

CITY OF MCINTYRE

Minutes

April 3, 2023

5:30 p.m.

City of McIntyre Meeting Room

The City of McIntyre council meeting was held on April 3, 2023 with Mayor Vicki Horne presiding. Council Members present were Mayor Pro-Tem Rico Myrick, Katherine Scott, John Carswell (late), and Council Member Debra Kennedy. Council Member Eugene Moore absent.

Others in attendance: City Clerk Davonia Riddle, Chief Wayne Amerson, City Attorney John (Jack) Nichols, Wilkinson County Library Committee, Jennifer Lautzenheiser Middle Georgia Regional Library, and Joyce Martin.

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Vicki Horne. Prayer was led by Council Member John Carswell.

Mayor Horne told everyone that Mr. Eugene Moore lost his wife and to keep him in their prayers. She goes on to say that the meeting will not be long because she is going to his house after the meeting to see if the council/city can help him during his difficult time.

Approval of Minutes:

Council Member Katherine Scott made a motion to approve the minutes for February 6, 2023 Regular Meeting, Seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Rico Myrick. Motion carried.

Mayor Pro-Tem Rico Myrick made a motion to approve the minutes for March 6, 2023 Regular Meeting, Seconded by Council Member John Carswell. Motion carried.

New Business:

MOA between the City of McIntyre and Middle GA Regional Commission

City Clerk Davonia told council that Greg Boike from MGRC sent over an MOA for council to sign regarding funds for the sewer project. She goes on to say that the council signed one a couple of months back but this one is different because it has the actual funds amount. City Clerk Davonia said that the council and MGRC need to sign to make it official. Mayor Horne told the council we need a motion.

Motion made by Council Member Katherine Scott for Mayor Horne to sign the MOA with MGRC, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Rico Myrick. Motion Carried.

Jennifer Lautzebheiser director of Middle Georgia Regional Library. She said she was at the meeting in support of the East Wilkinson Library board and following up on a letter that was sent to Mayor Horne about the change in the library funding and how that is a violation of the maintenance of efforts that is required to maintain the county local library. Mrs. Jennifer said she has copies so the other council members can look them over. Mayor Horne asked City Clerk Davonia to make copies of the letter.

Mrs. Jennifer said she would like to highlight a couple of things and council can read through the letter later. The city is part of a service delivery strategy that is filed with the state in conjunction with the other cities and the county. She said part of that is funding for the public library, she said she knows some of the cities think of it as a donation or support. She said the city is a funding agency and it has a legal responsibility that generates a maintenance of effort. In order for the library to continue to receive all of their privileges from the state and pine system you have to maintain a certain level of support. She goes on to say that certain conditions where it can be cut, if your city went through an economic downfall and you had to cut back everyone the same portion then that would qualify you for a waiver. She said you kind of run in deep water when you cut the library and not others departments. Ms. Jennifer said when you do that, it's not an across the board decrease when only one department is getting a decrease. Because of that, you would not qualify for a waiver or Maintenance of Effort for the public library under that situation. She said from her understanding that's the situation the city is in now. She said the local library committee will be able to speak better about it than her.

Mayor Horne asked her to repeat that again including the legal responsibility of the city and the wavier. She said she need to get it on the recording so she can dig a little deeper. Mrs. Jennifer said there is something called a Maintenance of Effort and it's the requirement of funding agency for your local library that comes from the state agency Georgia public library service. They administer all the federal and state funds that comes to the local level. In order to qualify for the funds, whether direct funds that support your internet, books, etc. Whether its direct or indirect support like the pine system, digital, or ebooks. In order to qualify, you have to maintain your financial funding level. It can not go down unless you qualify for a waiver. Mayor Horne asked what kind of wavier is that called? Mrs. Jennifer said it's the Maintenance of Effort wavier and is enclosed in the letter and in the copy of the conditions. She goes on to say that waivers only come into play when it's a reduction in funds across the board. She said it is her understanding that historical city support of the public library was \$10,000 and projected to be \$5,000 this year. Unless all agencies receive a 50% cut, then the city will qualify for the wavier. She said she want to provide the city with opportunity to get their questions answered. Mrs. Jennifer said it will be a significant loss to the state and federal support. For one, the county will no longer qualify for the pine system which brings the material into the library. The Internet is completely funded by state and federal funds if you lose that you will no longer have access. It will be a significant disadvantage to your resident to not have access. She goes on to say another thing she wanted to point out according to the state, if the EWCL loses funding so will the Gordon library because all residents in the county will lose because of the action taken.

Mrs. Jennifer asked if anyone had any questions. Council Member Debra Kennedy stated that our funding has been \$10,000 and Mrs. Jennifer said it has historically been that amount. Council Member Katherine said even though we have a lot going on with the sewer project, no one cares what we have going on, they are just going to strong arm us to pay that extra \$5,000.00. Council Member Katherine asked what is the fine for that? Mrs. Jennifer stated that it's not a fine it's a loss of the privilege. Council Member Katherine asked if they would take us to court for that. Mrs. Jennifer said no, and Council Member Katherine said okay. She asked for any other questions. Ms. Donna stated no one is trying to strong arm, Council Member Katherine Scott said it seems like it. Ms. Donna said the library is trying to stay in compliance and funded so they can provide the services so the county will be able to use the

library. She said not only EWCL but Gordon and Ivey as well. She said it's no way the city would be able to come together and provide what the state gives the library. Ms. Jennifer said the direct support in the last year has been under \$15,000, \$14,500 to be direct. She said that does not include computers or technology, just the computer system that manages the books is \$100,000 a year. She said that is outside the local government systems that is why they use the pine system. By staying in compliance with the state, the library will be able to receive the benefits of the system. She said for clarity, she finds that most of the funding agencies that are in the system have different rules and regulations that each city follows. She said it has been her experience when an agency stepped outside of the rules everyone is trying to follow, it is because they have so much on their plate that they were not aware of that particular arrangement. She said that's why she is here so the agencies can ask questions.

Mayor Horne said she wasn't going to say anything but was going to speak on this matter. She said the city franchise check use to be over \$700,000 but it was cut in half. She said the city sometimes received \$300,000. She goes on to say that the city doesn't support any other entity than the library. Mayor Horne said she does not understand how McIntyre would not qualify when the city had financial hardship over the last couple of years. She asked City Clerk Davonia if we have the breakdown of the decreased payments of the franchise check? City Clerk Davonia said yes, and she will provide it to Ms. Jennifer. Mayor Horne said she cannot sit here and let Mrs. Jennifer think the city has not had any hardship. She said the city has cut staff and lost police officers. She said it has been several things and several things have been cut across the board. She goes on to say that the city has tried to maintain the city and not be totally in the red. The city has been paying money toward the sewer project and the funds came from the general account. She said she fought tooth and nail with the city attorney about not paying the engineers, but the city had a financial obligation to pay them. The city does not get the \$700,000 anymore and she doesn't know who misled Mrs. Jennifer with that information. She goes on to say the city did hit a hardship, but council still have to do things for the city and employees and doesn't understand how the city wouldn't qualify for a waiver. Mayor Horne said over the years the city has donated \$15,000, \$10,000 might have even been \$20,000. Mrs. Jennifer said it is not a donation. Mayor Horne said she doesn't care what you call it, but the city paid it. She said if they didn't give you the full picture of what the city has going on, then she's sorry. She said she wanted to paint a picture in order for Mrs. Jennifer to get a better understanding of the city's situation. Mrs. Jennifer said she didn't think she was misled she was given the facts of from \$10,000 to \$5,000. Mayor Horne said she understood what she was saying but what she said has been explained to the library board also. She said they can come down here and requested copies. She said the city is not trying to hide anything and anything they needed regarding the budget the city will give it to them. Mayor Horne said she wanted to make sure that everyone at the table knows what is going on and that's how she likes to operate. The citizens know what's going on, the city hit a financial hardship not getting the franchise fund like they did in the past. Mayor Horne said it is open to the public and anyone that wants a copy to get one. Mrs. Jennifer said great. Mrs. Jennifer said if the city wants to help the library receive that information to paint the big picture they will be more than happy to take a look at that.

Mrs. Jennifer said to be clear the wavier is not with the region it's with the state. Mayor Horne told Mrs. Jennifer she brought it up. Mrs. Jennifer said because it's my job. She said believe it or not I will be the one that will advocate for you. Mayor Horne said it's mine also to make sure you are aware of what the city has going on. She said right and it's her job to advocate for you with the state. She said it will be good for all of us to continue that transparency so you can share that information with me and I share it with them. Untimely they will make the decision. Mayor Horne said she will make sure RDC get the information because they work on the city's behalf, and they can submit to the state where the city has the financial hardship and decrease. The city still tried to do what they could for the library. Mayor

Horne said she does not want people to think she's not in support of the library. She said she have been in support of the library and voted for it. Mayor Horne said she might have been the one who asked for the \$15,000 a while back. She said the city will try to do their part, but she will ask Greg to work on this and submit it to the state. Mrs. Jennifer said again, it comes through her. Mayor Horne told Mrs. Jennifer she going to tell her something and then the meeting will move on. She said she is going to get them to do her part because that's a part of her job and she doesn't thoroughly understand it. She is going to get them to do whatever they need to do as far as our history regarding where we were and our status now. Mayor Horne said she does not do that part that is why she said RDC. Mrs. Jennifer said she thinks what she heard was that you have the information and it's transparent and you are willing to share it with the library board. Mayor Horne said not the library but Mrs. Donna. Mrs. Donna said Vicki is correct whenever she asked there was no problem seeing but that is when she noticed that the library was the one who took the cut. Mayor Horne said no Donna why you would say that the city laid off police. Ms. Donna said she's not talking about revenue she understand, she said she talking about how those revenue are allocated. The library is the line item that took the cut. Mayor Horne said no it's not the city had to do things with the insurance for the employees, the library was the only one the city donated to. Mayor Horne asked who else do we donate to? Mrs. Donna said with the SPLOST money the library is one of those the city is supposed to help pay for, it is one of those eight things of the negotiation and it's a state thing. Mrs. Donna said so it's not a donation. She said when she looked at it and saw the library took a 50% cut and she didn't see what everybody else did and the library has to stay in compliance. She goes on to say that the library has to stay transparent in their budget they turn it over to the region to let them know where they are. Mayor Horne said it is oranges and apples today everybody wants to correct her. She they have been saying donations all the years before and no one ever corrected her until tonight saying it's not a donation. Never, no one ever corrected her with the terminology. Mayor Horne told Mrs. Jennifer to tell her what it is so she will know going forward. Mrs. Jennifer said funding agency. Mayor Horne said no every said that before until tonight. Mrs. Jennifer said, I know we talked about it on the phone, but I know you have a lot on your plate. Mayor Horne said it's nothing that has been stated before. She said she is an honest person and she's not going to shoot you no lies and she shoot from the hip. She said she has made the statement on where the city is with their money and how the city budget has been cut in half. She said City Clerk Davonia will get the information to Greg to submit to you or whomever. Mrs. Jennifer thanked council for their time and left her card with her contact information. Council Member John asked the question, is there a set amount of money that it takes for the library to function, so it not stated to be underfunded? Overall, that comes in how much is needed to fund the library? Mrs. Jennifer said that is a great question. She said each entity is looked at individually for there own maintenance of effort. Mrs. Jennifer said Wilkinson has benefited a lot of partners working together mainly because the county has two libraries. She said it's not broken down by library, but she will send the information.

Helton Electric

City Clerk Davonia said there is something that must be replaced at the water pump. Mayor Horne asked if it needed to be replaced now with all the trees being cut down. City Clerk Davonia said she thinks they had Helton Electric come out because they were having problems and it needs to be replaced. Mayor Horne asked for the dollar amount. City Clerk Davonia stated that it's the Helton Electric quote in the package. **Motion made by Council Member Debra Kennedy to accept the quote from Helton Electric. Seconded by Council Member John Carswell. Motion carried.**

Sewer Worker

City Clerk Davonia said she wanted to gather information to run an ad in the paper since everything was moving forward. She said we really need to look into hiring someone to work at the plant and she put some general information regarding sewer plant workers and salary for a city of McIntyre size. Mayor Horne asked City Clerk Davonia to get information from GMA regarding a city of our size. She said she doesn't want to just put an amount out there she wants the amount to be similar in size to the city of McIntyre. City Clerk Davonia stated she did print some salaries from the DCA website but in a city our size, the water and sewer is one job. She said she can get Greg from MGRC to post the article in the paper. Mayor Horne said council need to study it a little more to make sure. She said she knows the money from the sewer project is supposed to pay but the initial salary the city will have to pay. Mayor Horne said hopefully it will be someone within the county so we don't have to wait on someone to come from outside the county, that's her hope and prayer. She said all council can do is gather the information with qualifications and salary and move forward with the advertisement.

Council Comments

Council Member Debra Kennedy-No comments

Council Member Katherine Scott-No Comments

Council Member John Carswell- Council Member John said he will get with Chief Amerson about what he needs. Mayor Horne asked what is it? He said Chief Amerson and him had already had some conversation about it. Mayor Horne asked if the council could tap into what's going on. She asked him if it's something dealing with money and if he is scared to bring it up? He said it's dealing with May Day. Mayor Horne asked was it in the budget? Council Member John said the city did budget for that. Council Member John said the only question he had was about one of the vendors. He said she has a bar and her company does frozen wines. He wanted to know if she could be used as a vendor during May Day. He said he wanted to know before he said yes to a vendor of that nature. It's not serving alcohol, just wine and frozen drinks. Chief Amerson said that is probably a question for the city attorney. City Attorney Jack said he will have to look at the city ordinance. Council Member John said he will also need to know what the city will charge for having a vendor like that at May Day. He said he know their fee will have to be a little higher. Mayor Horne said for businesses they have to pay \$1,500 and council voted for that. Chief Amerson said that is why he didn't want to answer and referred it over to the City Attorney Jack. City Attorney Jack said he's assuming the vendor has a license, Mayor Horne said they don't have it for the City of McIntyre. City Attorney said they probably have a license to do the business and Council Member John said yes, they go all over Georgia. He said a new law was passed regarding vendor license. City Attorney Jack said he will check the ordinance to see if this is allowed or not. Mayor Horne asked if the vendor would have to pay the fee other businesses have to pay and City Attorney Jack said they may, he will need to check the ordinance.

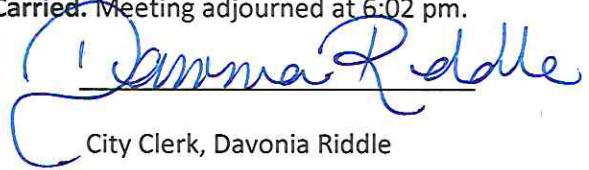
The library committee asked the council what the budget for May Day was and the council said \$5,000. Council Member John said it use to be a lot higher but it got cut in half. He said basically the funds are brought back in through the vendors, so the full \$5,000 is not spent. They asked if it's a one-day event and Council Member John said two days.

City Attorney Jack - He asked council if they talked with the employees about 401k. City Clerk Davonia said she talked with the employees, and everyone said they will give it back. City Attorney Jack asked if City Clerk Davonia talked with GMA and she said she will contact them after this meeting.

With there being no further business, **Motion made by Council Member John Carswell, Seconded by Council Member Katherine Scott, to adjourned. Motion Carried.** Meeting adjourned at 6:02 pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vicki Horne", written over a horizontal line.

Mayor, Vicki Horne

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Davonia Riddle", written over a horizontal line.

City Clerk, Davonia Riddle