



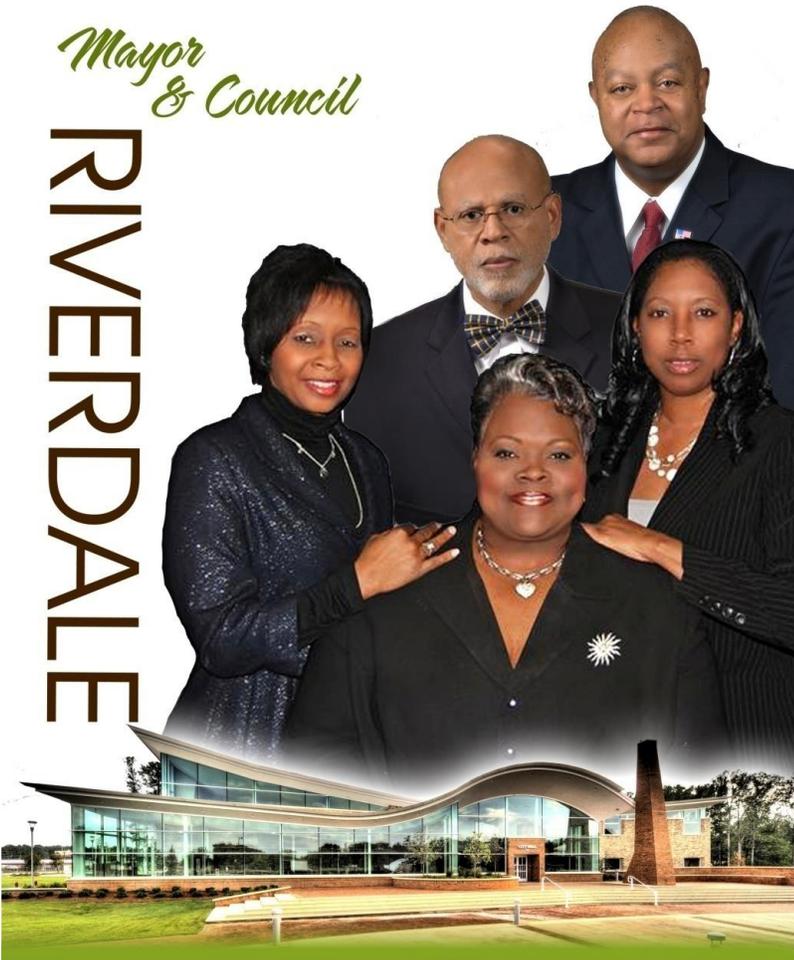
**CITY OF RIVERDALE'S
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
BUSINESS SESSION MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 27, 2015
7:00PM**

MINUTES

City OF RIVERDALE MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING

*Mayor
& Council*

RIVERDALE



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

CITY MANAGER

E. Scott Wood

CITY ATTORNEY

L'Erin F. Barnes

**RIVERDALE CITY HALL
7200 CHURCH STREET
RIVERDALE, GA 30274
770-909-8989**

Prepared by:
Sylvia Vaughan

**WELCOME TO THE MAYOR & COUNCIL
MEETING OF THE CITY OF RIVERDALE.
THIS MEETING IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.**

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**CITY OF RIVERDALE'S
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
BUSINESS SESSION MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY APRIL 27, 2015 | 7:15 PM**

The Honorable Mayor Evelyn Wynn Dixon

The Honorable Cynthia Stamps-Jones
The Honorable Wanda Wallace

The Honorable An'cel Davis
The Honorable Kenneth Ruffin

City Manager:
City Clerk:
City Attorney:

E. Scott Wood
Sylvia Vaughan
E L'Erin Barnes

- I. CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME: Honorable Mayor Evelyn Wynn Dixon.**
- II. ROLLCALL- CITY CLERK:** All Member of Council were present with the exception of Council Member Stamps-Jones which constituted a quorum.
- III. INVOCATION:** Provided by Pastor Riley.
- IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** recited in unison.
- V. OFFICER IN ARMS TO READ RULES OF CONDUCT:** Provided by Sergeant Wilburn.
- VI. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:**

Council Member Wallace made a motion to approve the agenda deleting items 1 and 2; and the Executive Session will be moved before the adjournment. Council Member Davis provided the second. **The motion carried unanimously.**

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

1. Gwen Williams 7167 Williamsburg Drive Riverdale GA. said the investigation is a waste of taxpayer money. She thanked the Police Chief for putting out more officers on the street. She said she has an issue with Code Enforcement and needs assistance from Mayor and Council. She said the Mayor and Council are doing a great job.

2. Mary LaSade 6844 Tara Oaks Drive Riverdale, GA. said she read the article in the paper regarding the allegations and she want to applaud our Mayor. She said we not care what they put out the Mayor because she is doing a great job. She also commended the elected officials and city workers and said they are doing a great job.
3. Marion Buck Stallworth, 6860 Tara Oaks Drive Riverdale, GA. said she is disturbed about the allegations in the paper and said they are false. She said they support the Mayor, Council Member Wallace and Council Member Ruffin. She said she hopes Council Member Davis does not have anything to do with the allegations put out by Council Member Stamps-Jones. She thanked them for all they do. She said Riverdale is becoming a better city because of the long hard hours they work for us.
4. Marie Bruce, 618 Roy Huie Road, Riverdale, GA. said she needs assistance from the city because she is being threaten by children near her residence.
5. Roosevelt Ponder and Jean Boney 6416 Karen Court Riverdale GA. said they are having problems in their subdivisions and asked the city for assistance. Ms. Boney thanked the city for paving their roads, however; only the county part of the roads were paved. So she is asking if they can get approval. Mr. Ponder spoke on the allegations regarding the news article and told the Mayor and Council to hold their heads up high because when you are doing good, it makes you do even better. He said he is proud of the success of the City's current administration. He asked about the repairs of the road in his subdivision. He said he could not get in the building during the last meeting. Council Member Wallace said the meeting was upstairs.
6. Michelle Bruce, 618 Roy Huie Road, Riverdale GA. said he believes in the Mayor and Council and we need to get past the ethics violations. He said the ordinance needs to be change and if these charges are not found the person who filed the charges should be held liable. He said they have to get the city back on track and said they are doing a great job.
7. Bo Adedy, 42 Avalon Way, Riverdale GA. said he wanted to let them know that this is America and we are we are here. He said he admires the Mayors beliefs system and said we should ask not for what your city can do for you but what you can do for your city. He said the Mayor supports the African Community and we have a balanced budget. He said the Council built this city and he has never seen a women such a saint mother of the city. He thanked the Mayor for all she has done.

VIII. PRESENTATION(S) (10 Minute limit): Riverdale Police Exploring Post

Council Member Davis asked investigator Frances to come forward and presented a check of \$500.00 on behalf of the Riverdale Police Exploring Post.

He said he was attending a Rotary Club Meeting and at that meeting Investigator Frances made a presentation about young men and women who may not want to go to college or be the next LeBron James or Michael Jordan. He said they may want to be but can't be he said they may just want to be productive citizens. He said when he saw presentation and video it was so touching he wanted to donate \$500 from his budget a donation to the Riverdale Police Exploring Post.

IX. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Council Business Session Minutes of March 23, 2015 and April 7, 13, and 21st

Council Member Wallace made a motion to approve the Minutes of March 23, 2015 April 7, 13, and 21st with Council Member Davis providing the second. **The motion carried unanimously.**

X. APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS:

3. Resolution No. 34-4-2015 to Surplus of Basketball Goals and Playground Equipment

Council Member Wallace made a motion to approve the Resolution to Surplus of Basketball Goals and Playground Equipment with Council Member Davis providing the second. **The motion carried unanimously.**

4. Resolution No. 35-4-2015 Women's' Homeless Brunch Donations

Mayor Dixon said she has always raised money to feed the homeless and disadvantaged young girls. She said she raised the money from local cooperation's to sponsor it and provide clothing and food; temporary services. She said there are no check regarding this item is listed in her name. They are written to the City of Riverdale.

Council Member Wallace made a motion to approve Resolution No. 35-4-2015 for Women's' Homeless Brunch Donations with Council Member Davis providing the second. **The motion carried unanimously.**

5. Employee Policy for the use and return of city property.

Council Member Ruffin made a motion to table the Employee Policy and bring it back to Council. Council Member Davis provided the second. **The motion carried unanimously.**

6. Resolution No. 36-4-2015 to Approve the Text Amendment

Council Member Wallace made a motion to approve Resolution No. 36-4-2015 Text Amendment with Council Member Davis providing the second. **The motion carried unanimously.**

7. Resolution No. 37-4-2015 to Approve for the City Manager to have Direct Supervision with the City Clerk.

Council Member Wallace made a motion to approve for the City Manager to have Direct Supervision with the City Clerk.

Council Member Davis asked Attorney Barnes to explain what it mean for City Clerk to serve at the discretion of Mayor and Council. . Attorney Barnes said the City Clerk is hired and fired by the Mayor and Council by a majority vote and they are treated like an employee for benefits. She said they are not subject to the handbook they have contractual relationships. They serve at the pleasure of the board.

Council Member Wallace said it is her recommendation to have the City Clerk placed under the City Manager because when you have five voices coming at you it would be much better to have one person for the day to day operation of the city. She said she believes this will be better for the clerk and the board. She said this way there would be one person held accountable. Council Member Ruffin said he think it would better that way the Clerk cannot be working for one or two Council Members and she would have to work closely with the city manager. Council Member Davis asked if they have to resend resolution 77-07-2014.

Attorney Barnes said the Clerk is hired and fired by the Council and they are not subject as contractual benefit. Council Member Wallace said it is better for the clerk. He said to make the change using a contractual agreement. Attorney Barnes said the contract is what is needed. Council Member Ruffin said it is better for the City Clerk to work closely with the City Manager. Attorney Barnes said the charter would have to be changed and the resolution; and suggested a contract. Council Member Davis asked if the position will change when a person leaves the position. Attorney Barnes said no, however; it is at the discretion of Mayor and Council if you want to change it. Council Member Wallace said she suggested this and she would like to see it happen.

Council Member Davis made a motion to table the approval for the City Manager to have Direct Supervision with the City Clerk and come back with a contract. Council Member Wallace asked Mr. Wood to get with Attorney Barnes regarding the language of the contract. Council Member Wallace provided the second. **The motion carried unanimously.**

XI. MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Council Member Ruffin read letter into the record regarding the allegations. He said his letter expounded upon a letter Council Member Wallace added as an attachment to the Meeting Minutes of April 13, 2015 regarding the allegations made by Council Member Stamps-Jones. He said this action is all about appointments that are no longer in place. He said appointments made to the assistant city manager position were in direct violation of the city charter. He said the city labor attorney provided additional information regarding this issue and a vote was rescinded on this illegal action. He said the City Clerk serves at the pleasure of the board. He said the minutes of 2013 to 2014 were posted by city clerk for 8 months which is a violation of the Georgia Open Meetings Act (**please read attachment**).

Council Member Davis thanked everyone for coming out to the meeting and said a lot of things are going on in the world. He said not all police are bad, there are bad apples in every barrel. He said his heart goes out to the Mayor and his prayers are with her.

Mayor Dixon read a letter regarding 10 allegations she was charged with into the record. She said the hardest thing she has had to do and she has never been a thief. She said her late father would say make it do what it do. She said she never took kickbacks from Willow Watson because the \$2500 was put in the bank in October 2012. She spoke about the police escort and said she is trying to be an ambassador for the city to get people to come to the city. She said she lost her job but she knows that God can do anything but fail. She said the allegations were not true about her working Sherry Henderson 140 hours and she only asked Ms. Henderson to scan her documents because she was having issues with them going through. She said she has a lot of support and the allegations are not true (**Please read attachment**).

Council Member Wallace said she has submitted a copy of her letter to the newspaper and at the last Special Called Meeting of April 21, 2015. She said the allegations are lies about them. She said right is right and wrong is wrong; and a coward can run. She said the ethics complaints were addressed on April 21st and tonight. She said Mayor Dixon came out 2 hours after her father passed. She said Council Member Stamps-Jones said this woman has put a dark cloud on this city and she is not fit to be on Council. Council Member Wallace said she is here to serve and do what is right. She said their names

will be cleared. She said for someone to do something like this what will she do next what will the devil do next.

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Council Member Wallace made a motion to recess to go into executive session to discuss a personnel and legal matter with Council Member Ruffin providing the second. **The motion carried.**

XIII. ADJOURNMENT:

Council Member Wallace made a motion to reconvene back into the Regular Council Meeting and adjourn at 9:25 pm with Council Member Ruffin providing the second. **The motion carried.**

WHEN AN EXECUTIVE SESSION IS REQUIRED, ONE WILL BE ALLED FOR THE FOLLOWING ISSUES: 1) PEERSONNEL, 2) LITIGATION OR 3) REAL ESTATE

Mayor Evelyn Wynn Dixon

Sylvia Vaughan City Clerk

April 20, 2015

Re: Ethics Charges

To Whom It Make Concern:

This letter serves as a response to ethics allegations and the possibility of sanctions against myself, Mayor Evelyn Wynn-Dixon, Councilwomen Wallace and Councilman Ruffin, filed by Councilwoman Cynthia Stamps-Jones. In this letter, each ethics allegation, levied against me is addressed. Please allow me to first note that my name is misspelled numerous times throughout the document filed against me. The correct spelling of my name is Mayor Evelyn Wynn-Dixon; not Winn. This misspelling leads me to believe there were several individuals who devised this erroneous document. This was a group to attack my character, integrity, and serve as a form of embarrassment, and most of all bullying.

In addition, this will be Councilwoman Cynthia Stamps-Jones' third attempt to humiliate me in the public eye. For example, On December 10, 2014, Councilwoman Stamps Jones lambasted me in the Clayton Daily News stating, "Stamps-Jones said she believed the Mayor's role in helping the resolutions pass showed she "lacks leadership and vision". This is a result of me following the law and honoring the City Charter; I did not on the retaining two Assistant City Manager's position, which was contrary to Councilwoman Stamps-Jones' beliefs. As a result, I received a personal attack and an implication made against me in the courtroom that I was a "Welfare Mayor".

These recent allegations, in my opinion, is retaliation for me voting to hire the new City Clerk. Based on the statements made by Stamps-Jones following the vote in which she stated, "This isn't over". Two weeks later and one day before Ms. Sherry Henderson's, City Clerk last day, the charges were filed. However, I am in disbelief as to the reasons Councilwoman Stamps-Jones would spearhead this campaign. Prior to these allegations, she spoke with me in my office, in tears and apologizing, for all of her wrong doings towards me. The evidence will show that if I did not vote in the manner Councilwoman Stamps-Jones wished, I will continuously be attacked in some form or fashion by her.

Sec. 3-4. - Impartiality. (Ord. No. 13-2006. § 1. 7-24-06; Ord. No. 12-2007. 8-13-07)

(a) An elected or appointed official shall not, by such individual's conduct, give reasonable basis for the impression that any person can improperly influence or unduly enjoy favor in the performance of public duties, official acts or actions or that such individual is *affected* unduly by the rank or position of or kinship or association with any person.

- I have never abused, neither influenced anyone during my tenure as Mayor of Riverdale. Mrs. Stamp-Jones indicated I had obtained personal gain, unsolicited notoriety, a means for unpublished memoirs, favors. She has stated that I have taken frivolous outings that are self-serving and not reporting my every move to council.
- These charges are not valid because it is not mandated anywhere in the City Charter that I provide Councilwoman Stamps-Jones my every move or daily itinerary. I have a cell phone in which I answer 100% of the time and the Clerk knows my daily calendar. Once again, this is another way of Councilwoman trying to control me and malign my character. I have received numerous awards for the City of Riverdale, put it was never for personal gain. I always present the city with all awards and information from all community events. I also attend meetings on local, state and nation levels to represent the city.
- The notion Ms. Wallace or Mr. Ruffin influenced me to vote their way is a lie. In fact, neither Ms. Wallace nor Ruffin were in my corner then. I researched my own information and came up with my own conclusion. Note, when Ms. Wallace voted her true feelings, things changed and the allegations were file. I am my own person and I vote based on the City Charter.
- Regarding me influencing the former City Managers/Finance Director is absolutely ludicrous. The only thing I did with the aforementioned persons were sign checks. In fact, most business was done by the City Manager who carries out the day-to-day operations. I lead the meetings every second and fourth Monday. These meetings are conducted to handle city business with council and staff.

(b) An elected or appointed official shall not use his/her position in any way to coerce or to give the appearance of coercing another person to provide any financial benefit to him/her, his/her partners in interest, members of his/her immediate family or those with whom he/she has business or financial ties.

- This allegation is the worst of all because this project was in conjunction with the University of Georgia, Carl Vinson Institute, Archway that partnered with the Chairman of Clayton County, all seven mayors in the City of Clayton County and the County School

Board. I have done everything above board by having meetings at the city and Stamps-Jones attended the last meeting that was held at Riverdale City Hall.

This meeting was to obtain an avenue on raising funds to purchase the vegetation for the entrance sign into the city. The students from UGA would lead the project for the sign. When the names were put on the table for possible people to donate to this cause, Mr. Watkins' name was mentioned. I asked Mr. Watkins will he be a sponsor. No illegal actions or promises made.

In regards to a waiver; that was a discussion done with the council for months to see how to make Riverdale more marketable to businesses. However, I never had any waiver conversations with Mr. Watkins. The only thing stated was a possibility to indicate the sign was donated by him. Whenever there were any interactions about his projects, I always referenced him back to Mrs. Camilla Moore, **Director of Planning and Zoning**. Also, during this time, I had dialogue with the City Manager who indicated it was okay to take the check from Mr. Watkins. The check was written to the **City of Riverdale** and then placed in the bank where it remained from 2012 until 2015.

It was noted in the allegations that I used the money for my personal gain and programs. This is not possible when the money was in the bank.

Ms. Moore stated I was in violation because there was an open permit. This is a concern due to the fact that I had no knowledge and Mr. Watkins had his permits to me initially when the money was donated to the city. Furthermore, Mr. Watkins was working, pouring sidewalks and working with the county. Stamps-Jones again stated Mr. Watkins' attorney was questioning where the money is. This could not have occurred since I was in contact with his administrator and gave explanation to any question they may have had. They appeared okay **Council**, but once our new finance director gave question to if there was an open permit maybe the funds should not have been received by the city. In order to dismiss any impartialities on the City's behalf, I requested that a resolution be completed to return the funds to Mr. Watkins. The resolution was placed on the agenda to be voted on and the funds were returned.

After reviewing the minutes, Stamps- Jones stated I voted to return the funds back Mr. Watkins. According to the minutes written by Ms. Sherry Henderson, it was a unanimous vote by council 4-0, which does not include my vote. Once again, I was publicly lied on by Stamps-Jones and the allegations were unfounded.

My major concern here; Ms. Moore, via e-mail stated I took the money and never turned it in. The new city and Finance Director researched the matter and found that the money was in the bank. When the truth was discovered, no apology was given.

Again, Mr. Ruffin neither Ms. Wallace ever influenced me in anything, and I never promised Mr. Watkins anything.

Now the statement made I took are recommend fund be given for political events is another lie. Ms. Jones received proceeds as well in the court room from Mr. Watkins and sidewalks were still being built.

(c) Appointed and elected officials shall avoid any action which might result in or create the appearance, of the following:

C: Using public office for gain

I never used any funds for personal gains. All the funds I have ever raised for my programs were designated for serious causes, such as a scholarships for the most improved student in ten schools, three in my city and the others had a Riverdale I provided the students a monetary gift and the Mayor's Cup that I gave out at the graduation ceremonies. Also, my Women's History Month where the disadvantaged and women in shelters are given a free breakfast, mentoring, job opportunities provided by staffing services, clothing, prayer and offering the chance for hope in their life. This event has a huge success rate and is welcomed in the community. In addition, the City-wide Easter Egg Hunt is another great event and is free to the community. **Plus, I worked with Mr. Grants Homeless Program as well.**

Note – As Mayor, I only conduct one fund raiser a year. All funds raised are turned into the City, which has been protocol for the last five years.

Note – I have never traveled to a training program in which a class was not attended. I brought proof of each class and provided a certificate to the Clerk. In comparison, I never traveled to as many classes as Councilwoman Stamps-Jones.

I have never, under any circumstance, defrauded the government. The statement I was trying to hide money is another false accusation against me. In regards to the resolution being requested. A vote taken did not instruct the Mayor not to vote and Councilwoman Stamps-Jones was present. In any situation, if there is a problem with voting, it would be addressed at that time.

The notion that Stamps-Jones and Mr. Davis were not informed is another untruth. Ms. Hung called both council persons and both declined Ms. Jones stated she was going out of town and Mr. Davis noted he would not return to a meeting until the 18 of the month. Ms. Hung noted Ms. Jones was rude to her and Mr. Woods said just let it go But where in the Charter you can be

rude. Both Davis and Jones were e-mailed the Resume and it was only one candidate to review, the others were not a fit for various reasons. Ruffin, Wallace nor I did not violate any laws we saw the candidate individually and we were pleased. Upon the advice of council we let the city manager do the process for selecting a candidate. This selecting a candidate was fair

3-Affecting the confidence of public in the integrity of the government

For everyone who knows me can attest that I am not a bully. What can I state concerning this untruth in regards to Cie Cie Wilson and Nate Mingo beginning abused and bullied by me is I have called them to my offices for city business only. I gave referrals to Ms. Wilson that come to my office and Mr. Mingo when he served as Assistant City Manager. I never requested any personal favors from anyone. I did request that Ms. Wilson work with the County's Chairman and School Superintendent. In regards to receiving gifts from events, I always bring them back to share with the offices. For example, fruit baskets are always shared with the staff in the building. I am known throughout the city and county for not working with businesses. I am firm in directing individuals to the City Manager or planning and zoning, now or **not** only to the manager. I have not taken any form of a kickback from anyone.

3-12: unauthorized use of a city employee's property, and interference with city operations.

I understand Ms. Henderson was angry with me because I voted to hire the new clerk, but she was already dismissed. However, I personally never worked Ms. Henderson 140 hours, and never into the midnight. I do acknowledge Ms. Henderson did assist me with scanning my foreclosure papers to my loan company. It was after hours and she was working late, as usual, so I inquired if she could show me how to scan and do the attachments. I offered to pay her and she stated, "No Mayor, I don't want anything." I also offered her a spa massage and \$25 for her time and appreciation from me, but again she stated "No". In reference to this situation, Ms. Henderson rescanned the documents because the company stated they never received them. I was very grateful to Ms. Henderson for that because it saved my house. If Ms. Henderson assisting me in this task was an issue, she could have said something at that time, but she offered to scan them for me. We never stayed until dark, and this process only took a total of three hours for both times she helped me. Once again, I did not vote to have Ms. Henderson released. The vote was 2-1.

This is proof that this is a planned attack.

Ms. Henderson reported to Stamps-Jones several persons I had in my office for private meetings. For example, when I was beginning the interview by Callin O’Brain in my office with the door closed for me to reply to Stamps-Jones’ allegations published in the Clayton Daily,

Stamps-Jones was called by Ms. Henderson to inform her who was in my office . Ms. Jones immediately came to my office, burst into the door and ask Mrs. O’Brian, “What are you doing here”.

Summoning people to my office to fire them is another lie. Yes, I did request staff to come to my office 90% of the time from Cultural Affairs to meet people and take them back to the center to talk. Not once did I threaten their jobs. Now on the other hand regarding Ms. Moore, I did request her to my office after 3 days of refusing to return my calls, answer my calls or text. I even had the front office staff, on several occasions, to reach out to her, with no results. Finally, I asked the front office to request she come to my office immediately or maybe other measures would be taken. The problem is I was totally disrespected as the Mayor. Then to further insult me, she brought her entire staff. The City Manager and I had to tell them to leave my office because this meeting was for Ms. Moore only. The meeting was regarding her demeaning me before people, clients and staff who desired to do business with The City of Riverdale. I am the ex-officio according to the Charter, and I have the ability to go to any department and make inquiries.

Regarding the use of the escort services was a process in place prior to my tenure as Mayor. I drive myself at least 95% of the time, and the citizens complained that I needed a drive. My engagements are for Boards like GRETA, Governor Task Force, Red Cross, School, Georgia Power, Atlanta Gas Light Colleges, Chamber of Commerce, Transportation and many other boards trying to bring business to Riverdale. These engagements are for the City; even if just to give a prayer to represent the City by being the ambassador. At (HOA) on the weekend I work this city seven days a week.

Please note former Chief Patterson and the new Chief Spivey stated I have not broken any laws. The hours are scheduled and rarely go over four hours. In fact, Stamps-Jones has had her family the police car, which is not a sanctioned use of this vehicle.

To address the issue of personal friends for discounts. My discounts were not used due to the recommended party decided to use another venue. However, Chairman Turner, has used the facilities for Marta meetings to get Trans back to the citizens of Riverdale. This was necessary to provide a place to meet and negotiate the terms of buses coming back to Riverdale, which is needed and welcomed by our citizens.

The other papers I don't know what they are and will not address them because they were from 2004.

Finally, it appears to me this is a personal vendetta against me because I am constantly under fire with many false accusations such I never allow Ms. Jones to speak are just deny her period to be a part of the meetings. Ms. Jones has publicly express that she hates me and with these allegations it truly shows. In the Work Session/Business Session Ms. Jones would rattle on forever and at the end of the meeting state "what was this meeting about". Please know whenever you disagree with her vote differently from her look out. But I am not fearful of I am going to always stand for right. That's why I requested a Resolution to give Mr. Watkins money back and not the position to Ms. Moore. I felt trouble was coming because Ms. Jones implied when we voted in the new clerk "Ms. Jones stated this is not over believe me".

April 27, 2015

To: Citizens of Riverdale;

From Councilman Kenny Ruffin,

I'm going to expound on a couple of points that Councilwoman Wallace brought up on her letter dated April 13, 2015 in response to Councilmember Stamps-Jones' allegations on the majority of the governing body. Ms. Wallace hit the bulls eye on the target when she stated this action is all about appointments that are no longer in place. Appointments made to the assistant city manager positions were in direct violation of the city charter. While we can create positions, we don't have the authority to appoint those that are not already defined like judge or clerk. The city labor attorney provided additional clarity on the situation and the vote was rescinded on this illegal action.

Secondly, the clerk serves at the pleasure of the board and numerous required legal tasks were not completed. The most glaring to me was that minutes from April 2014 to November 2014 weren't posted for 8 months. This is a glaring violation of the Georgia Open Meetings/Records Act. The clerk had been in her position after being trained for several months for that position and there's no excuse for not accomplishing this task. The city could have been legally cited for this lack of compliance. Ms Henderson has also relayed to staff that I didn't want to be included on city information without ever hearing that come out of my mouth. What I did say was that I needed to be included on things that deal with policy, money and other pertinent information. What I didn't need to know is if another member of the governing body brings up grass not getting cut. This blanket excuse has been overused to conveniently not inform me of important city business.

Councilman Davis and Councilwoman Stamps-Jones seemed not to be concerned about the legalities of both of these issues. Concerning the charges about interfering in the athletic programs, I need to remind everyone about how upset the community was when the park was closed to build the current Town Center. I was advised about the

importance of starting and maintaining an effective recreation program. Effective means all kids at different talent and economic levels would grow athletically and socially. The most important parts of this goal is to re-engage the coaches and volunteers who previously worked with kids along with recruiting new ones. Many of the surrounding

programs, in particular Clayton County, have bent over backwards to guide us in building our programs. They understand we serve the same kids. The Intergovernmental Agreement for use of the football field and the new single age format in football are evidence of a strong collaboration between the Riverdale, Clayton County, College Park and possibly Warner Robbins. The 8th Annual Riverdale Night at the Hawks just concluded last month with 120 kids taking part in activities at Phillips Arena before the Hawks game. Unfortunately targeting the Youth Council is personal for Councilmember Stamps-Jones. I resigned in September of 2013 because our senior advisor, Melvin Morris could see what was coming. He predicted we would be accused of financial issues or in- appropriate behavior. Look where we are now. While the claim is that the kids went to Texas, Tennessee and Seattle, they never went there giving credibility that Mrs. Stamps-Jones didn't write these allegations. She had a conversation with Mrs. Ruffin at the hotel we were both staying at in November, 60 days after we resigned. She's upset her son was removed for not coming to any meetings after only coming to one before we went to Denver. These kids cleaned up several subdivision front entrances, visited seniors at a couple of convalescent homes and tutored kids at Church St. Elementary. In other words these kids worked in the community. In closing, it's sad that someone who lost their education certification by not following protocol has made claims against 3 people who are just trying to make things better.

Sincerely,

Kenny Ruffin
Riverdale Councilman