

BUSINESS MINUTES

April 14

2014

The Riverdale Mayor and City Council met on Monday, April 14 2014 at 7:00PM for the purpose of conducting a regularly scheduled meeting. The meeting was held in the Courtroom Chambers on the 1st floor at Riverdale City Hall, located at 7200 Church Street, Riverdale, GA 30274.

City of Riverdale Mayor & Council Meeting



MAYOR
Dr. Evelyn Wynn-Dixon

CITY COUNCIL
Cynthia Stamps-Jones, Ward 1
An'cel Davis, Ward 2
Wanda Wallace, Ward 3
Kenneth Ruffin, Ward 4

INTERIM CITY MANAGER
Nathaniel Mingo

INTERIM CITY CLERK
Sherry D. Henderson

CITY ATTORNEY
L'Erin F. Barnes



**CITY OF RIVERDALE
MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 14, 2014
BUSINESS MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Mayor Evelyn Wynn-Dixon called the meeting to order at 7:33PM.

ROLL CALL:

All members of the governing body were present at the meeting. Sherry D. Henderson, Interim City Clerk, declared a quorum.

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Evelyn Wynn Dixon	Mayor, At-Large	Present
Cynthia Stamps Jones	Council Member, Ward 1 Parliamentarian	Present
An'cel Davis	Council Member, Ward 2 Mayor Pro-Tem	Present
Wanda Wallace	Council Member, Ward 3	Present
Kenneth Ruffin	Council Member, Ward 4	Present

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Invocation & Pledge were led by Pastor Riley, Lakewin Christian Center.

OFFICER IN ARMS TO READ RULES OF CONDUCT:

Rules of Conduct read by Officer V. Brown.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA WITH ANY ADDITIONS/DELETIONS:

The following amendments were made to the agenda:

- Addition(s):** Amend the agenda to vote whether Council Member Kenneth Ruffin's absence for the Wednesday, March 26, 2014 Special Called Meeting is excused or unexcused.
- Deletion(s):** None.
- Tabled:** None.
- Postponed:** None.

MOTION: Council Member Wanda Wallace moved to approve the agenda with addition. Council Member An'cel Davis moved to second the motion. **The measure was APPROVED by a vote of 4/0.**

Attendee Name	Title	VOTE
Evelyn Wynn Dixon	Mayor, At-Large	
Cynthia Stamps Jones	Council Member, Ward 1 Parliamentarian	YEA
An'cel Davis	Council Member, Ward 2 Mayor Pro-Tem	YEA
Wanda Wallace	Council Member, Ward 3	YEA
Kenneth Ruffin	Council Member, Ward 4	YEA

PRESENTATION:

Presentation of Proclamation to Ms. Angie Sims, Riverdale Centre Fitness Instructor, in recognition of her service to the City of Riverdale and commitment to promoting Health & Wellness, presented by Mayor Evelyn Wynn Dixon.

Mayor and Council thanked Angie Sims for her service and encouraged citizens to increase their awareness about Health and Wellness, and the many fitness and enrichment programs available at the Riverdale Centre. Angie has duly earned the respect and admiration of the Riverdale Centre members and staff.

PUBLIC COMMENT (5 minute limit): *See Blue Card for Rules of Participation.*

Sarah Martin 189 Derby Drive Riverdale, GA 30274 770-471-6491

RE: Family Dollar Store on Hwy 138, Coventry Highland Subdivision.

Ms. Martin was concerned about the potential crime in the area. She stated people have mentioned moving out of the area, due to the new Family Dollar Store. She questioned why Family Dollar decided to build a new facility in her neighborhood, and inquired if there is anything Council can do to deter.

The Board thanked Ms. Stewart for her time, and stated Council fought very hard and made an assertive effort to prevent the build. Mayor advised Interim City Manager, Nate Mingo, to speak with Ms. Sarah Martin for additional information, after the meeting.

Jessie Goree 6648 Meadowlark Drive, Riverdale, GA 404-626-2436

RE: Day-to Day operation of the City of Riverdale.

Ms. Goree acknowledged that she respects and know the Governing Body very well. However, she conveyed her disappointment with the operations of the city. She was concerned with the Economic Development of the city. She would like to see more support for the Riverdale Downtown Development Authority (RDDA) and the city's Incubator. The Council Members are elected officials, representing citizens. She would like Council to make decisions that are best for the city, and not based on their personal opinion. Ms. Goree acknowledged the City's Department Heads and Leaders come before the before the Board with expertise, and she would like Council not to question their expertise as much.

Jarred A. Hill - Juvenile Court of Clayton County

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

9163 Tara Blvd Courthouse Annex 3, Jonesboro, GA 30236

jelahn478@gmail.com 478-227-4947

Mr. Hill is the newly elected Chairman for the Clayton County Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program. CASA advocates serves as the legal liaison for children and the court system, and represents what is in the best interest of the children. Mr. Hill stated CASA representatives will be available at the upcoming 3rd Annual Easter Egg Hunt (Sat 4/19/2014), to provide the community additional information on the program and the need for support.

Oritha (Rick) Scoggins 1183 King Road, Riverdale, GA
RE: Current State of the City.

Mr. Scoggins was concerned with the current state of the city. He mentioned the city of Riverdale employees are due a raise. He suggested a salary and wage study be implemented to ensure the current employees are being paid fairly for the market. He understood the employees did not receive a raise in 2013, but rather a small bonus in December. Mr. Scoggins recently received copies of the Board's credit card statements and made comment. He also suggested CLM Sanitation company could offer better pricing than our current provider, and offer cost saving measures for the citizens.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Adoption of the March 24, 2014 Mayor & Council Meeting Minutes.

MOTION: Council Member Wanda Wallace moved to approve the March 24, 2014 Mayor & Council Meeting Minutes. Council Member Cynthia Stamps-Jones moved to second the motion.

The measure was APPROVED by a vote of 4/0.

Attendee Name	Title	VOTE
Evelyn Wynn Dixon	Mayor, At-Large	
Cynthia Stamps Jones	Council Member, Ward 1 Parliamentarian	YEA
An'cel Davis	Council Member, Ward 2 Mayor Pro-Tem	YEA
Wanda Wallace	Council Member, Ward 3	YEA
Kenneth Ruffin	Council Member, Ward 4	YEA

Resolution No. 36-04-2014 Acceptance of the Charles Abbot & Associates Educational and Scholarship Division, \$5,000 Educational and Scholarship Grant, in recognition of the CREATE Community Local Government Awards Program.

A RESOLUTION OF THE RIVERDALE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL TO APPROVE ACCEPTANCE OF THE CHARLES ABBOT & ASSOCIATES' EDUCATIONAL AND SCHOLARSHIP DIVISION \$5,000.00 SCHOLARSHIP GRANT, IN RECOGNITION OF CITY OF RIVERDALE BECOMING AN ATLANTA REGIONAL COMMISSION (ARC) 2014 CREATE COMMUNITY WINNER; PROVIDING FOR SERVABILITY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER LAWFUL CAUSES.

The Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC), through its CREATE Community Local Government Awards program, is recognizing the City of Riverdale as a local government for innovation and creative efforts to make the Atlanta region a better place.

In recognition of this Award, Charles Abbot & Associates' Educational and Scholarship Division has awarded the City of Riverdale, a \$5,000 Educational and Scholarship Grant; **\$3,000 to the Cynthia Stamp-Jones Annual Educational Enrichment Scholarship Initiative**, and \$2,000 for other educational purposes to be determined by Mayor/Council.

Mayor Dixon called for questions and concerns from the governing body. There were none.

MOTION: Council Member Wanda Wallace moved to approve the measure. Council Member An’cel Davis moved to second the motion. **Resolution No. 36-04-2014 was APPROVED by a vote of 4/0.**

Attendee Name	Title	VOTE
Evelyn Wynn Dixon	Mayor, At-Large	
Cynthia Stamps Jones	Council Member, Ward 1 Parliamentarian	YEA
An’cel Davis	Council Member, Ward 2 Mayor Pro-Tem	YEA
Wanda Wallace	Council Member, Ward 3	YEA
Kenneth Ruffin	Council Member, Ward 4	YEA

RESOLUTION(S)

Resolution No. 37-04-2014 to declare Riverdale Fire Services furniture that has exceeded its useful life span as surplus, and granting permission to dispose of by auction and salvage; and to grant permission to purchase new furniture to replace items. Presented by Chief Willis, Riverdale Fire Services.

A RESOLUTION OF THE RIVERDALE MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL DECLARING RIVERDALE FIRE SERVICES FURNITURE THAT HAS EXCEEDED ITS USEFUL LIFE SPAN AS SURPLUS, AND GRANTING PERMISSION TO DISPOSE OF BY AUCTION AND SALAVAGE; AND TO GRANT PERMISSION TO PURCHASE NEW FURNITURE TO REPLACE ITEMS; AND TO PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Mayor Dixon called for questions and concerns from the governing body. There were none.

MOTION: Council Member Wanda Wallace moved to approve the measure. Council Member An’cel Davis moved to second the motion. **Resolution No. 37-04-2014 was APPROVED by a vote of 4/0.**

Attendee Name	Title	VOTE
Evelyn Wynn Dixon	Mayor, At-Large	
Cynthia Stamps Jones	Council Member, Ward 1 Parliamentarian	YEA
An’cel Davis	Council Member, Ward 2 Mayor Pro-Tem	YEA
Wanda Wallace	Council Member, Ward 3	YEA
Kenneth Ruffin	Council Member, Ward 4	YEA

Resolution No. 38-04-2014 to approve the sanitation exemption for seniors and veterans with property tax exemptions retroactive to 2012. Presented by Don Turner, Finance Director.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF RIVERDALE MAYOR AND COUNCIL, TO APPROVE THE SANITATION FEE EXEMPTION FOR SENIORS AND VETERANS WITH PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS RETROACTIVE TO 2012; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Mayor Dixon called for questions and concerns from the governing body. There were none.

MOTION: Council Member Wanda Wallace moved to approve the measure. Council Member An’cel Davis moved to second the motion. **Resolution No. 38-04-2014 was APPROVED by a vote of 4/0.**

Attendee Name	Title	VOTE
Evelyn Wynn Dixon	Mayor, At-Large	
Cynthia Stamps Jones	Council Member, Ward 1 Parliamentarian	YEA
An’cel Davis	Council Member, Ward 2 Mayor Pro-Tem	YEA
Wanda Wallace	Council Member, Ward 3	YEA
Kenneth Ruffin	Council Member, Ward 4	YEA

Resolution No. 39-04-2014 to approve the creation of an Assistant Finance Director position to the Riverdale Pay & Classification Plan, and approving the reclassification of the Accounting Technician position from Grade 40 to Grade 41. Presented by Don Turner, Finance Director.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF RIVERDALE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL, APPROVING THE CREATION OF AN ASSISTANT FINANCE DIRECTOR AND ADD THAT POSITION TO THE CITY OF RIVERDALE PAY AND CLASSIFICATION PLAN; AND APPROVING THE RECLASSIFICATION OF THE ACCOUNTING TECHNICIAN POSITION FROM GRADE 40 TO GRADE 41; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

MOTION: Council Member Wanda Wallace moved to approve the measure. Council Member An’cel Davis moved to second the motion. **Resolution No. 39-04-2014 was APPROVED by an unanimous vote of 4/0.**

Attendee Name	Title	VOTE
Evelyn Wynn Dixon	Mayor, At-Large	
Cynthia Stamps Jones	Council Member, Ward 1 Parliamentarian	YEA
An’cel Davis	Council Member, Ward 2 Mayor Pro-Tem	YEA
Wanda Wallace	Council Member, Ward 3	YEA
Kenneth Ruffin	Council Member, Ward 4	YEA

Resolution No. 40-04-2014 approval to enter into contract with TruGreen Landcare for sanding maintenance, and sod replacement to football field. Presented by Bennie Rose, General Services Director.

A RESOLUTION TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH TRUGREEN LANDCARE TO FOR SANDING, MAINTENANCE, AND SOD REPLACEMENT TO FOOTBALL FIELD; TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE CONTRACT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY; AND TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The football field in the new Park is in need of field maintenance due to settling/new sod, irrigation heads and use from last season practice and games played. It has been evaluated by Riverdale and Clayton County Parks & Recreation about field condition and future use with recommendations. Estimated Cost is \$8200. Staff recommends vender do sanding, maintenance, and sod replacement/repair in preparation of 2014 playing season.

Mayor Dixon called for questions and concerns from the governing body.

Council Member Stamps Jones commented the funding for this proposed measure should come from the maintenance budget.

Council Member stressed the need to support the up keep and maintenance of the football field for ongoing programs for our youth.

ACTION: Council Member An'cel Davis moved to approve the measure, with the amendment that financing for this project comes from the Maintenance Budget, Council Member Kenny Ruffin moved to second the motion. **Resolution No. 40-04-2014, with the amendment, was APPROVED by a majority vote of 3/1.**

Attendee Name	Title	VOTE
Evelyn Wynn Dixon	Mayor, At-Large	
Cynthia Stamps Jones	Council Member, Ward 1 Parliamentarian	YEA
An'cel Davis	Council Member, Ward 2 Mayor Pro-Tem	YEA
Wanda Wallace	Council Member, Ward 3	NAY
Kenneth Ruffin	Council Member, Ward 4	YEA

Pursuant to the City Code, Chapter 2, Article 1, Sec. 2-1. (c)

The Matter of Member of Council Excusal from Regular or Special Called Meeting.

Council Member Kenneth Ruffin missed the Wednesday, March 26, 2014 Special Called Meeting.

City Attorney, L'Erin F. Barnes, addressed the Board to advise, per our Ordinance the Governing Body must vote whether Council Member Ruffin's absence from the Wednesday, March 26, 2014 Special Called Meeting is excused or unexcused.

Mayor Dixon called for questions and concerns from the governing body.

Council Member Davis stated rules are in place for a purpose, and its important rules are followed in an organization. When a council member misses a meeting, the citizens they represent are not properly represented and their voice is not heard.

Council Member Wallace stated all members of the Council should be held accountable. They're paid by taxpayers. If a Council Member does not attend a meeting, the council person should not get paid.

Council Member Ruffin stated there is a history of arbitrarily following some rules and not others. He does not have a problem following the rules, however all rules should be followed. Mr. Ruffin commented on the punitive mindset environment amongst the Board. He reminded Council; he provided notice of his pending absence due to work obligations, via email (approx. 1:30pm) to the City Manager. Mr. Ruffin also mentioned there should be a pre-determined list of excuses amended to the Ordinance.

Council Member Stamps-Jones disagreed with the punitive mindset comment, and acknowledged the Ordinance is part of a measure Council Member Ruffin put in place, before most of the current Board members were elected.

Mayor Dixon stated it is imperative the Board amend the ordinance. She indicated the current Ordinance has loose language that needs to be reviewed.

MOTION: Council Member An'cel Davis moved to not excuse Council Member Kenneth Ruffin's 3/26/2014 absence, Council Member Wanda Wallace moved to second the motion. **Council Member Kenneth Ruffin's 3/26/2014 Special Called Meeting absence was NOT EXCUSED by a majority vote of 3/1.**

Attendee Name	Title	VOTE
Evelyn Wynn Dixon	Mayor, At-Large	
Cynthia Stamps Jones	Council Member, Ward 1 Parliamentarian	YEA
An'cel Davis	Council Member, Ward 2 Mayor Pro-Tem	YEA
Wanda Wallace	Council Member, Ward 3	YEA
Kenneth Ruffin	Council Member, Ward 4	NAY

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENT(S):

Council Member Cynthia Stamps-Jones, Ward 1

Council Member Stamps Jones thanked Mr. Jarred Hill with CASA for being a voice for our children. She she wished the Riverdale Centre Fitness Instructor, Angie Sims well in her future endeavors. Rick Scoggins thank you for your concern about employees pay increase, this has been a concern for Council as well. Ms. Stamps-Jones thanked Ms. Goree for her time this evening. She mentioned the Riverdale Downtown Development Authority (RDDA) aim is to guide economic development for the city, and the RDDA was negligent in their duties. She thanked everyone for attending the Council meeting.

Council Member An'cel Davis, Ward 2

Council Member Davis thanked Mr. Pressley for staying with us tonight. He also thanked Mr. Mingo, Ms. Jackson, and Mr. Turner for their expertise. Council Member Davis commented on the need to have a Hall of Fame in the City Hall Atrium to celebrate Riverdale's rich history – showcased with pictures, proclamations, etc.

Council Member Davis later added he spoke with Dr. Thomas with Atlanta Technical College, at this time; she is unable to put state funds in to the incubator because the city does not public transportation.

Council Member Wanda Wallace, Ward 3

Council Member Wallace thanked Ms. Sarah Martin for her public comment. She added, the Board did everything they could regard the new Family Dollar Store. She acknowledged, the city has measures in place to ensure trees and fencing is placed accordingly for the neighborhood citizens.

Council Member Kenny Ruffin, Ward 4

Council Member Ruffin thanked Mr. Jarred Hill with Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA), for his time this evening. Mr. Ruffin served on the Board for a while and truly admires the work of CASA. He added Congressman Davis Scott is raising funds to help repair the roof at the incubator. He asked Council to open their minds regarding what we have access to in order to move our city forward.

Mr. Ruffin mentioned missed opportunities in Washington, DC to reach out to State Representatives to match funding for various projects.

Mayor Evelyn Wynn-Dixon, At-Large

Mayor Dixon mentioned how community leaders are focusing on voter registration in the community, and informing citizens about SPLOST. Mayor Dixon acknowledged the recent "Boys To Men" Lock-In at the Riverdale Centre (Fri April 11th 7pm thru Sat April 12th 7am), was a huge success and well received.

Mayor Dixon recently attended the funeral of Rev. Grant. He was an admired and well respected community leader. She asked everyone to keep the family of Rev. Grant lifted in their thoughts. Mayor Dixon encouraged everyone to attend the upcoming 3rd Annual Easter Egg Hunt – Saturday, April 19, 2014 @ 10AM. She thanked Charles Abbot & Associates for the \$5,000 scholarship award.

Mayor Dixon recently met with Dr. Thomas, President with Atlanta Technical College. The school is interested in a satellite office in the County. She mentioned a Cosmetology School and/or Culinary School in the incubator would be a great asset.

ADJOURNMENT: Council Member Wanda Wallace moved to approve; second offered by Council Member An'cel Davis and with a unanimous vote of 4/0, the meeting adjourned at 9:07PM.