

CITY OF MABLETON, GEORGIA

Riverside EpiCenter
135 Riverside Pkwy, Austell, GA 30168
January 2, 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 – Arrived 7:07 p.m.

SPECIAL CALLED

ORGANIZATIONAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

1. **CALL TO ORDER** Mayor Michael Owens
Mayor Owens explained the reason for holding the first meeting on Tuesday, January 2, 2024. The charter states that on the first Tuesday of every calendar year the City is to have a meeting. In the future, if there are new council members, they would be sworn in at the first meeting of the year.
2. **ROLL CALL** – City Clerk Hiott conducted roll call. Quorum was present.
3. **INVOCATION** – LED BY COUNCILMEMBER DAVIS
4. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – LED BY COUNCILMEBER FERGUSON
5. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion was made by Councilmember Jeffcoat to approve agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Davis. The motion to accept the agenda as presented was carried unanimously.

6. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**
 - Representative House District 39 Terry Cummings wished everyone Happy New Year. She extended condolences to those who lost someone during 2023. She presented an update on the General Assembly Special Session. Three maps were approved (Congressional, Senate, and House of Representatives maps). She addressed the district and map changes that would impact the City of Mableton in 2025. The General Assembly starts meeting on Monday.
 - Mayor Owens commented on the long serving and hard work over the years by Senator Donzella James. He asked Representative Cummings about having a Mableton Day at one of the sessions.

- Denny Wilson of District 2 encouraged the City to take over Zoning. She addressed her concerns about zoning on Factory Shoals Road. She gave the Mayor and Council a picture and stated the building looked like a boarding house. The address was 6587 Factory Shoals.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

a. [FIRST READ] Ordinance Establishing a Year 2024 Regular Meeting Schedule

Mayor Owens announced the item and explained the meeting schedule had to be set by an ordinance which required two reads. The meeting schedule has been given to the council and the goal was to establish a regular meeting schedule. This was discussed previously in 2023. The Mayor and Council had discussed having the meetings the second and fourth week of the month. The schedule proposed would provide continuity and transparency for the City. A work session was listed 5:15 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. once a month. He had looked at other jurisdictions that held work sessions for comparison. The regularly held meetings were set for 6:30 p.m. in consideration of when people got off from work and that the meetings should not be too late. The work session was recommended for once a month. The proposed schedule was for the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month. The schedule was for twenty-two meetings in consideration of holidays. Councilmember Auch entertained moving the location of the meetings South Cobb Regional Library after March 27. She explained the library was a more central location. The benefits would be at no cost for the City and the library had additional meeting rooms. Mayor Owens agreed to the concerns of having more centralized noting that long term the meetings would be at a City Hall. Mayor Owens stated he spoke with the library branch manager about having other meetings at the location. The library closes between 6:00 and 8:00 p.m. and the burden was shifted to the library staff to stay late.

Councilmember Auch asked if the Regional Manager Jo Lahmon who was present could provide additional information. Mayor Owens noted a lot of dates were taken because the library was a polling place. Ms. Lahmon provided available dates and invited the Mayor and Council to meet at the South Cobb Library for some of the council meetings. There would be no charge. There would be salaried staff so no overtime. She explained the executive sessions could be held in the children's program room that held thirty people. Ms. Lahmon stated she was present on behalf of the citizens who asked why the City was not having meetings at the library. Councilmember Ferguson inquired about the AV systems at the library. He asked if the City would need to bring their own microphones. Ms. Lahmon replied there were not any microphones. Questions and discussion followed.

Councilmember Feguson expressed concern about the February 14th proposed meeting day. Councilmember Jeffcoat thanked Ms. Lahmon for offering the library. She commented about the importance of having consistent meeting locations. She asked how many dates would have conflicts due to elections. Discussion followed about the availability of the library from the audience. The library had Wi-Fi. Mayor Owen named the dates that the County was planning to have elections and early voting (lasting 21 days). Discussion followed about the importance of having continuity and the costs for the EpiCenter. The EpiCenter is allowing the first quarter free. Math was noted for 22 meetings minus six free meetings at a total of \$5520. There was discussion about providing AV would cause an increase in cost. Councilmember Auch noted the microphones were \$50 a piece including the board. Councilmember Auch asked to make a motion to change the meeting location to the library after March 27. Attorney Hastey explained the motion could be made at the second read. There was not anymore discussion.

(Councilmember Herndon arrived at 7:07 p.m.)

No action was taken for the first read of the ordinance.

b. Resolution Establishing a Year 2024 City Holiday Schedule Resolution Electing a Mayor Pro Tempore

Mayor Owens announced the holidays listed in the resolution. He explained the days for additional time off with pay for employees will be addressed later. The holidays in the current resolution were official observed holidays for city hall closings. Attorney Scott Hastey noted a scrivener's error for Memorial Day was May 27th instead of typo May 17th.

Motion was made by Councilmember Herndon to approve the 2024 City Holiday Schedule (clerk noting scrivener's error of May 27 for Memorial Day). Councilmember Jeffcoat seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

c. Resolution Electing a Mayor Pro Tempore

Nominations from the Council included: Councilmember Davis nominated Councilmember Keisha Jeffcoat; Councilmember Auch nominated Councilmember Oladapo; and Councilmember Herndon nominated Councilmember Auch.

Mayor Owens called for vote:

For Councilmember Jeffcoat – Yeas – Davis, Oladapo, Jeffcoat, Owens, Ferguson (5)

For Councilmember Oladapo – Yeas - Oladapo and Auch (2)

For Councilmember Auch – Yeas - Auch and Herndon (2)

Councilmember Jeffcoat was nominated Mayor Pro Tem with the total of five years.

8. CITY ATTORNEY COMMENTS - NONE

9. CITY CLERK COMMENTS - NONE

- 10. CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS** – The Mayor and Council congratulated councilmember Jeffcoat as Mayor Pro Tem and wished everyone a Happy New Year. Councilmember Davis thanked Dr. Boyd for all of his assistance from the EpiCenter. Councilmember Jeffcoat thanked the Mayor and Council for nominating her as Mayor Pro Tem. Councilmember Jeffcoat commented about the great work ahead. Appreciation was expressed for the offers by the library and EpiCenter to allow the City meetings. Councilmember Auch commented about her recent diagnosis. She expressed how great it was to be back with the Council. She stated she was overwhelmed by those who expressed their concern and commented about the wonderful Mableton Community. She announced details of Bring One for the Chipper for discarding Christmas trees. Councilmember Ferguson commented about how fast pace the upcoming work for the City would be in 2024. Councilmember Herndon apologized for being late, noting she had a 12-hour drive from Virginia. She thanked everyone who showed up for the meetings and supporting the City of Mableton. Mayor Owens thanked the EpiCenter and all of those who attended the meetings. He addressed appreciation for the Cobb and Mableton delegation members. He announced details about the tenth anniversary of the EpiCenter and noted there would be a career fair on Saturday. There will be a meeting on February 7th at 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. for an interest meeting of the boards and commissions at the South Cobb Regional Library.

11. 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)

THERE WAS NOT AN EXECUTIVE SESSION.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Councilmember Oladapo and seconded by Councilmember Jeffcoat to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously. (The meeting closed at 7:31 p.m.)

ATTEST:

Mayor Michael Owens

Susan Hiott Clerk