



City of Woodbury  
Regular Council Meeting  
Monday, September 17, 2018  
Minutes

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**ATTENDING**

Mayor Steve Ledbetter  
Mayor Pro Tem L. C. Gates  
Councilmember Randy Carter  
Councilmember Carolyn Ledbetter  
Councilmember Sherry Wall  
City Attorney Nathan Lee  
City Hall, City Clerk Angel Fowler  
Police Department, Sam Baity  
Public Works Director, Willie Holmes  
Water Director, Cody Kelly

Attending the meeting were the following guest:

\_\_\_\_\_

**CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME**

Mayor Steve Ledbetter called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone

**INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Invocation by: Hannah Evans

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Councilmember Carter made a motion to approve the agenda

Councilmember Wall seconded the motion

Vote:

For

Opposed

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilmember Carter made a motion to approve the minutes

Councilmember Wall seconded the motion

Vote:

xx For

\_\_\_\_\_ Opposed

## MAYOR'S REPORT

- **Cost of Recalls:**

We are a community of 951 people...my request is that we join forces, work together, and grow our City together. We can afford neither time nor unproductive and wasted energy to continue to fight battles that will lead us away from working together to support our City.

I recently attended an event coordinated by George E. Washington Principal Lashanda Acres. This event was for Male mentors to meet at the elementary school and encourage the students as they arrived. During this session there was much discussion about how our children need encouragement to grow and mature into successful, productive, respectful students. It was a privilege to be a part of the 25 - 30 men who participated. Principal Acres is asking that men from our community meet quarterly and support these young people.

### **Spectrum / Charter:**

I also want to share with you updates on the installation of our highspeed Internet service.

I received an email from our Project Manager Marcus Robinson. As of Monday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, the engineering provisioning of the system has been completed and our installation has been escalated.

### **USDA Grant for Digital Sign:**

We have been placed into the 2019 budget cycle for grant funding. Tamika Lucas our Area Specialist sent an email indicating that the funds should be awarded in early October.

## STAFF REPORTS

### Police Department Report

Sergeant Carmeletta Brent gave the September report

- Monthly Report Overview:
  - o Calls for Service 15
  - o Arrests 6
  - o Citations 18
  - o Conducted Road Check with GSP and GBI
  - o Officer Carmeletta Brent was promoted to Sergeant
  - o Welcome to Officer Michael Heath and Part-time Officer Douglas Clifton – both are POST Certified
  - o Chief Baity is in Chief mandated school
  
- The Police Department would like to recognize Mrs. Vera Whitehead for her assistance on September 8, 2018. [Read the letter presented to Mrs. Whitehead.] Officer Johnathan McWaters read the letter. Ms. Whitehead assisted Officer McWaters when he was accidentally pepper-sprayed trying to apprehend a suspect.
  
- The GBI reviewed a Use of Force incident and reported the Officer used “that force necessary and appropriate with all police policy and practice.”
  
- Surplus of Vehicle and Equipment [see attached list of items].

### Public Works Director

Willie “Buck” Holmes gave monthly Public Works Department report

- LMIG Request for 2019 streets to be paid.
- Pressure washing the sidewalks

### Water Department Report

Water & Sewer Director Cody Kelly gave monthly water report

- Report Overview
  - o Utilization of Water Plant – 17%
  - o Free Capacity of Water Plant – 83%
  - o We need to sell more water!
  - o New sewer pumps are about to go online
  
- Request to Increase Water & Sewer Rates:
  - o As discussed previously by EMI, we are requesting to increase the water rates – 9% in 2019 and 8% the following year. The

schedule of fees will be posted in the City Clerk's office in accordance with the City's Ordinances.

- Councilmember Carter made a motion to increase water rates in January 2019
- Councilmember Gates seconded
- All approved

### City Clerk Report

City Clerk Angel Fowler gave monthly finance report

- 2018 Budget Report
  1. All of your departments are operating with fiscal responsibility this year!
  2. We are on budget for 2018
  3. Even though we have had several large unexpected expenditures we are on budget. This is without adding the sale of the Peach Packing Plant into the revenues received. We are doing very well financially.
  4. We have had one occupational License Application and you will hear more about this application in just a few minutes from the Zoning Commission.
  5. I do want to highlight one more "good news" story. The Georgia Department of Revenue refunded \$32,814.34. These funds were spent during Phase 1 of the water treatment plant upgrade project on taxes that the City was not required to pay. So, working with a third-party contract company, we received the refund and we have placed the money back into the Water & Sewer Fund.

### APPROVAL OF Staff Reports

Councilmember Carter \_\_\_\_\_ made a motion to approve the reports

Councilmember Wall \_\_\_\_\_ seconded the motion

Vote:

  xx   For

       Opposed

### **2019 Budget – First Reading**

- The Department heads, Chief Baity, Director Holmes, and I met with the Mayor on August 13<sup>th</sup> to begin Budget planning. Tonight, we would like to share with you our plan for 2019.

1. We would ask the Council to agree with the roll-back plan for our mileage rate – from 18.96 to 18.72. Our proposed budget is balanced at this roll-backed mileage rate.
2. The proposal includes a 6% increase to our current employee compensation plan. This will begin the process to align our City pay with adjoining municipalities and county governments and will help us retain and attract good employees.
3. As discussed earlier in the year, we would ask that you allow us to freeze our current GMA retirement plan and move to a 457(b) and 401(a) plan for our employees where the City contributes up to 4.5% to an employee's 1.5% contribution. A much richer plan that allows employees to manage their own retirement program. Additionally, the plan will allow for the continuation of the elected officials retirement program through a 457(f) plan. As discussed previously, this move will NOT affect the current plan or anyone who is currently drawing a retirement from the current plan. In fact, all employees currently in the plan will be fully vested as of January 1, 2019 and the fund is currently sitting at 114% funded – listed as “healthy” by GMA.
4. The 2019 plan does not include any new vehicles for Public Works or for the Police Department. Nor does the plan call for any City funded paving of our streets. We will need to rely on the State LMIG program to support or paving needs. Additionally, we are looking into the next 18 – 24 months to identify where we will need to pave, and we are searching for funding opportunities to help us with these projects.

There is no need for a motion to approve the budget at this time...this is the first reading. The second reading will be at our next Council Meeting scheduled for October 15, 2018 at 6:00 pm.

## Upgrade Computer Software

- ClerkBooks
- HRWeb
- Intuit Field Service Management

## APPROVAL OF COMPUTER SOFTWARE UPGRADE

Councilmember Carter made a motion to approve the purchase

Councilmember Wall seconded the motion

Vote:

  Xx   For

       Opposed

## SPECIAL COMMITTEES

### Woodbury Development Authority

Chairwoman Kera Summers gave the Development Authority monthly report Ms. Summers advised the council that the old blacksmith building needs to be torn down and request assistance from the city. Councilmember Carter suggested that the city street department tear the building down.

Councilmember Carter made a motion to assist with the tearing down of the building

Councilmember Gates seconded the motion

Councilmembers Gates, Walls and Ledbetter approved the motion,

Councilmember Carter refrained from voting, even though he made the motion.

### Planning & Zoning

Co-Chair Dan Godowns needs to be replaced on the zoning board

- Going over new Zoning Ordinance
- Meeting August 22, 2018

## APPROVAL OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilmember Carter made a motion to approve the reports

Councilmember Wall seconded the motion

Vote:

  xx   For

       Opposed

## RETAIL ALCOHOL SELLS HEARING

- Tonya Moody applying for alcohol license – Moody Express

### APPROVAL / DENIAL OF ALCOHOL LICENSE

Councilmember Carter \_\_\_\_\_ made a motion to approve / deny the license

Councilmember Gates \_\_\_\_\_ seconded the motion

Vote:

xx For

\_\_\_\_\_ Opposed

## GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION RADAR LIST OF ROADS

The Mayor asked for a motion to proceed with the signatures on the document with the following addendum; to highlight the need for the Georgia DOT to update the radar permit document, specifically the distance for SR 109 / 18 to allow the officers to continue to work radar on our Main Street.

### APPROVAL OF GDOT RADAR LIST OF ROADS

Councilmember Carter \_\_\_\_\_ made a motion to approve the motion

Councilmember wall \_\_\_\_\_ seconded the motion

Vote:

xx For

\_\_\_\_\_ Opposed

## AUTHORIZATION TO BID WATER TANK MAINTENANCE SERVICE CONTRACT

The Mayor asked for a motion to proceed with the water tank maintenance service contract.

**APPROVAL OF BID WATER TANK MAINTENANCE SERVICE CONTRACT**

**Councilmember Carter** \_\_\_\_\_ made a motion to approve the motion

**Councilmember Gates** \_\_\_\_\_ seconded the motion

**Vote:**

xx For

\_\_\_\_\_ Opposed

To paint the cities Logo on the water tanks will be \$7500 per tank.

- Councilmember Carter made a motion to put the city logo on the Folk Ave tank.
- Councilmember Wall seconded.

**All approved**

**LEGAL UPDATE**

- Trico Environmental Services

The Mayor asked for a motion that would allow him to proceed with the Engineering and to sign the documents that the Council was provided authorizing the Mayor to agree to the settlement with the stipulations listed in the court document (see attached signed document).

**APPROVAL FOR MAYOR TO CONTRACT WITH ENGINEERING COMPANY AND SIGN DOCUMENTATION FOR SETTLEMENT OF THE TRICO SUIT AGAINST THE CITY**

**Councilmember Carter** \_\_\_\_\_ made a motion to approve the motion

**Councilmember Wall** \_\_\_\_\_ seconded the motion

**Vote:**

xx For

\_\_\_\_\_ Opposed

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Carolyn Ellison came before council and made accusations against Mayor Ledbetter of bribery and City Attorney Nathan Lee of special favors for the mayor during her recall application and court appearance. Mayor Ledbetter addressed Ms. Ellison and the audience that her accusations were “outright lies”. City Attorney Lee address Ms. Ellison that he was at the hearing of the recall to represent the City of Woodbury and not Mayor Ledbetter.
- Trine Webb spoke to the council about no one parking on the sidewalks and why the city does not have a new fire station.
- Shawn Downs from Meriwether County animal shelter spoke about “catch and release cat program” where the animal shelter will catch a stray cat, have them spay/neutered, vaccinated, ear-tipped and then release them back to the habitat where originally trapped.

## ADMINISTRATIVE

- Nothing Scheduled

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

- None scheduled

## COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Carter-volleyball, travel ball and flag football

## NEW BUSINESS

No new business

## ADJOURNMENT

Motion Made: Councilmember Carter  
Second: Councilmember Wall

Time: 7:15 p.m.

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APPROVED

Date: 10/15/2018

  
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Angel Fowler  
City Clerk

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Steve Ledbetter, PhD  
Mayor