

Council Meeting
December 20, 2021

Members Present: Mayor Buddy Duke – via telephone, members Terry McClain, Greg Paige, Walter Cowart and Jody Greene. Councilwoman Vivian Sharpe was also present by telephone.

Others Present: John Flythe, Rhonda Rowe, Tim Tanner, Randy Lane and Charles Shiver. Several members of the public were present by telephone.

Invocation was given by Councilman McClain.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes: Councilman Terry McClain made a motion to approve the minutes of December 6, 2021 as presented. Councilman Paige seconded. All were in favor.

Ord #21-09: This ordinance, adopting a “Load Following Extra Large Power No Distribution Infrastructure Schedule LFXLP-1 ND1” electric tariff, was read for the 2nd time. City Manager John Flythe explained this rate is for customers exceeding 30 MW and will not be applicable until approved by the 6 other cities that jointly participate in the electric agreement with such customers. Councilman Paige made a motion to adopt the ordinance. Councilman McClain seconded. The decision was unanimous.

Alcohol License Renewals: Councilman McClain made a motion to approve the renewal applications of Sahi Lucky 7, Inc. and Alina Jian, LLC. Councilman Cowart seconded. All were in favor.

Alcohol License Application: Following the receipt of a new application, along with payment of fees and review of background check, Councilman Paige made a motion to issue a license to A & A Adel, Inc., located at 1003 W. 4th Street. Councilman McClain seconded. There were no opposing votes.

Update on Billing: City Manager John Flythe advised the council we continue to remain in an edit phase; reviewing accounts, etc. He noted that making one change in the program can affect other aspects of the program, but we continue to be very close to sending out the first set of bills.

Fire Equipment Bids: Bids were received for SCBA harnesses and bottles and were as follows:

American Safety & FireHouse	\$25,090.00
Municipal Emergency Services	\$28,385.00

Councilman Cowart made a motion to accept the low bid. Councilman Paige seconded. The decision was unanimous.

Bid Award for Gas Line Extension: This item, having been tabled at the last meeting, was brought before the council. City Manager John Flythe advised the council the State is having discussions concerning the issuance of licenses and it is his understanding they may add 5 more licenses to the state. We don't

know if or when the company will be committing to locate the project; therefore, it was his recommendation to rebid the project once a commitment has been received. Councilman Cowart then made a motion to withdraw this item from the agenda. Councilman McClain seconded. All were in favor.

Depot Use: Rhonda Zackery requested use of the depot on Christmas Day for providing free lunch to those in need. Holy Community Church helps with sponsoring this event, which was very successful last year. Councilman Paige made a motion to approve Ms. Zackery's request. Councilman McClain seconded. The decision was unanimous.

Judge Mickey Johnson: Judge Johnson, a juvenile judge for this circuit, addressed the council concerning the need to raise awareness for child exploitation and sex trafficking. The council was provided with a packet of information for their review and he noted this is going on locally, with 3 active cases currently. There are 200-400 young girls per month in Georgia being sold on-line for sex. He also discussed specific signs and characteristics to look for in those who may be subject to this activity.

Andrell Durden: Mr. Durden addressed the council stating that the month of April is sexual assault awareness month. He noted that he has a business that is aimed at providing prevention training, with a small portion including self-defense, weapons handling and pressure point control tactics. It is geared towards those wanting to protect themselves. He would like to have an event each week for the first four months in April that will include providing information, training, truck show, motorcycle event and car show. This will be his first time doing this in a city and he wanted to find out if this is something that would be possible. Mayor Pro-tem Jody Greene advised Mr. Durden that we would need a definite plan and then will see what we can do from a city standpoint. He also advised to present this plan to the police chief for his review as well. Mr. Durden concurred in that he would put together a solid plan for presentation.

Other Business:

John Flythe – asked if the council wanted to consider reopening our meetings in January to the public. Mayor Duke stated he wanted to see what the new omnicron variant of Covid is going to do locally first.

Mayor Duke – expressed his appreciation to Councilwoman Vivian Sharpe for her service as the first city councilwoman. He noted that it had been an honor and pleasure to serve alongside her. She had been very professional, a good colleague and friend. Councilwoman Sharpe stated she had thoroughly enjoyed her time on the council.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.

Rhonda P. Rowe, City Clerk

Luther L. Duke III, Mayor
