

**MINUTES
COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 15, 2016
7:00 P.M.**

City Attorney Thomas Mitchell read out loud and lay out the ground rules for a meeting like this. He explained the City Ordinance on City Council meetings and Robert's Rule of Orders.

Mayor Bridges welcomes everybody to the meeting and explains that the people listed on the agenda have 5 minutes to speak about their concerns and sit down.

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Council Meeting was called to order by Mayor Robert Bridges at 7:03pm.

Members present were Mayor Robert Bridges, Council Members Perry Barton, Gayle Steed, Betty Lyle, Hattie Thrasher and David Huth. Also in attendance was City Clerk, Mai Chang, City Attorney, Thomas Mitchell, Public Works Director, Sam Powell and Building & Code Enforcement Officer Randy Gordon. Media was represented by Ron Bridgeman of the Barrow Journal.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A. COUNCIL MEETING, OCTOBER 18, 2016

Gayle Steed made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 18, 2016 council meeting as written. Betty Lyle seconded the motion, unanimous.

3. OLD BUSINESS:

A. 2nd READING OF AMENDMENT TO ALCOHOL ORDINANCE

David Huth made a motion to move this item to be discussed after item #6. Hattie Thrasher seconded the motion, unanimous.

4. NEW BUSINESS:

A. EMPLOYEE'S CHRISTMAS GIFT CARDS

Gayle Steed made a motion to approve the employee's Christmas gift cards for the same amount as last years - \$35. David Huth seconded the motion, unanimous.

B. CHIEF ALLAN JOHNSTON

• **Roll Over Vacation Hours**

David Huth made motion to approve to pay the employees of the Police Dept. any vacation that they have by December 31, 2016. Hattie Thrasher seconded the motion, unanimous.

C. PERSONNEL POLICY REVISION-EXEMPT & NON-EXEMPT POSITIONS

Mayor Bridges stated that the Personnel Committee has reviewed it and ask if there were any questions. Perry Barton made motion to approve the Personnel Policy Revision. Betty Lyle seconded the motion, unanimous.

5. OTHER BUSINESS:

CITIZENS COMMENTS

- **Kelly Pickens**
 - 2996 Waters Rd., Atlanta
- **Jake Foster** (had his mom Carrie Foster speak)
 - 2113 Dooley Town Rd., Statham
- **Kendra Moore** (requested to be last to speak & gave out packets to Mayor and Council)
 - 2055 Jana Lane, Statham
- **Mary Williams**
 - 2545 Marixa Dr., Statham
- **Sam Grizzle** (citizen absent- Mike Gentry spoke)
 - 2052 Jana Lane, Statham
- **Jessica Ferguson**
 - 566 McCarty Rd, Statham
- **Carmen Jara (son)-** (citizen was absent-Sherry Heard spoke)
 - 505 Providence Cir., Statham
- **Adam Carpenter**
 - 1309 Stonemont Rd., Auburn
- **Keyonna Lee** (citizen was absent- Katie Corkren spoke)
 - 2996 Waters Rd., Atlanta
- **Vanessa Fox** (citizen was absent- Sondra Moore spoke)
 - Did not give address: Hoschton

**Each citizen listed here stated their names, addresses, and expressed their issues and concerns for 5 minutes or less.

6. NEW LIFE CHURCH

- **Michael Holcomb**
 - 108 Jefferson Rd., Statham
- **Leon Pass** (Pastor)-(Absent- David Smith spoke)
 - 559 Manning Jim Rd., Monroe
- **Michael Wierdon** (Associate Pastor)
 - 201 Streamside Ct., Winder
- **Horace Biggs** (replaced Bill Taylor)
 - 626 Wilbanks Rd., Winder

**Each citizen listed here stated their names, addresses, and expressed their issues and concerns for 5 minutes or less.

City Attorney Thomas Mitchell stated that he has been to a lot of City Council meetings and County Commission meetings with a room full of people and the group here tonight has acted with more quorum than any other groups that he has been to with this much controversy. He congratulated and complimented the audience for their quorum on the way the audience have conducted themselves tonight.

7. OLD BUSINESS:

A. 2ND READING OF AMENDMENT TO ALCOHOL ORDINANCE

City Attorney Thomas Mitchell explains that Legislature and the desire to allow small towns to encourage restaurants and the inner relationship between that desire and certain federal laws with regards to discriminations against Churches and places of assembly. The legislature allows Cities and Counties to set their own distance requirements. Different Cities have done it differently and the ordinance he put before them was originally similar to Winder but after listening to the folks last Thursday night from the Church has express to him to put together a different type of ordinance. He recommends one that is similar to Athens which has the distance requirement as a default rule but restaurants are permitted to come in and apply for a “distance waiver” permit. A notice of establishment would need to be placed on their window telling what they have applied for and gives the notice of when the hearing will be and have to run a notice in the newspaper. If application is made it would have to be approved or denied. (Refer to copy of Ordinance attached)

Thomas also said that passing this ordinance tonight does not grant any permits or grant any waivers. This is just a tool that the City would have in its tool box for Economic Development if City chose to do it. If City does grant it, it will have to be renewed every year and applied for at the same time each year.

Gayle Steed made comment that the Restaurant has not made a request but this would be an amendment to the ordinance in the City to bring more businesses to the City.

Perry Barton stated that this idea has been brought to the City’s attention by the Department of Community Affair (DCA) when they visited Statham.

A citizen in the audience stood up and stated that if this Ordinance comes, it will help to bring in revenue and help the City grow and keep the property taxes down.

Mayor Bridges thanked everybody and stated that he feels like it has been conducted on both sides and try to give everybody the same opportunity but we have procedures to go by and thanked everybody for doing that.

Perry Barton made a motion to approve the 2nd Reading of Amendment to Alcohol Ordinance. Gayle Steed seconded the motion. Gayle Steed and Perry Barton voted “yes”. Betty Lyle and Hattie Thrasher voted “no”. David Huth abstain from voting. Mayor Bridges voted “no” and motion failed.

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

No executive Session.

9. ADJOURN:

There being no further business before the Council, David Huth made a motion to adjourn. Hattie Thrasher seconded the motion, unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.