



CITY OF RIVERDALE MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING BUSINESS SESSION MINUTES AUGUST 26, 2013 | 7:00pm

The Riverdale Mayor and City Council met on Monday, August 26, 2013 at 7:00PM for the purpose of conducting a regular business session. The meeting was held in the Courtroom Chambers on the 1st floor at Riverdale City Hall, located at 7200 Church Street, Riverdale, GA 30274.

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME:

Meeting was called to order at 7:00PM.

ROLL CALL:

All members of the governing body were present at the meeting.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Invocation & Pledge were led by Minister Dallas Wilson, Center of Hope, Roy Huie Drive, Riverdale, Georgia.

OFFICER IN ARMS TO READ RULES OF CONDUCT:

Rules of Conduct read by Officer L. Stevenson.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA WITH ANY ADDITIONS/DELETIONS:

The following amendments were made to the agenda:

Addition(s): None.

Deletion(s): None.

Tabled: **Resolution No. 23-08-2013 Pay and Classification Plan & Organizational Chart Amendment will be reviewed and discussed at upcoming 9/9/2013 Mayor & Council Meeting.**

Postponed: None.

Motion: Council Member Wanda Wallace moved to approve. Council Member An'cel Davis moved to second the motion. The measure was tabled unanimously by a vote of 4/0.



PRESENTATION:

❖ **Overview of Mid-Year Crime Report from Samuel F. Patterson, Chief of Police**

The City of Riverdale Police Department is a value driven organization dedicated to our community and the protection of all who live in and visit our city. Our primary focus is public safety and the reduction of crime through strategic partnerships with the community.

It is the vision of the Riverdale Police Department to work progressively and proactively with the community providing "service with integrity" while in relentless pursuit of criminals who threaten the public safety of our community.

Please see Exhibit A: PowerPoint Presentation of the Overview of Mid-Year Crime Report.

Riverdale Police Department five (5) Core Values:

Accountability, Integrity, Pride, Respect, Professionalism

Goals & Objectives:

- I. Reduce Part 1 Crime by 2%.
- II. Reduce Fuel Consumption by 2%.
- II. Maintain 95% (or better) Fleet Readiness Level.
- IV. Develop Lt. Promotional Examination process.
- V. Acquire technology to reduce dependence on limited resources - such as paper, storage space.
- VI. Upgrade Criminal Investigations Section.
- VII. Public Safety Communications Upgrade.
- VIII. New system for in-house identification card production.
- IX. Enhance traffic enforcement capability.
- X. Recognize employees with high performance and productivity.

Accomplishments:

- I. Reduced Part 1 Crime by -7% YTD (402 vs. 434) and Serious Violent Crime (Murder, Rape, Robbery, and Aggravated Assault) by -43% YTD (28 vs. 49).
- II. Traffic Enforcement increased w/ use of ALPR (Automated License Plate Reader) & K9.
- III. Reorganized PACT (Police and Citizens Together) and met twice quarterly.
- IV. Participated in GACP Summer and Winter Training Conferences, IACP Training Conference and FBINAA Summer Training Conference.
- V. Supported Boy Scouts of America with \$1,000.00 associated with youth development in scouting (Explorers).
- VI. Acquired demo TRIKKE, three wheeled vehicle for use in highly concentrated areas.
- VII. Christmas with a Cop program - provides for ten (10) families.
- VIII. Expanded the Explorer Program.
- IX. Chief Demetrius Wells graduated from Georgia Command College - *including former employee, Augustus Palmer III*
- X. Major Barney completed FBI's Law Enforcement Executive Development (LEED) course.
- XI. Officer Renee Godwin completed 1st phase of the Law Enforcement Leadership Academy.
- XII. Lt. Tommy Henderson attended the CALEA Summer Conference.

Personnel Staffing Report:

RPD Sworn Officers (F/T): Year 2012 - 43 and Year 2013- 42

RPD Sworn per 1000 pop.: Year 2012 - 2.84 and Year 2013 - 2.78

Mayor Dixon asked if Council had any questions.

Council Member Ruffin: "Chief, can you please explain how beneficial it would be for us to update our film system."

Chief Patterson: "We currently use two different sources for creating a document. Identification Cards - getting them produced by an outside vendor costs us \$10 per card. We also do permits - alcohol permit, use permit, dancer permit, etc. Various other people doing business in Riverdale must have a permit. The permits we provide our produced using Polaroid System. This method is very outdated, does not produce good quality. It's very difficult to obtain the film and it's expensive."

"We have identified a new process, that will allow us to do Identification Cards and Permits for everyone that does business with the City of Riverdale. We typically produce approx. 600/ per year, which is about 50/per month. The new system will Pay for it in approx. 18 months, producing permits and ID Cards and we would not



have to use an outside vendor for production.”

Council Member Ruffin: "43% down in crimes is very significant. What do you think are some of the things that contributed to that?"

Chief Patterson: "The category that was reduced significantly is Rape, Murder, Robbery, and Aggravated Assault. These are what we call serious crimes." Visibility of our officers throughout the City and in our neighborhoods. Of those 4 categories, aggravated assault is down substantially."

Council Member Ruffin: "Great Job. Thank You."

Council Member Wallace: "When are the Goals scheduled to be completed?"

Chief Patterson: "The goals presented are for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014. The Goals and Objectives are for the current fiscal year FY2014, and scheduled for completion by 6/30/2014. "

Council Member Wallace: "When will receive the Inspection Reports for the city vehicles? When can we receive a report?"

Chief Patterson: "We are happy to provide a report. We do daily, weekly, and monthly reporting of our inspections. The fleet Manager does webinars to assist in Best Practices to maximize performance as well. We can certainly get a (monthly) report to you."

Council Member Davis: "What is the age limit for curfews imposed on minors?"

Chief Patterson: "Seventeen (17) and up is considered an adult. 16yrs old are juveniles, and must adhere to the curfew."

Council Member Davis: "Thank you."

Council Member Stamps Jones: "You did a great report. We want our officers to know we appreciate everything they do. We always want to recognize the achievements of our Police Officers."

Council Member Stamps Jones: "I know you spoke with Sheriff Victor Hill regarding school truancy. What happens when the children are caught?"



Chief Patterson: "Schools prefer the children are returned to the school so the child does not miss the academic opportunity to learn, and we agree with that."

CONSENT AGENDA:

Adoption of the August 12, 2013 Mayor and Council Meeting Minutes.

Motion: Council Member Stamps-Jones moved to approve the Consent Agenda 8/12 Meeting Minutes as published. Council Member An'cel Davis moved to second the motion. The measure was approved unanimously by a vote of 4/0.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ms. Cathy Loving | 8311 Taylor Road Riverdale, GA
Riverdale Resident
Regarding: Pitt Bulls loose in neighborhood.

Ms. Tammy Walker | 1204 Quail Hunt Drive Riverdale, GA
Riverdale Resident and mother of Riverdale Youth Council member.
Regarding: Funding for Riverdale Youth Council

RESOLUTION(S):

Resolution No. 25-08-2013 Development Fee Schedule presented by Camilla Moore, Director of Planning/Zoning, CD, ED & Business Services.

A RESOLUTION OF THE RIVERDALE MAYOR AND COUNCIL AMENDING THE DEVELOPMENT SCHEDULE OF FEES, A COPY OF WHICH IS ATTACHED HERETO AS EXHIBIT A; AND TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; TO PROVIDE FOR OTHER LAWFUL CAUSES.

Motion: Council Member Wanda Wallace moved to approve this item. Council Member An'cel Davis moved to second the motion. The measure was approved unanimously by a vote of 4/0.



PUBLIC HEARING(S):

Petition No. 2013U-0005 Petition by Sonya Ness-Crown Castle is applying for a User Permit to add and upgrade existing equipment for a cell tower at 6794 Highway 85 Riverdale, GA 30274

Camilla Moore: "The Applicant, T-Mobile, is requesting the ability to upgrade its telecommunication equipment in compliance with the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012. The current tower is a standalone structure and is used to house other telecommunication antennas. The proposed use is allowed by the City of Riverdale's Zoning Ordinance and The Telecommunications Ordinance. This use will comply with the FCC regulations and meet Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) requirements."

This proposal will also comply with the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 Section 6409(a) that states:

"The state and local governments are now required to approve applications for eligible facilities requests if the modifications do not substantially change the physical dimensions of the wireless facility"

Camilla Moore: "The proposed use permit will not foster any conditions that can be considered environmentally adverse to the natural resources, environment, and citizens of Riverdale. The upgrading of existing equipment on an existing tower will be safe and environmentally friendly to surrounding residents and land uses."

Mayor Dixon asked if Council had any questions.

There were none.

Mayor Dixon opened the floor for the public hearing.

The following individuals spoke in favor/opposition of the measure.

None.

Mayor Dixon closed the floor.

Motion: Council Member Wanda Wallace moved to approve Petition No. 2013U-0005. Council Member An'cel Davis moved to second the motion. The petition was approved unanimously by a vote of 4/0



Petition No. 2013U-0006: Petition by Linda Brundrett is applying for a Use Permit to allow for a barbershop/salon establishment to operate at 517 Highway 138 Suite 7, Riverdale, GA 30274

The Community Development Department recommends **APPROVAL** of this application with conditions:

1. *The Use Permit is only approved for a Barbershop/Salon*
2. *Applicant must obtain proper business license from the City of Riverdale Business Service Department.*
3. *The property and suite must meet all development standards.*
4. *The Use Permit is binding to the suite that is requested (suite 7), and to the site plan that was received by The Community Development Department on May 23, 2012.*
5. *The business may not extend to occupy a different or greater area of land.*
6. *The plans review approval process.*

Both Staff and Planning Commission recommend approval.

Mayor Dixon opened the floor for the public hearing.

**The following individuals spoke in favor/opposition of the measure.
None.**

Mayor Dixon closed the floor.

Motion: Council Member Wanda Wallace moved to approve Petition No. 2013U-0006. Council Member An'cel Davis moved to second the motion. The petition was approved unanimously by a vote of 4/0.

Petition No. 2013ZM-0002: Petition to allow Riverdale Family Dollar Store 10699, LLC to subdivide the commercial property located on Highway 138 & Abington Drive that is zoned C-2 General Commercial into (2) two separate lots. The smaller 1.50 acre parcels will be developed into a Family Dollar Store.

Dept of Planning & Zoning Development Recommendation: Approval w/ Conditions.



Planning Committee Recommendation: Denial

The proposed subdivision does not have any conditions that can be considered environmentally adverse to the natural resources and environment. However, it will adversely affect the Riverdale citizens of nearby subdivisions.

Mayor Dixon asked if Council had any questions. None

Mayor Dixon opened the floor for the public hearing.

The following individuals spoke in favor of the measure:

Mark Forsling (Attorney | GA Bar #270025) spoke on behalf of the applicant.
Provided notice of constitutional and legal objections.

SCHREEDER, WHEELER & FLINT, LLP | 1100 Peachtree St. Suite #800 Atlanta, GA 30309

The following individuals spoke against the measure:

Ms. Brenda Brown 45 Chipping Court Riverdale, GA
Strongly protested any commercial land change in subdivision

Mr. Michael James - Riverdale Resident since 1994. Second homeowner in Coventry Subdivision since 2000. Indicated the homeowners have worked hard to maintain a well kept neighborhood. Researched online and stated most Family Dollar Stores and parking lots are not well kept. He preferred not to have store in his backyard.

Ms. Beverly Patman - Homeowner in Coventry Highlands since 2000. Stated Family Dollar Store development could pose safety issue for residents. With the increased traffic flow, children will not be safe.

Motion: Council Member Wanda Wallace moved to deny Petition No. 2013ZM-0002.
Council Member An'cel Davis moved to second the motion. The petition was denied unanimously by a vote of 4/0.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENT(S):

Council Member Cynthia Stamps-Jones, Ward 1

Council Member Stamps Jones spoke regarding the comment by Ms. Tammy Walker concerning the Riverdale Youth Council. "I applaud her for bringing her concerns to our attention but disappointed she only knows Council Member Ruffin. It is the City of Riverdale Youth Council." She felt the members and parents should know everyone on the Council, and that they only work with Council Member Ruffin. Council Member Stamps Jones stated, "We do not know anything about the Youth Council nor their meetings and activities."

She stated the Riverdale Youth Council does not adhere to the established by-laws. The by-laws state the youth are to stay one year and 'take one and teach one'. She exclaimed, "Everyone sitting in the audience if you have a child that are in middle school or high school, you should be privileged to be able to have your children serve on the Riverdale Youth Council - learning how to be in government." She conveyed that the Riverdale Youth Council still has the same number of children and same members. Council Member Stamps Jones said, "We did not deny them financial support. Mr. Ruffin never attended his budget meeting and did not ask for funding for the youth council. According to the group's by-laws, they are to raise funds and we provide seeded support. It is not fair to continuously pay for 10-12 members that have been on the Council for 5 yrs or more. She feels the same students have matriculated through the program but need to give others an opportunity to learn and serve. She would like everyone to follow the by-laws and allow other citizen's children to be part of the program. Council Member Stamps Jones said, "We need to allow the youth to know and interact with Mayor and Council, and not just one Council Member."

Council Member Stamps Jones conveyed there are two sides to every story. She shared, "We are not the villains. Mr. Ruffin did not submit the information for budget consideration for the Riverdale Youth Council. Mr. Ruffin is passionate about the Riverdale Youth Council and he has done a great job. But it needs to be open to the public, fair, they need to raise money, and adopt the 'each one and teach one' philosophy. They also need to operate within their by-laws. Ms. Stamps Jones shared that she works in the education field. She said, "I am a school counselor. I help foster emotional, personal, social, and character-building development in students so they can be productive citizens. I can't do it alone. I solicit the help of others to assist me and Mr. Ruffin needs to do the same because it cannot be done alone." Ms. Stamp Jones, proclaimed, "Wednesday, Aug. 28th is the 50th Anniversary of the March on Washington. From an educational perspective, we need to take a child and teach them about the history. The struggle is not over. Do not use Jan. 15th



as a 'day off' instead teach our youth to ensure we are indeed leaving a legacy through our action."

Council Member An'cel Davis, Ward 2

Council Member Davis, "The 50th Anniversary of the March on Washington is very significant. I am product of the those 50 years and the Civil Rights Movement." He acknowledged that Mayor and Council are here because of that movement. He mentioned that Council member Wallace was the 1st African American to sit on Riverdale Council, which is a statement within itself. He asked everyone to continue to pray for our children and educators. Mr. Davis acknowledged he knew someone personally that was affected by the incident at the McNair School in DeKalb County.

Mr. Davis reported that SunTrust has loans for 5.75% for Home Improvement. Applicant's credit score can be as low as 580. He directed interested parties to contact Sonya Fitzpatrick (Personal Banker 770-473-2095), for additional information.

Council Member Davis thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. He stated, "The business of the City is important, so we thank you for your time."

Council Member Wanda Wallace, Ward 3

Council Member Wanda Wallace stated, "Thank you all for coming out tonight."

Council Member Kenny Ruffin, Ward 4

Council Member Ruffin conveyed, "It's unfortunate, several weeks ago, the Riverdale Youth Council gave their yearly presentation and were disrespected by two of our Council Members talking throughout the presentation. He understood one of the concerns were that the Sr. Advisor for the Youth Council was seemingly unprepared. Mr. Ruffin wanted to share with everyone that the advisors are volunteers who give up their free time to assist with the Youth Council. Council Member Ruffin is aware most of the parents are unable to take off from work to donate their time as easily. Mr. Ruffin appreciates the generosity and volunteer spirit of the advisor, and stated the Advisor has done a lot for the Youth Council and the Community as a whole.

Council Member Ruffin stated the Riverdale Youth Council has participated in 5K Run/Walk, Christmas with a Cop, Spelling Bee, Holiday Gala and he was not involved in any of these programs. However, the Youth Council was there to fully support. He wanted to convey that the Youth Council has provided service and social responsibility to the City, on behalf of Mayor and Council.

Mr. Ruffin stated, “In order to have a meeting, we have to coordinate with Linda Barthell to ensure the meeting does not conflict with other scheduled meetings.” He conveyed, the meetings are public and no one is ever told they can’t attend. Mr. Ruffin indicated, “all anyone has to do is ask, and they will find out what’s happening. When kids go on trips, the idea is to expose our youth to opportunities and culture.” Mr. Ruffin exclaimed, “The focus isn’t on the trip itself, but on the knowledge we bring back to the community. When the kids get out in the world they can compete with anyone else. The Riverdale Night with the Atlanta Hawks is another great opportunity. No has tried to help with that in a substantial way.”

Council Member Ruffin feels when one goes out of town and returns, it is important to share information with others – to thrive and grow. He recently attended a conference out of town and one of the classes was on incubators. He acknowledged Mike Syphoe with the Riverdale Downtown Development Authority recently introduced an incubator concept in the City of Riverdale. Mr. Ruffin shared he felt it was very difficult to get the incubator development approved. He believed it should have been an easy decision to move the city forward.

Mayor Evelyn Wynn-Dixon, At-Large

Mayor Evelyn Wynn-Dixon brought the meeting back to order. Mayor Dixon proclaimed, “We are not going to have chaos. You can’t get anything achieved in the midst chaos. We are bringing the meetings back to order. Everyone has a right to be heard.” Mayor Dixon stated that many people have helped and worked with the Riverdale Youth Council. Mayor Dixon, “I love the Riverdale Youth Council and they know me.” Mayor Dixon acknowledged that Council Member Davis sold tickets for Riverdale Night with the Atlanta Hawks at his barbershop and donated money towards their field trips.”

Mayor Dixon advised everyone that information has been sent to the schools to create an interest in the Riverdale Youth Council to help build membership. She understood many of our parents work, and simply may not have the time. She reminded everyone that Mr. Ruffin informed us the Riverdale Youth Council is a public organization and open to everyone. Mayor Dixon said, “I believe in peace and having order. Whatever was broken in the past, we are fixing it, and putting it behind us. We can’t do anything about yesterday. But we can do a lot to influence and shape tomorrow.” She asked everyone to focus on reaching out and bring in more children to further develop the Riverdale Youth Council. She asked Mr. Ruffin to ensure the Riverdale Youth Council meetings are posted on the City website. She would like anyone that is interested in learning more about the organization to contact the City to get further details. Mayor Dixon stated to everyone, “There were some issues in the past, and we may still have some but we are going to come together to



ensure we get them resolved and move forward. I've seen the Youth Council do a lot of wonderful things, and I'm proud of those achievements."

Mayor Dixon, "We have a lot of good things going on in Riverdale." We received 2nd Place National Award for the design and construction of the Riverdale Town Center complex. There's a huge need for SAT/ACT preparation training in Riverdale.

Mayor Dixon is currently working with corporate sponsor to offset the cost involved program. Clayton State University will facilitate the training program. The City of Riverdale will have SAT/ACT Training on Saturdays, starting November 2013. Mayor

Dixon exclaimed, "We need to get our students prepared for the SAT and ACT Test to gain entry into college, secondary, and vocational schools. We have to work within our community to make it stronger." The City of Riverdale has a 5K Run Health & Fitness event scheduled (Sat. Sept 21). The City of Riverdale is committed to promoting healthy lifestyles, community development, and social responsibility. She urged everyone to register and come out and show support."

Mayor Dixon stated, "This is a wonderful city and we love you. Thank you for taking the time to come out tonight."

ADJOURNMENT: Council Member Wanda Wallace moved to approve; second offered by Council Member An'cel Davis, and after unanimous vote, the meeting adjourned at 8:31PM.