

Council Meeting
July 19, 2021

Members Present: Mayor Buddy Duke, members Terry McClain, Greg Paige, Walter Cowart, Vivian Sharpe and Jody Greene.

Others Present: John Flythe, Rhonda Rowe, Tim Tanner and members of the public and press.

Invocation was given by Councilman McClain.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes: Councilman Paige made a motion to approve the minutes of July 6, 2021 as presented. Councilwoman Sharpe seconded with all in favor.

Fire Gear Bids: Bids were received for 3 SCBA Harnesses with Air Bottles and were as follows:

Municipal Emergency Services	\$23,040
American Safety & Fire House	\$20,883

Councilman Cowart made a motion to accept the low bid. Councilman McClain seconded. City manager John Flythe noted the low bid is \$883 higher than the budgeted amount. All members voted in favor of accepting the low bid.

GMA Voting Delegate: Councilman McClain made a motion to appoint Councilman Paige as the voting delegate for the annual convention. Councilman Greene seconded. There were no opposing votes.

Agreement for Administration of CDBG-MIT Grant: Councilman Greene made a motion to approve the agreement with the South Georgia Regional Commission for administration of the FY2017 Community Development Block Grant - Mitigation. Councilwoman Sharpe seconded. The decision was unanimous.

Res. #21-05: This resolution, authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the documents for the Department of Transportation regarding Phase 3 improvements of the by-pass that will extend from Hwy 76 over to the west side of Exit 37, was presented to the council. Councilman Greene made a motion to approve the resolution. Councilwoman Sharpe seconded with all in favor. This project will be funded by TIA funds.

Dr. Victoria Meredith: Dr. Meredith came before the council stating that she represents a corporation named SW EdenArk, Inc, which is a wilderness preserve, forest restoration, scientific & education project. She was here to discuss property located at 210 Caulie Harris Road. She had been at a previous meeting but due to time constraints, she didn't get a chance to address additional issues. Mayor Duke had not contacted her after the last meeting she attended as indicated, so she was back. She wanted to address some fence, tree and property damage received over the last couple of years by the Adel Industrial Development Authority and their land management and tree cutting activities. She had

requested minutes of the AIDA several months ago to try to find out who was responsible or what company was used. She had run into some issues and did not receive a complete set of minutes. She is missing minutes of 2015 and was told by Brent Dixon, Chairman of the AIDA, there were no minutes. She is also missing March 2019 through November 2019 as well as December 2019 through February 2020. She noted this was a violation of the open records act. There is a section in the minutes received where Brent Dixon is talking about thinning the woods. This is the area on South Hwy 41 behind the MEAG line, gas plant and Blockstream. Two times the forests were cut. The first time was a thinning. The company doing the work reached across the property line and took large diameter pine trees and also caused property damage to the fence which had to be repaired. A second cutting mainly focused behind the Blockstream area that was just about clear cut and left some spindly trees that offered no weather protection and resulted in severe damage to the old growth along their west line. She questioned by what training or decision making process Mr. Dixon decided that cutting or thinning was appropriate. Does he have a degree in forestry or land management, or like qualification? There is no follow up in the minutes that state what companies they used for the first cutting. On the second cutting, it states there were 3 bids. She has two of those that quotes what price they will be gained for the cutting of the timber but there is no follow up. These are from 2018. There is no follow up as to what was gained or where it went. She has additional concerns about the behavior and individuals assigned to the AIDA. It looks like they are assigned people. When positions come open, there is no public notification made. It appears from minutes of December 2019 that they reassign themselves within the committee. She read an excerpt from those minutes where two members were reappointed. Mayor Duke advised Dr. Meredith that her 5 minutes were up and asked her to get with our attorney.

Executive Session: Councilman Cowart made a motion to enter into executive session to discuss potential litigation. Councilman Paige seconded. All were in favor.

Following executive session there was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.

Rhonda P. Rowe, City Clerk

Luther L. Duke III, Mayor
