

CITY OF MABLETON, GEORGIA

Riverside EpiCenter
135 Riverside Pkwy, Austell, GA 30168
February 14, 2024 @ 6:30PM

The Honorable Michael Owens, Mayor - Present
The Honorable Ron Davis, District 1 Councilmember - Present
The Honorable Dami Oladapo, District 2 Councilmember - Present
The Honorable Keisha Jeffcoat, District 3 Councilmember - Present
The Honorable Patricia Auch, District 4 Councilmember - Present
The Honorable TJ Ferguson, District 5 Councilmember - Present
The Honorable Debora Herndon, District 6 Councilmember - Present

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Immediately following the worksession, **a motion** was made to amend the agenda for a ten minute recess by Councilmember Oladapo and seconded by Councilmember Ferguson. The motion passed unanimously. There was a ten minute recess.

Motion was made to end the recess by Councilmember Jeffcoat and seconded by Councilmember Davis. The motion carried unanimously.

1. CALL TO ORDER - Mayor Michael Owens

2. ROLL CALL - City Clerk Susan Hiott conducted a roll call. Quorum was present.

3. INVOCATION - Led by Councilmember Ron Davis

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Led by Councilmember Ferguson

5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion was made by Councilmember Ferguson to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Oladapo. The motion to accept the agenda was approved by the Council unanimously.

6. CONSENT AGENDA:

a. Approval of January 24, 2024 Special Called Transitional City Council Meeting Minutes

Motion was made by Councilmember Auch to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ferguson. The motion carried unanimously.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Denny Wilson of District 2 wished everyone Happy Valentine's Day and inquired about when the residents could see a financial statement.

Steven Shearod, board member of the Family Life Restoration Center, wished everyone Happy Valentine's Day. He spoke about concerns and challenges of providing warming centers for the South Cobb area. He addressed the token program challenges for riding to warming centers in Marietta.

Michael Murphy of District 4 wished everyone Happy Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday. He echoed comments by Mr. Shearod about the warming centers. One of the reasons for the creation of the city was to help others. He addressed the suffering of those in cold weather and the need for warming centers. He urged the Council to support a warming center. He addressed how he had recommended people for positions in the City, and suggested the City should provide some type of acknowledgement to the applicants. He addressed housing issues and encouraged Council to give attention to the housing matters.

8. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Resolution Authorizing Membership in the Georgia Interlocal Risk Management Agency (The item was discussed in the Work session prior to the Regular Meeting.)*

Motion was made by Councilmember Jeffcoat to approve the Resolution Authorizing Membership in the Georgia Interlocal Risk Management Agency. Councilmember Ferguson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

- b. Authorization for Mayor Owens to Finalize Employment Screening Services (The item was discussed in the Work session prior to the Regular Meeting.)*

Motion was made by Councilmember Oladapo and seconded by Councilmember Jeffcoat to approve authorization for Mayor Owens to Finalize Employment Screening Services. The motion carried unanimously.

9. DISCUSSION:

- a. Authorization for Mayor Owens to Waive Occupation Tax Penalties, Interest and Late Fees through April 30, 2024*

Mayor Owens explained that because the City was still working through the transitional process and collaborating with the County, he felt waiving the occupation tax penalties, interest and late fees through April 30th was the best thing to do for the business owners. Attorney Walker-Ashby explained the Council would need to vote on the recommendation. Mayor Owens asked if there were any questions or comments.

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Councilmember Ferguson asked why April 30th. Attorney Walker-Ashby opined two months as a reasonable time and Mayor Owens explained it would be best instead of setting March 30th and then possibly having to extend again. Councilmember Ferguson reiterated the City was diligently working through the issues.

Motion was made by Councilmember Ferguson and seconded by Councilmember Oladapo to authorize Mayor Owens to Waive Occupation Tax Penalties, Interest and Late Fees through April 30, 2024. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Owens noted the website would be updated that night.

10. CITY ATTORNEY COMMENTS - None

11. CITY CLERK COMMENTS - City Clerk Hiott announced the Mayor and Council would not be having the 4th meeting of the month due to mandated training that week.

12. CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council wished everyone Happy Valentines Day and thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Councilmember Davis spoke about the need for everyone's help and assistance. Council addressed housing concerns and warming center needs. Councilmember Oladapo spoke about the partnership and program with the Neighborhood Assistance Corporation of America (NACA) having a workshop in the City of Mableton. Councilmember Jeffcoat reported on interviews with candidates. The City was making progress. Councilmember Jeffcoat spoke about the recent Commission, Authority, and Boards (CAB) meeting. She provided additional information about Black History Month and noted various events in the area. Councilmember Auch spoke about the great turn out at the CAB meeting. She announced Arbor Day was on Friday. She mentioned other events in Mableton. Councilmember Ferguson recognized Luther and Angela Washington of the Family Restoration Center. Councilmember Ferguson spoke additionally about love and Mableton striving toward quality of life. Councilmember Herndon asked everyone to volunteer for the CABs. She stated she had received some calls about the business licenses, and asked those who had issues renewing, to please feel free to call her. She spoke additionally about the need for warming centers. Mayor Owens noted the Council were wearing scarves from Georgia Municipal Association's Cities United Summit. He reported on attending the Summit. The City won its first award for being the City of Civility. He provided additional information about the City of Civility of designation. The City was moving forward. He spoke about respecting each other's opinions. He encouraged everyone to reach out to their district's councilmember.

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION (IF NEEDED) FOR:

Litigation O.C.G.A. 50-14-3 (b)(1)(A)
Real Estate O.C.G.A. 50-14-3 (b)(1)
Personnel O.C.G.A. 50-14-3 (b)(2)
Exemptions O.C.G.A. 50-14-3 (b)(4)&(5)

Motion was made by Councilmember Jeffcoat to go into Executive Session and seconded by Councilmember Ferguson. The motion passed unanimously. Yeas: Davis, Oladapo, Jeffcoat, Owens, Auch, Ferguson, Herndon (7:27 p.m.)

Motion to end Executive Session was made by Councilmember Auch and seconded by Councilmember Ferguson. The motion passed unanimously. Yeas: Davis, Oladapo, Jeffcoat, Owens, Auch, Ferguson, Herndon (10:06 p.m.)

14. OLD BUSINESS CONT'D:

a. SECOND READ: Ordinance Granting Franchise to Georgia Power Company
The first read was June 2023.

Motion was made by Councilmember Jeffcoat to authorize for the mayor, in consultation with the city attorney, to finalize negotiations and execute the franchise agreement with Georgia Power. The motion carried unanimously.

15. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Councilmember Jeffcoat and seconded by Councilmember Oladapo to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. (10:08 p.m.)