

Approved by the City Council September 14, 2021

City of Young Harris

Regular Monthly Meeting

August 3, 2021

The Young Harris City Council met Tuesday, August 3, 2021, at 7:00 PM for the Regular Monthly City Council Meeting. Those present for the meeting were the Mayor: Andrea Gibby, City Attorney: Marvin Harkins; City Council Members: Matt Miller, Steve Clark, Terry Ingram, Donald Keys, and John Kelley; City Clerk: Nicolette Wade; Water Superintendent: Gary Willer; Finance Officer: Lisa Hoyle; Chad Stack of the Towns County Herald; and Economic Development Director, Denise McKay.

Call to Order: Mayor Gibby called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM stating that there was a quorum and there was a full house meaning all Council Members were present.

Approval of Agenda: John Kelley said that he would like to add Classic Car Show to the Agenda and Mayor Gibby said it would be the first line under “New Business”. John Kelley made a motion to approve the Agenda with the added change, seconded by Donald Keys and approved unanimously. A copy of the corrected Agenda is attached and incorporated herein by reference.

Approval of Minutes of Regular Monthly Meeting – July 13, 2021 - 7:00 PM: John Kelley made a motion to approve the July 13 Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes, seconded by Matt Miller, and approved unanimously. A copy of the Minutes is attached and incorporated herein by reference.

Financial Report: Lisa Hoyle went over certain parts of the Financial Report beginning with the fact that the City received \$310,000 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARP) money from the Federal Government by way of the State of Georgia. The State Department of Community Affairs (DCA) wants the City to set up a separate fund and cash account for the ARP money. The Council was given a copy of the memo from the DCA explaining how they wanted the account set up. A copy of the memo is attached and incorporated herein by reference. The Council would need to approve the new bank account. The City received \$25,835.90 in Local Option Sales Tax funds for July. Lisa also gave the Council a detail listing of Professional Services, a copy of which is attached and incorporated herein by reference. The SPLOST account has a total of \$148,308.83. Lisa stated that the water fund does not owe anything to the Sewer Fund or the General Fund, a statement which Mayor Gibby asked her to repeat and celebrate that after 10 years that debt was paid. There was an expense in the Water Fund of \$5690.00 to the Environmental Protection Division for the yearly drinking water fee. There is \$126,000 in total leachate receipts. John Kelley made a motion to approve the Financial Report as presented, seconded by Matt Miller and approved unanimously. A copy of the Financial Report is attached and incorporated herein by reference.

ARP Bank Account: Steve Clark made a motion to allow Lisa to open a new cash account strictly for ARP funds, seconded by Terry Ingram, and approved unanimously. Matt Miller asked if we have guidelines as to how the ARP money can be used. Mayor Gibby said she would get that information to the Council.

Engineer Reports: Mayor Gibby said Lisa did the quarterly reports for the Department of Natural Resources grant. The environmental piece is still being completed. The fill work is completed. Now Hayes-James will get to the design part of the project.

Mayor Gibby said the Water/Sewer Committee needs to meet for the Timberline situation. John Kelley said he was out of town and now Chad Hooper is out of town so he has not been able to get with him regarding moving Timberline customers to Towns County Water Authority. John explained that Nicolette had talked with Richard at Towns County Water and the water in the reservoir is piped up from Brasstown Valley and is not well water. John asked Gary to find out what kind of booster pumps they use, the specs, and where they get them and if they are having any problems with them.

Mayor Gibby also reported Turnipseed sent us an updated map of our water system.

Classic Car Show July 30-31: John said according to Jerry Smith the car auction raised just under \$50,000 to go to local charitable organizations. They sold 101 cars. People came from as far away as Florida and Ohio. John wants to find out what specific organizations or people are helped by this sale and perhaps make it a yearly event.

Election Information: Nicolette Wade gave the Council a copy of the Call of Election and Qualifying ad that ran in the Towns County Herald for two weeks. This ad has to be run by State law in the newspaper prior to August 2. She explained that the incumbents who will have to qualify for office are John Kelley, Donald Keys, and Andrea Gibby. Qualifying is August 18 through 20 at City Hall. A copy of the ad is attached and incorporated herein by reference. Mayor Gibby thanked Nicolette for the studying she has been doing since January to be prepared for the election.

Set Hourly Pay for Poll Workers: Nicolette said Towns County pays poll workers \$11.00 per hour. There has to be 3 poll workers at City Hall every day from October 12 through November 2. Every city has to do the same thing no matter what the size. A copy of the ad is attached and incorporated herein by reference. Steve Clark asked Nicolette to send the Council the qualifications for poll workers. John Kelley made a motion to pay poll workers \$11.00 per hour for the 2021 Election, seconded by Donald Keys, and approved unanimously.

First Reading of Ordinance to Amend Master Fee Schedule and Water and Sewer Ordinance: Attorney Harkins conducted the first reading of the Ordinance to Amend Master Fee Schedule and Water and Sewer Ordinance. The Ordinance is designed to do three things. It amends both the text of the Water/Sewer Ordinance and the Master Fee Schedule to:

1. Change the tap fees for water and sewer
2. Add a new fee when boring required under roads
3. Add a booster pump surcharge for customers living above a booster pump.

Attorney Harkins included \$26 in as the above the booster charge. He does not have tap fee charges, therefore, the numbers are not plugged into the Ordinance. Mayor Gibby will get with the Hayes-James engineer and get her recommendations. There was a lot of discussion about how taps are done and it was decided to set a Water/Sewer Committee meeting to thoroughly discuss the complicated issues after more information is obtained. Mayor Gibby told the Council she would send the information

about the agreement the Council previously approved. A copy of the Ordinance is attached and incorporated herein by reference.

The Council decided to have a Water/Sewer Committee meeting on August 31 at 6:00 PM.

Water/Maintenance Report: Gary Willer reported that the fence is going up at the Wastewater Plant. The dying tree on Sycamore is 19 feet from the centerline.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Gibby explained that there is not a dog park yet, only rumors. The guys have cleared a place so the people who want a dog park can see it. 4000 feet have been cleared and the only maintenance is grass. There are people who want to raise money for the dog park because they have been told that the city does not have the money for the dog park and a \$15,000 fence. If they do not raise the money it can be a parking lot. If they raise the money they will have to come to the Council for approval.

The Comprehensive Plan meeting is August 24 at 6:00 PM at City Hall. We want as many people as possible to come.

Mayor Gibby has been talking with a lady at Municode about the website. For the website to work correctly we have to have a logo. There is a lady who is a graphic designer and she is going to develop a logo for us at a minimal charge.

The Young Harris College Art Department has agreed for students to work on sign design for the round-about area according to DOT regulations. Their presentations will be judged and there is a person in the community who is going to provide a bonus for the winner.

Peach State Bank will be opening their doors at the end of the month. They will be sending invitations for the grand opening and ribbon cutting.

Mike Patton has closed on the property behind the old EMC. Mayor Gibby asked Nicolette to get a packet together for him including Applications for Water/Sewer Services, a Business License, and Sign Application.

Mayor Gibby announced plans for an Art's Festival in Mayor's Park August 27th through 29 which has been cleared with the College who will provide security. There will also be COVID requirements. John Kelley said that he is against it unless people without a vaccination card wear a mask. He said the Delta variance is alive and raging and one out of five unvaccinated people are getting it. He said the City should introduce a resolution published in the paper urging people to get vaccinated. He further explained that there are already two other variants, and the Delta variant is more contagious and is attacking young people, teenagers and people between 20 and 40 years old. Mayor Gibby said that she had no problem with John's suggestions which she repeated as

1. A resolution encouraging people to get vaccinated
2. Not opposed to the festival but there must be strict guidelines.

Matt Miller also stated serious reservations about a public event that is not strictly controlled as far as people being exposed to COVID.

John said we need to take a firm stand as to the guidelines for the festival. Mayor Gibby will call the festival planners and if they cannot follow the guidelines we will not have the festival.

Attorney’s Report: Attorney Harkins was going to look at franchise fees but the DOT is coming out with administrative rules due out mid-August so he will wait and see what those rules are going to be. He thinks they are going to minimize what can be charged. He will report back about this in September.

Closed Session: Donald Keys made a motion to adjourn temporarily go into Closed Session, seconded by Terry Ingram, and approved unanimously. While in Closed Session the Council authorized the Mayor to sign an affidavit stating that the only issues discussed were real estate and personnel. A copy of the affidavit is attached and incorporated herein by reference.

Matt Miller made a motion to adjourn the Closed Session and return to Open Session, seconded by Terry Ingram, and approved unanimously.

Open Session: Matt Miller made a motion to annex the balance of the Kaiser-Dean property and the Fire Station into the City, seconded by Donald Keys, and approved unanimously.

Matt Miller made a motion to authorize the Mayor to proceed with an advertising bid with concept for development on the Kaiser-Dean and Fire Station properties, seconded by Donald Keys, and approved unanimously.

There was a discussion regarding employee retention and Attorney Harkins agreed to help update the Personnel Manual.

Date: _____

Andrea Gibby, Mayor

Attest: _____

Nicolette Wade, City Clerk