

# CITY OF MCINTYRE

## Minutes

September 06, 2023

5:30 p.m.

City of McIntyre Meeting Room

The City of McIntyre council meeting was held on September 6, 2023, with Mayor Vicki Horne presiding. Council Members present were Rico Myrick, Debra Kennedy, John Carswell, and Eugene Moore.

Others in attendance: East Wilkinson County Library, City Clerk Davonia Riddle, Chief Wayne Amerson, and City Attorney John (Jack) Nichols

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Pro-Tem Myrick. Prayer was led by Council Member Eugene Moore.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

**Council Member John Carswell made a motion to approve the minutes for August 7, 2023, Regular Meeting, Seconded by Council Member Katherine Scott. Motion carried.**

### **NCJ Audit**

City Clerk Davonia told the council she had an audit regarding business license holders who get pour by the drink or alcohol license. The auditor discovered during the audit our city does not require fingerprinting for pour by the drink, only beer and wine licenses. If the city wants to let it stay as is, no changes are needed but if they want to make changes, the city will need to update the ordinance. She goes on to tell them she cannot tell what is on the intended license holder fingerprinting report. Going forward she can only say if the applicant is good for a business license or not. If the council wants to view the license holder record, they will have to take the security awareness training.

Council Member John Carswell said it will be a bonus to add fingerprinting for pour by the drink.

**Motion made by Council Member Eugene Moore the council add fingerprinting to the pour by the drink license we already have, Seconded by Council Member John Carswell. Motion carried.**

### **Resolution for Alcohol sales**

City Attorney Jack said Resolution calling for Referendum permitting package sale of distilled spirits, Resolution calling for Referendum permitting Sunday sales of alcoholic beverage by the drink, and Resolution calling for referendum permitting Sunday package sales of malt beverage and wine, are the

referendums that will be put on the ballot if passed and will allow the citizens of McIntyre to vote. He goes on to say each one needs to be voted on separately.

Council discussed Resolution calling for Referendum permitting package sale of distilled spirits, Resolution calling for Referendum permitting Sunday sales of alcoholic beverage by the drink, and Resolution calling for referendum permitting Sunday package sales of malt beverage and wine. **See attachment.**

Mayor Horne joined the meeting.

**Motion made by Council Member Katherine Scott to vote on alcohol sales on Sunday, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Rico. Opposed Katherine Scott, Debra Kennedy, Eugene Moore, and John Carswell. Motion failed.**

Mayor Horne asked Council Member Katherine why she didn't vote for the motion, and she said she just made the motion. Mayor Horne asked Mayor Pro-Tem to fill her in on what's going on. Mayor Pro-Tem filled Mayor Horne on what they discussed.

Mayor Horne said the motion is dead because no one raised their hand. Mayor Pro-Tem said he raised his hand. Mayor Horne said only one person raised their hand, so the motion is still dead. Mayor Pro-Tem asked if we were going to deny the citizens the right to vote? He said it shouldn't be left up to us but the citizens. Council Member Katherine stated that we are letting the citizens decide, the council isn't making the final decision. Mayor Horne said she wants to make sure it's done right, and she asked City Attorney Jack for advice.

City Attorney Jack said it was a motion on the table. He asked Council Member Katherine if she understood the motion she made, she said she didn't at first, but she understands now. Mayor Horne asked City Attorney Jack to go through each one and explain. **See attachment.**

City Attorney Jack said he doesn't think Council Member Katherine Scott understood the motion and only Mayor Pro-Tem Rico voted. He said the motion needs to be withdrawn and a separate motion needs to be made with the understanding of what you are voting for. City Attorney Jack read off what the motion needed to state. **See previous attachment.**

**Motion made by Council Member Katherine Scott to withdraw motion made on the sale of alcohol on Sunday, Seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Rico.**

**Motion made by Mayor Pro-Tem Rico that City of McIntyre resolution calling for referendum permitting Sunday sales of alcoholic beverages. Opposed by Council Member Eugene Moore and Debra Kennedy. Motion carried.**

**Motion made by Mayor Pro-Tem Rico that City of McIntyre resolution calling for referendum of permitting package sale of distilled spirits Monday-Sunday, Seconded by Council Member John Carswell. Opposed by Council Member Eugene Moore and Debra Kennedy. Motion carried.**

**Motion made by Mayor Pro-Tem Rico to approve resolution calling for referendum to permit Sunday package sales of malt beverage and wine between hours of 12:30 and 11:30 pm, Seconded by Council Member Katherine Scott. Opposed by Council Member Eugene Moore, Debra Kennedy, and John Carswell. Motion failed.**



City Attorney Jack went over the catering license referendum and said this will not be on the ballot. **see attachment.** It will amend current ordinance and allow people to purchase catering licenses.

Council Member John Carswell asked if it would be a charge every time and City Attorney Jack said yes because it will be a form of revenue for the city. He said if it's a weekend event, you can make a deal for that.

**Motion made by Council Member John Carswell to have catering alcohol license and obtain through city of McIntyre per event permit, Seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem. Opposed by Council Member Katherine Scott, Debra Kennedy, and Eugene Moore. Motion failed.**

City Attorney Jack said he will get the information to the election superintendent to get it on the ballot.

Council Comments

Debra Kennedy- No comments

Katherine Scott- No Comments

Eugene Moore- Council Member Eugene Moore stated he didn't know the library would be here, but he recalled the council saying that they will revisit and see if the library could get extra funds. He said we have received a little extra funds and he reviewed that he thinks the council should give the library the extra \$5000 which will make it a total of \$10,000.

**Motion made by Council Member Eugene Moore that council add \$5,000 to the library funds, Seconded by Council Member Debra Kennedy. Opposed by Mayor Pro-Tem Rico, and Council Member Katherine Scott. Abstained Council Member John Carswell. Motion was a tie. Mayor Horne voted no. Motion failed.**

Council Member Eugene Moore said McIntyre has the cheapest water bill. He goes on to say you can't operate the water system with a \$115,000 revenue. He said he's not saying raise it at this meeting, but we need to look into raising the rates and preparing the citizens. If the council doesn't raise the rates, USDA will do it for us. He said the agreement the council signed in 2012 stated that the water department will have to be independent, (break-even). Mayor Horne stated council talked about raising the rates next year.

Council John Carswell asked if he could go back and change his vote. He said he does not want to be in a situation where the citizens do not get to vote on something, if it is something the citizens want. He asked if he could go back and change the vote.

City Attorney Jack said he doesn't think Council Member John could do that because the question was on the table, and everyone understood. City Attorney Jack said Council Member John Carswell abstained and Council Member John said he did it because of misunderstanding but after thinking about it he wanted to change his vote. City Attorney Jack said it will be up to the council.

Mayor Horne opened the floor for discussion. The council did not have an issue reopening the motion.

**Motion made by Mayor Pro-Tem Rico to resend motion stating a resolution calling for referendum to permit Sunday package sales of malt beverage and wine between hours of 12:30 and 11:30 pm, Seconded by Council Member Katherine Scott. Opposed by Council Member Eugene Moore. Motion carried.**

**Motion made by Mayor Pro-Tem Rico to approve resolution calling for referendum to permit Sunday package sales of malt beverage and wine between hours of 12:30 and 11:30 pm, seconded by Council Member John Carswell. Opposed by Council Member Eugene Moore and Debra Kennedy. Motion carried.**

City Attorney Jack said he spoke with Meg from RINDT about the sewer connection and she will be contacting him. He also spoke with Irwinton City attorney about the intergovernmental agreement for water and sewer.

Mayor Horne asked City Attorney Jack about sending the Mayor and Council of Irwinton a letter about these customers. She said eventually they will all be on the McIntyre water system.

Chief Amerson said the police department's RMS system will be dead by August of next year because it is old. He said he will be switching to a new system soon. He said it will be paid through citations. Also, he will be meeting regarding the cameras and will have the information at the next meeting.

### **East Wilkinson County Library**

Ms. Jennifer spoke to the council regarding the library waiver. She said due to the other department increasing and the library decreasing the city doesn't qualify for the waiver. She goes on to say she knows Mayor Horne had concerns about the numbers but if she provides her with the information, she will be happy to go through and analyze the process again.

Mayor Horne stated the city charter says, if McIntyre had a library, it provides what all the cities will have to do for the library. She goes on to say it was her mistake to ask for a waiver because she was trying to protect the city. She said the city did go through some hardship because the city had to lay off officers and that made a big difference in the budget because of the salaries. Due to the city making cuts, that have allowed it to have what seems like a surplus.

Ms. Jennifer stated what will happen next to keep the library in compliance, is to get assistance from a partnering agency to pick up the slack for the additional \$5,000 so the library can continue to function. The city gives the \$5,000 which the city voted not to. The final option the library committee will have to work through the math on what service could be provided with the revenue they are receiving. State benefits are assigned at a regional level. If one agency is not in compliance, then the whole region loses access to those resources. Example digital resources, pines library cards, etc.

Ms. Jennifer said the worst-case scenario is that both Wilkinson County Libraries could be expelled from MGRL but hopefully that will happen.

Mayor Horne asked Ms. Clark, why does the City of McIntyre seem to be the one who gets so much pressure about funding the library when Wilkinson has other cities? She said it makes it seem that the City of McIntyre would be the reason for the library closing. Ms. Clark said they had gone to other cities, and they had given what they said.

Council Member Eugene said he suggested when it was first brought up that the 3 cities get together and that would be about \$7,000 per city. Also, the city needs to get together and do MOA so that the library wants to come every year. Ms. Donna said they will love that, and the county will be included.



Ms. Jennifer said what she is hearing is that it is the intent of the tax agency to come together with a budget that says this is what the library needs. Between the entities decide what the appropriate distribution will be.

Mayor Horne stated she doesn't want something that will lock you in because you never know what will happen. Council Member Eugene Moore stated we can do at least three years, maybe five. Ms. Donna said she can draft a letter and send it out.

#### **Fire Department Uniform**

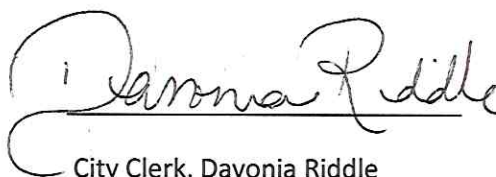
The council discussed Fire department uniforms. **see attachment.**

**Motion made by Mayor Pro-Tem Rico to buy 10 fire fighters' uniforms for the fire department out of SPLOST funds, Seconded by Council Member John Carswell. Motion carried.**

**Motion made by Council Member John Carswell to adjourn the meeting, Seconded by Council Member Katherine Scott. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:35pm**



Mayor Vicki Horne

  
City Clerk, Davonia Riddle