman Minckler stated that the Council has not approved a budget to dictate which direction they can go and there is no need to vote until they have a budget. Councilman Minckler made a motion to table this discussion until they have a budget. Councilman McClain seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

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| **RESULT:** | **TABLED [UNANIMOUS]** |
| **MOVER:** | Daniel Minckler, City Councilman |
| **SECONDER:** | Jim McClain, City Councilman |
| **AYES:** | Blount, McClain, Minckler, Day Jr |

## XII. MAYOR AND COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENT

None

## XIII. ADJOURNED

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 P.M.

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Kenneth E. Smith, Sr., Mayor

ATTEST:

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Linda M. O'Shaughnessy, City Clerk