



## **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Piper called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

Roll Call:

Present: Mayor Piper and Council Members Lyle, McCormic, Thrasher, Venable and Crawley. Also present: Sandra Bennett, City Clerk; Jody Campbell, City Attorney; April Plank, City Accountant; Ira Underwood, Police Chief and John Davis, Police Captain.

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Piper led the Pledge of Allegiance and thanked all Veterans, Service Members and their families.

## **AUDIT UPDATE:**

Amanda Wilkinson, CPA, Bates Carter provided an update on FY18 and FY19 audits with a detailed power point. She hopes to have the draft financial statements for FY18 by March of this year, and the FY19 will be completed soon after. Ms. Wilkinson stated the City is in line with other municipalities of our size, and that all is going well in completing these audits, but that they just take time when working these many years back.

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

### **1. FY21 BUDGET AMENDMENT**

April Plank, City Accountant, presented a draft amended budget for FY20, going over certain line items that have the most need for increase. She made mention that revenues were down year to date due to permitting fees and water and sewer taps showing a steep decline. Due to this, the budget will need to be adjusted to cover the remainder of the year.

Some line items were adjusted in the meeting after being discussed with Council, including the Beautification and Tree Committee. Councilmember McCormic asked that it be increased even more than recommended due to wanting to purchase additional trees for the City.

Chief Underwood explained the need for two additional patrol vehicles and noted that some vehicles that are in use by the City at this time are not pursuit capable.

At 8:40 p.m. Councilmember McCormic makes a motion to close the Public Hearing, Councilmember Thrasher seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **1. ARC Grant – Walton Group Development Project:**

Mayor Piper stated that the Walton Group had no plans to develop this property, and that it is for sale at this time. He also explained that approximately \$340,000 has been held in the bank since 2012, and those funds could be pulled from this project and used for well exploration to make the City self-sufficient. We (the City) are now purchasing most of our water from Barrow County and the City of Winder. Councilmember Venable added that if we wanted to continue to be the City of Statham, we will need to locate a direct water source; that water is revenue, and without it, the City could cease to exist and become part of Barrow County.

### **2. Qualifying Fees:**

Qualifying fees are 3% of the salary of the position that is being qualified for. For councilmembers in the 2021 election, the fee is \$180.

### **3. Hydrogeological Services for Location of Potential Ground Water Agreement:**

EMI, Engineering Management, Inc. solicited bids to explore water sources within the city. Mayor Piper asked for approval from the Council to sign an agreement with Ground-Water Services, Inc. to conduct well site surveys. The cost to conduct the surveys is not to exceed \$20,000.

## **CITIZEN INPUT**

Kurt Bogenrieder stated the City needed to take better care of keeping the city and streets clean, and more trash picked up on a regular basis.

## **MINUTE APPROVAL**

Councilmember Venable made a motion to accept the minutes from the December 15, 2020 meeting. Councilmember McCormic seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

## **ADJOURN**

At 9:21 p.m., Councilmember Crawley made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember McCormic seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.