****

**QUITMAN CITY COUNCIL**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**Councilmembers:**

Zinda McDaniel, Mayor

Mark DeVane, Mayor Pro-Tem

Mattie Neloms

Donald Morgan

Lula Smart

**Tuesday, February 1, 2022**

**6:30 P.M.**

**QUITMAN CITY COUNCIL**

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**Tuesday, February 1, 2022**

**6:30 P.M.**

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Zinda McDaniel at 6:30 PM. Council members Morgan, Neloms, DeVane and Smart were present. City Manager Raphel D. Maddox, City Attorney Karla Walker and City Clerk Lola Slydell was also in attendance.

1. **INVOCATION**

Pastor Frank Nelson– Fountain of Praise, Quitman Ga

1. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Led by Mayor Zinda McDaniel

1. **DISCUSSION OF VARIANCE REQUEST 404 E. GORDON ST. (PUBLIC HEARING)**

Upon motion by Mark DeVane and second by Donald Morgan to move agenda item #11 up to # 4 and go into a public hearing to discuss the variance request for 404 E. Gordon St. Voting yes (Neloms, DeVane, Morgan, Smart). Sherry Richardson (Southern Regional Commission) addressed council on variance request for placement of a mobile home on 404 E. Gordon St. Mobile home purchased for placement exceeded setback requirements of 8ft an either side of the mobile home. Placement of mobile home allowed only 6ft on either side. Tammy Reynolds owner of 404 E. Gordon St. also owns property(lot) next to this location. Variance request was reviewed by Planning Commission and recommended approval based on documentation provided. Upon motion by Donald Morgan and second by Lula Smart to approve placement of mobile home. Voting Yes (Neloms, DeVane, Morgan, Smart).

Upon motion by Lula Smart and second by Mattie Neloms to exit out of the Public Hearing. Voting Yes (Neloms, DeVane, Morgan, Smart).

1. **A DOPTION OF AGENDA**

Upon motion by Lula Smart and a second by Mattie Neloms to approve agenda

Voting Yes (Smart, Morgan, Neloms, DeVane).

1. **ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA**

Upon motion by Mattie Neloms and second by Donald Morgan to approve regular Meeting Minutes – January 1,2022 and Business License request for 111 E. Screven St (M & J 786 LLC. retail clothing)

Voting Yes (Smart, Morgan, Neloms, DeVane). Business License request from Palak Corporation 216 S. Court St. (Liquor Store) was tabled. No action Taken.

1. **APPOINT CITY ATTORNEY**

Upon motion by Mattie Neloms and second by Lula Smart to reappoint Karla Walker as the City Attorney (2022). Voting Yes (Neloms, Smart, Morgan) Voting No (DeVane). Motion passes.

1. **UTILITY RATE DISCUSSION**

City Clerk Lola Slydell presented the council with an update from ECG (Electric Cities of Georgia) on the 2.5% rate reduction on electric consumption for the residential customers for the City of Quitman. A 2.5% rate reduction was approved by the Mayor and Council in October of 2021 to residential customers for the months of November 2021-January 2022. Upon motion by Mark DeVane and second by Donald Morgan to return residential reduction back to original rate. Voting Yes (Neloms, Morgan, DeVane). Voting No. (Smart). Motion passes

1. **DISCUSSION OF ADVANCE CONTRACT**

Upon motion by Mark DeVane and second by Mattie Neloms to cancel limb and leaves portion of Advance Disposal contract (Waste Management) Voting Yes (Smart, Morgan, Neloms, DeVane).

1. **DISCUSSION OF R & G TREE SERVICE**

City Manager Raphel D. Maddox expressed his great appreciation for R & G Tree Services for the work they have already done to get the city cleaned and maintained. Council was presented with updated contract from R & G Tree Services – reviewed by City Attorney Karla Walker to update verbage. Upon motion by Mark DeVane and second by Donald Morgan to approve contract. Voting Yes (Smart, Morgan, Neloms, DeVane.)

1. **DISCUSSION OF SUNSET LAKE REPAIRS**

City Manager Raphel Maddox discussed current status of Sunset Lake repairs. He recommended the need for grant monies (GEFA grant) to help fund the project. Agenda item tabled. No action taken

1. **DISCUSSION OF 512 S. WASHINGTON ST. EASEMENT- PHILANTHROFILMS HOLDINGS LLC.**

City Manager Raphel D. Maddox expressed to the Council that the simplest way to address the easement for Philanthrofilms would be to transfer ownership. He stated that contractors and needed permits for Philanthrofims are ready and needs only the decision from the Council to proceed. Upon motion by Mark DeVane and second by Mattie Neloms to transfer ownership of said property to Development Authority. Voting Yes. (Smart, Morgan, Neloms, DeVane.)

1. **CITY MANAGER UPDATES**

City Manager Raphel D. Maddox Updated council on GMA conference that was attended by the newly elected officials. Update on current potholes that still need to be addressed in the city.

1. **OPEN MEETING FLOOR FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS/ CONCERNS**

**Sherry Davidson** from (SGRC) addressed the concern about the current zoning for the City of Quitman and requested that the council review and consider reviewing and making changes that would better fit the needs of the city. City Manager Raphel D. Maddox stated that the city already has rural zoning and enterprise zoning in place. James Horton is currently organizing the Historic Preservation Committee and overseeing zoning.

**Irene Brown** expressed her concerns for the cemeteries and grave upkeep. She also wanted to know the process of finding graves as well as purchasing new sites.

**Clara Cobb**-602 E. Chisolm St. addressed council concerning sewer issues at this location.

Mr. Pridgen expressed his concern for the animal shelter and possibly re-opening the shelter soon. He had a concern about the animals and finding out how he could help to make the process smoother for the City of Quitman. He also expressed his concern for Webster Rd. being one of the roads for the school route. He stated the road is too bad and full pothole and too dangerous in his opinion for our children to traveling on and would like for the City to seriously consider changing the bus route or expediting the issue to get some improvements on that road for the safety of the children. Councilman Mark DeVane updated council on the Webster Rd. stating T-splost is in the process of paving the road and putting in a sidewalk. Also, there is a waterline leak that causing the pothole issues. A waterline project should be put in place to handle that. Mr. Pridgen also stated the city should consider putting out signs when work is done with T-splost funds so that the citizens will know what project the funds are being used for. He thinks this would be an added benefit to the city.

**Gary Christian** addressed council concerning his issue with the ditch and beaver dam.

**Pastor Frank Nelson** expressed his concerns about the electric rate for the City of Quitman and fells that they are high. Council Donald Morgan stated to Mr. Nelson that his knowledge and history of the current location in question in the past has had major water leak issues- poor insulation and very thin metal walls. Pastor Nelson stated his concern about the meters being read properly. City Manager Raphel D. Maddox advised him that all city meter readers have a camera that tracks their location and activity. Mayor Zinda McDaniel recommended a possible meter change out for Pastor Nelson.

Mayor Zinda McDaniel advised the public on the current status of the Liquor License Ordinance.

1. **EXECUTIVE SESSION Pursuant to (OCGA 50-14-(6)).**

To discuss/ deliberate upon the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of a public officer or employee; (OCGA50-14-(6)).

Upon motion by Mattie Neloms and second by Lula Smart and unanimously approved to enter into Executive Session at 7:17 pm. Motion by Mattie Neloms and second by Lula Smart to exit out of Executive Session at 7:38pm unanimously approved.

1. **ADJOURN**

Motion by Mattie Neloms second by Lula Smart to adjourn at 7:39 P.M. was approved.

Voting Yes (Smart, Morgan, Neloms, DeVane.)

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**Zinda McDaniel, Mayor Attest: Lola Slydell, City Clerk**

**Date Minutes Approved: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**