

# CITY OF MCINTYRE

## Council Meeting Minutes



February 05, 2024

5:00 p.m.

City of McIntyre Meeting Room

The City of McIntyre council meeting was held on February 05, 2024, with Mayor Vicki Horne presiding. Council Members present were Rico Myrick, Debra Kennedy, Rachel Hartley, Katherine Scott, John Carswell, and Eugene Moore.

Others in attendance: City Clerk Davonia Riddle, Bernard Hughes, and City Attorney Jack.

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Mayor Vicki Horne. Prayer was led by Council Member Eugene Moore.

Mayor Vicki Horne swore in Council Member John Carswell in for the 2024 term.

### Approval of Minutes

**Motion made by Council Member Katherine Scott to approve January 03, 2024, Regular Council Meeting, Seconded by Council Member Rachel Hartley. Motion carried. (Mayor Pro-Tem Rico came in after the motion)**

**Motion made by Council Member John Carswell to approve December 04, 2023, Regular Council Meeting, Seconded by Council Member Katherine Scott. Motion carried. (Mayor Pro-Tem Rico came in after the motion)**

### Fall Line Disposal

City Clerk Davonia told the council Mr. Brian Wimberly is attending the meeting to discuss Discount Disposal. City Clerk Davonia told Mayor Horne she gave Mr. Wimberly a copy of Discount Disposal current contract. Mayor Horne asked if he had any concerns about the contract and he said no. Mayor Horne stated that she hasn't talked with council about Mr. Wimberly taking over the business. Mayor Horne opened the floor to Mr. Wimberly. Mr. Wimberly told council he bought out everything dealing with Dixon and Discount disposal, basically bought out the business. Mr. Wimberly stated that he is

trying to assign the contract or novation. He stated that he needs the checks to come in his business name. Council told Mr. Wimberly the checks could be reissued.

City Attorney Jack told council they can assign the contract to Mr. Brian; in return he will draft a contract for both parties to sign. (see attachment from Feb. 05 meeting) Mayor Horne asked about insurance, City Attorney Jack stated that Mr. Wimberly must follow the rules of the current contract. Mr. Wimberly told council he will bring the information to City Hall. Mayor Horne asked Mr. Wimberly was he looking to make any changes and asked how long the current contract is. City Clerk Davonia stated that the current contract is till 2026. Mr. Wimberly said he doesn't see making any changes now but can't foresee what will happen in the future.

Mayor Horne asked if Mr. Brian Wimberly had any conversation about the tipping fee. Mr. Brain Wimberly stated that he talked with one of the commissioners and they have everything taken care of. Mayor Horne asked if he has anything in written, he stated he can see if he will be able to get anything in writing. Mayor Horne thanked Mr. Brain Wimberly for upholding the contract.

#### Storage Building-City Hall

Mayor Horne stated the City Clerk may have talked with the council about the storage building already but the city hall building needs a place to store items. The council discussed the options. (see attachment from Feb. 05 meeting) Mayor Horne asked if we need to get in contact with the insurance company and City Clerk Davonia stated she will call the insurance company and get them to add the storage building. The council decided 10X20 or 12X20 will work for that area. Chief Amerson told the council he will come to city hall and measure the area.

**Motion made by Council Member John Carswell to purchase a storage building not to exceed \$6500.00, Seconded by Council Member Katherine Scott. Motion carried. (Mayor Pro-Tem Rico came in after the motion)**

#### Call Out- Water Department

Mayor Horne told the council that the council previously voted for a \$45 call out, but it doesn't touch the amount the city has to pay for the call out. Mayor Horne stated she doesn't think a call out should be four hours just to cut a customer's water on because it only takes an hour. Council Member Eugene Moore stated that if a man comes in to cut a customer's water on, it should be a least two hours. City Clerk Davonia asked if the changes are being made for water cut on or all call outs. Mayor Horne stated regarding a water leak is different, but she is talking about going out just to cut the customer water back on. Mayor Horne opens the floor for discussion. Mayor Pro-Tem Rico stated that it should be four hours because it's the employee's time. Mayor Horne stated the city can't keep doing that because the city is not breaking even.

Council Member John Carswell stated that it should be the two hours but spread among all the employees in that department. He goes on to say, that way everyone will have a chance to receive the two hours of overtime. City Clerk Davonia stated that the cut off has changed and the guys do not cut off on the weekend. The council decided to leave on call at the four hours.

Council Member John Carswell asked the council to increase the cut off fee to \$15 so it will help balance everything out. City Clerk Davonia stated that she thinks \$10 will probably be okay but \$15 will be too high. Mayor Pro-Tem asked how it works for the elderly that get paid at the end of the month? City Clerk Davonia stated that if they pay when the bill is received, they will not be on the cut off list but as

with everything, some people will be on the cut off list regardless. Council Member John Carswell discussed ways to increase fees to balance the on-call fees.

**Motion made by Council Member John Carswell to increase the late fee to \$10 for water bill, Seconded by Council Member Rachel Hartley. Opposed Mayor Pro-Tem Rico Myrick and Council Member Eugene Moore. Motion carried.**

#### Garbage Fees

Mayor Horne stated that she hadn't heard back from Dr. Geter regarding the rates. Mayor Horne stated that she was trying to come up with some kind of plan to ease the burden on the citizens. Mayor Horne suggested the city take on some of the cost or all the cost for garbage. Mayor Horne said she wanted to bring it to the table and see what the council thought and if it's other avenues that can be taken. Council Member Rachel Hartley asked the council if we have the funds available to pay for the customer's garbage. Council Member Eugene Moore told the council we are looking at two years before the sewer system is complete. Mayor Horne stated that this is the only way she sees the city can lessen the burden on the citizens. Mayor Pro-Tem Rico Myrick suggested extending the city limits. Mayor Horne asked City Attorney Jack about the changes regarding the city limits. City Attorney Jack stated he doesn't think anything has changed but he will look into it and let the council know. Mayor Horne stated we need to reach out to Irwinton and the County but in the meantime, the only thing she can think of is the city paying for the garbage. Council Member Rachel Hartley stated that she thought the idea was great but her only concern is will we have it in the budget. She told the council if they say the city has it in the budget, then she is fine with it. Council Member Eugene Moore stated that in 2025-2026, it will be fine to do it then but why does the council have to vote on it now. Council Member John Carswell stated that it will already be done just in case the current council is gone. Mayor Horne stated the council needs to make this viable and not put an extra burden on the citizens.

**Motion made by Council Katherine Scott for the city to take on the expense of garbage when the sewer is complete, Seconded by Council Member John Carswell. Motion carried.** Mayor Horne stated that it can always be undone if it becomes a financial strain on the city.

#### Grinder Pump

Council Member Eugene Moore stated that the grinder pumps for sewer customers distance for the sewer pump or down a hill? Mayor Horne stated that it will be connected to the customer's electric bill. Council Member Eugene Moore stated that the grinder pumps will work from electricity from the customer's meter. He goes on to say the council spoke with someone from Florida and he stated it wouldn't be no more than \$1.00 extra a month for the power bill. Council Member Eugene Moore stated he doesn't know about the amount, but the power bill has increased about 30% since he has been here. Council Member Eugene Moore told council it will be about 30 something grinder pumps. Mayor Horne stated she wonders if Greg from Georgia Power will give council a round about cost and Council Member Eugene Moore stated it will depend on the horsepower. Mayor Horne told the council she will ask Karen from USDA whether credit could be given out to those citizens. Mayor Horne stated she's going to see whatever avenue she can take to help citizens connected to the grinder pump get some type of discount. Council Member Eugene Moore told council we can get Georgia Power to give council the reading off the pump. Mayor Horne stated the big items that may be a burden on the citizen's needs, be handled at the table to make sure we look out for the citizens. Mayor Horne and Council Member Eugene Moore discussed electricity for the sewer system. The council discussed

further. Mayor Horne asked Council Member Eugene Moore to call Greg from Georgia Power regarding electricity for the sewer system.

**Old Business:**

**Approve Garbage Ordinance**

City Attorney Jack went over the changes he made to the ordinance. (see attachment from Feb. 05 meeting) **Motion made by Council Member Katherine Scott to approve the garbage ordinance, Seconded by Council Member Rachel Hartley. Motion carried.**

**On Solve**

City Clerk Davonia told council the city has a new system called On Call (On Solve) that offers the city a way to communicate with the citizens regarding water leaks, outages, etc. She asked the council to help her with the sign-up process, either by sending them the link or having the citizens come to the office and sign up. Council Member Katherine asked what do the citizens need to do and City Clerk Davonia told them they can come to the office and sign up. She will need a valid email address.

**Council Comments:**

Rachel Hartley- Council Member Rachel Hartley told the council she will be going to new council training during the month of March in Tifton.

Katherine Scott- No comments

Eugene Moore – No comments

John Carswell- Council Member John Carswell told the council he has started working on May Day and went over ideas (see attachment from Feb. 05 meeting). Council Member John Carswell also goes on to say that at the last council meeting, he had a representative from the Boy Scouts and wanted to know what the status of City Attorney Jack was. Council Member John Carswell also asked about the donation that was supposed to be made to the Boy Scouts last year. Mayor Horne asked City Attorney Jack if the city can donate to Boy Scouts. Council Member John Carswell told council it was not a donation it was a charity event that the city was supposed to participate in for the Golden Eagle Award. The City Attorney stated he is not sure about the check, but he had looked into the Boy Scouts information. He goes on to say that he hadn't seen where government was typically doing that job, he has only seen schools, civic clubs, churches, etc. City Attorney Jack said he has some concerns regarding the city holding the money and signing off on checks. He stated if you do it for one organization it opens it up for other organizations. He advised the City not to do it because it will be bad if you're picking and choosing between one or the other. Council Member John Carswell told the council he has been all over the county, but he hasn't had anyone to help them. Council Member Eugene Moore told Council Member John Carswell to talk with the Voice of Truth. City Attorney Jack stated that he didn't see where you couldn't but he's hesitant to tell council they should do it.

Rico Myrick-Mayor Pro-Tem Rico Myrick showed council pictures and videos of an area on Vinson Rd. He stated the engineer Kim told the contractors they must dig the area up and fix it. Mayor Horne asked City Attorney Jack what they can do about the issues regarding the sewer project. She goes on to say the City didn't have anyone to watch them on a regular basis, so she assigned Mark Fountain. Mayor Horne asked what the council can do to address this problem. City Attorney Jack told council sending a letter is

a good idea. He told the council to get a list of all the issues and he will draft a letter to send to the contractors. The council discussed issues regarding the sewer project.

City Clerk Davonia showed the council information she received regarding Forits about Bond. (see attachment from Feb. 05 meeting) City Attorney Jack went over the letter we received from Fortis. He told the council he will call the company and get more information.

City Attorney Jack- no comments

Chief Wayne Amerson- He told council he received quotes for the Durango and it's going to cost \$1,000 more. He told council the initial quote he received was around \$14,900 but he has another one that will be around \$13,000. Officer Hughes told the council it will be a turnkey deal. Mayor Horne asked the police department is there anyone else in the state of Georgia. Chief Amerson told council they have three in the state of Georgia that he knows of, but he told council with everything he quoted at the last meeting, it will only put him over about \$1,000. Chief Amerson said that is the cheapest he could find in this area and that's him begging. Mayor Horne asked them to reach out to other states and companies for a lower rate. Mayor Horne asked what is the council going to do with the spare vehicles from the Police Department? Chief Amerson told the council it is just a matter of which one they want to keep; they're all fixed and working. Mayor Horne told Chief Amerson to bring back his recommendation at the next council meeting.

Mayor Pro-Tem Rico asked if the club received their license for the year. Chief Amerson told council he paid for his business license, but he is giving him to the end of the month to purchase his license from the state to receive beverages from the truck. Mayor Horne asked about the other club and the Police Department told council they haven't had any issues with him, but he does need to purchase his license.

With there being no further business, **Motion made by Council Member John Carswell, Seconded by Council Member Katherine Scott, to adjourned. Motion Carried.** The meeting adjourned at 6:37 pm.

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Mayor Vicki Horne

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City Clerk, Davonia Riddle