



**CITY OF RIVERDALE
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
BUSINESS SESSION MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 10, 2015 | 7:00PM**

MINUTES

*Mayor
& Council*

RIVERDALE



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

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



**City of Riverdale
 Mayor and City Council
 Business Session Meeting Minutes
 August 10, 2015 | 7 PM**

1. **CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME: Honorable Mayor Wynn Dixon.**
2. **ROLL CALL- CITY CLERK:** All Member of Council were present which constituted a quorum.

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

3. **INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The invocation was provided by Pastor Riley and the pledge of allegiance was recited in unison.
4. **OFFICER IN ARMS TO READ RULES OF CONDUCT:**
5. **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA WITH ANY ADDITIONS/DELETIONS:**

Council Member Wallace made a motion to approve the Agenda as presented with the following amendments:

Additions: Item 10. Sale of Orme Street Property

Deletions: Item No. 2. Travel Policy
 Item No. 6. Beautification Development of City General Services
 Item No. 7. Cultural Center Financial Update
 Item No. 8. Staffing Update

Item No. 11. Executive Session

Council Member Ruffin provided the second. **The motion carried unanimously.**

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS (5 minutes): SEE BLUE CARD FOR RULES OF PARTICIPATION

- 1) Linda Granger, 6431 Mark Trail, Riverdale, GA. 30296 spoke on a formal complaint regarding a city violation of her constitutional right. Ms. Granger stated that she was unreasonably searched by Officer V. Barnes a City of Riverdale Police Officer. Ms. Granger requested that she would like for this complaint to be addressed by the governing body. Mayor Dixon asked Ms. Granger if she would see the Chief of Police after the meeting to address her concerns.
- 2) Oritha Scoggins, 1185 King Road, Riverdale, GA. 30296 spoke about personal spending on credit cards and 1.5 million dollars missing from the general fund. Mr. Scoggins goes on to speak about \$400,000 dollars lost per year in parties. He stated he asked the City to look at Fayetteville and Peachtree City as a way to save the City \$274,000 in reduction for trash hauling. Mr. Scoggins spoke on the warning systems and individuals who have two credit cards. He asked if the debt on the Riverdale Town Center could be reviewed by the governing body. Mr. Scoggins also spoke about the safety of the Police Officers and the safety equipment that they are in need of. He asked about the deannexation of businesses on Hwy 85. Mayor Dixon thanked Mr. Scoggins for his concerns and advised him to come and speak with the City Manager because the concerns he addressed has already be done.
- 3) Ann Murray, 1170 Hershey Drive, Marietta, Ga. 30062 spoke about the Social Host Ordinance. Ms. Murray asked if the Mayor and Council could consider the ordinance. She explained that the purpose of the ordinance is for the consideration of the Riverdale City Council. The purpose is to prevent adults from facilitating underage drinking.
- 4) Larry and Samaria Clark, 7012 Hwy 85, Riverdale, Ga. 30274 spoke on a proposed Express Car Wash facility at 7012 Hwy 85. Mr. Clark asked if this location could be considered by the governing body for the rezoning. Mayor Dixon advised Mr. Clark to speak with Mr. Ellis Still regarding his request.
- 5) Deborah Anglin and Richard Jordon, 640 Hwy 138, Riverdale GA. 30274 thanked the governing body for their support of the Hearts to Nourish Hope. Mr. Richard Jordan asked the Mayor and Council to come celebrate the Hearts of Hope 20th year anniversary; and to become a sponsor to support the mission.

7. PRESENTATION(S) (10 Minute limit) (None Scheduled)

8. APPROVAL OF THE CITY COUNCIL MINUTES: Work Session and Business Session Minutes of June 22, 2015 and July 27, 2015

Council Member Ruffin made a motion to approve the Work Session and Business Session Minutes of June 22, 2015 and July 27, 2015. Council Member Wallace provided the second. Council Member Wallace asked the City Clerk who provided changes to the minutes. The City Clerk responded that Council Members Ruffin and Davis made additions; however, Council Member Stamps Jones did not submit any additions. **After discussion the motion carried unanimously.**

9. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA ITEMS:

Council Member Wallace made a motion to approve the Agenda with Council Member Ruffin providing the second.

1) APPROVAL OF THE DEANNEXATION OF PROPERTY OUT OF THE CITY OF RIVERDALE LOCATED AT 1183 KING ROAD

Mayor Dixon presented the deannexation of two parcels of 6.6 acres located at 1183 King Road. Mr. Scoggins who is the owner of the property came forward for comments. Mayor Dixon asked to hear from those who were in favor or opposition of deannexation of property from the City of Riverdale to Clayton County.

Comments:

Spoke in Favor: (No one came forward)

Spoke in Opposition: (No one came forward).

After hearing no comments, Mayor Dixon called for a vote to move forward with the deannexation.

Council Member Wallace made a motion to approve the deannexation of property out of the City of Riverdale, located at 1183 King Road including Ordinance No. 4 with Council Member Ruffin providing the second. **The motion carried unanimously.**

2) TRAVEL POLICY

This item was deleted from the agenda.

3) ETHICS ORDINANCE REVISION

Council Member Ruffin made a motion to approve the Ethics Ordinance Revisions/ Ordinance No. 5, Section 3.18 to 3.23 with additions. Council Member Wallace provided the second.

Council Member Ruffin stated that the revisions were badly needed. He explained that there were twenty two ethic charges. Fifteen of those twenty two charges did not provide any facts. Council Member Ruffin stated that seventeen of the twenty two charges were outside the twelve months' timeframe and thirteen of the twenty two charges did not have any dates. Council Member Ruffin goes on to say that these are just examples of why the ordinance had to be revised.

Council Member Wallace said she does not have a problem with the revisions. She asked if the procedure to file a complaint could be deleted under item number 4, page 2.

Council Member Davis asked Attorney Barnes if the Ethics Ordinance could stand the test of time. Attorney Barnes answered yes, the revisions address the problems that we may have in the future.

Council Member Stamps-Jones thanked Attorney Barnes for her honest answer regarding the Ethics Ordinance standing the test of time. Council Member Stamps-Jones stated that she was concerned about the limited time frame for the board to review the ordinance. She spoke on the ethics complaint she filed and explained how the process of those charges should have been handled more thoroughly by the ethics officer and the previous City Clerk. Council Member Stamps-Jones stated she does not feel this ordinance will stand the test of time.

Mayor Dixon stated the Ethics Ordinance needed to be revised because there were a lot of concerns with the current one. She stated it was also recommended at the request of an attorney.

After discussion, the motion passed with Council Members Ruffin, Wallace and Mayor Dixon voting "Yes" and Council Members Stamps-Jones and Davis abstained from voting. Mayor Dixon broke the tie.

4) MEETING DECORUM POLICY

Council Member Wallace made a motion to approve the Decorum Policy/Ordinance No. 6, Amendment of Chapter 2, Administration, Article 1; to allow for a public community forum; and to provide an effective date. Council Member Ruffin provided the second.

Council Member Stamps-Jones inquired about item 2.34-E, regarding an individual having to contact the City Clerk to be placed on an agenda, if they are not a resident. An explanation of Section 2.34 – E was provided by Attorney Barnes in detail.

Council Member Wallace stated she supports the policy and thanked Attorney Barnes for doing an outstanding job on the Decorum Policy.

Council Member Ruffin spoke about Section 2.30 regarding the time frame that is allowed for a member of the governing body to speak.

Council Member Stamps-Jones stated the entire governing body should represent the constituents and follow the Roberts Rules of conduct. Council Member Stamps-Jones asked if the board could prepare a retreat to discuss the future of the City.

After discussion, the motion passed with Council Members Ruffin, Wallace and Mayor Dixon voting “Yes” and Council Members Stamps-Jones and Davis voting “No”. Mayor Dixon broke the tie.

5) ORDINANCE TO AMEND HR ACT

Council Member Wallace made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 7 to Amend HR Act, Section 54 with Council Member Ruffin providing the second.

Council Member Stamps-Jones stated that the ordinance allows the department heads and the City Manager to decide whether an employee will be demoted.

Attorney Kitchens explained that the personnel board will be limited to termination. She explained that if the employee is demoted or suspended they are still subject to the department head. Attorney Kitchens goes on to say that termination is left up to the outside board to review the actions of the administration of the city.

Council Member Davis stated that he is opposed to the Ordinance No. 7 amendment because coming out of a union background. He is in support of the working man.

Council Member Wallace stated she supports the ordinance amendment and she believes it will hold people accountable.

Council Member Ruffin stated that he supports the ordinance amendment. He explained that if the employee is terminated, they would still have the right file an appeal with the Supreme Court.

Mayor Dixon stated that without policies to create order, there would be chaos. She stated that the Personnel Board is very crucial because they make sure that everyone's rights are met.

After discussion, the motion passed with Council Members Ruffin, Wallace and Mayor Dixon voting "Yes" and Council Members Stamps-Jones and Davis voting "No". Mayor Dixon broke the tie.

6) BEAUTIFICATION DEVELOPMENT OF CITY AND GENERAL SERVICES

This item was deleted from the agenda and the City Manager will provide a report for this item.

7) CULTURAL CENTER FINANCIAL UPDATE

This item was deleted from the agenda and the City Manager will provide a report for this item.

8) STAFFING UPDATE

This item was deleted from the agenda and the City Manager will provide a report for this item.

9) APPROVAL OF THE APPOINTMENT TO THE PERSONNEL BOARD TO FILL A VACANCY

Council Member Wallace made a motion to suspend the rules to amend the agenda and appoint Mary LaSonde to the City of Riverdale Personnel Board. Council Member Ruffin provided the second. **The motion carried unanimously.**

Council Member Wallace made a motion to amend the agenda to approve Resolution No.41 to appoint Mary LaSonde to the Personnel Board with Council Member Ruffin providing the second. **The motion carried unanimously.**

Council Member Wallace made a motion to appoint Mary LaSonde to the Personnel Board to fulfill a vacancy/Resolution No. 41. Council Member Ruffin provided the second. **The motion carried unanimously.**

Attorney Barnes conducted the Oath of Office for the appointment of Mary LaSonde to the Civil Service Personnel Board.

10) SALE OF ORME STREET PROPERTY

Council Member Ruffin stated he went out to view the property and he supports the sale of the Orme Street property.

Council Member Davis stated he does not support the sale of Orme Street because the City is only 3.7 miles. He stated that \$40,000 is not going to make or break the city and he is totally against it.

Council Member Stamps-Jones asked if there were any specs available for review and how would it benefit the city. She stated that she does not see why we have to rush in future planning.

After discussion, Council Member Wallace made a motion to approve for the City Manager to move forward with the sale of Orme Street Property. Council Member Ruffin provided the second. **The motion passed with Council Members Ruffin, Wallace and Mayor Dixon voting “Yes” and Council Members Stamps-Jones and Davis voting “No”. Mayor Dixon broke the tie.**

Council Member Ruffin a made a motion to approve the negotiation for the City Manager to move forward with the sale of Orme Street. Council Member Wallace provided the second. **The motion passed with Council Members Ruffin, Wallace and Mayor Dixon voting “Yes” and Council Members Stamps-Jones and Davis abstained from voting. Mayor Dixon broke the tie.**

11) EXECUTIVE SESSION

This item was deleted from the agenda.

10. MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENT(S):

Council Member Stamps Jones commented that school is back in session and applauded Council Member Davis for going by the various schools and dropping off donations to the students. Council Member Stamps Jones wished all the teachers, parents and students a wonderful school year. She also spoke about the development of the charter school and how excited she is about it.

Council Member Davis thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He apologized to Ms. Granger and said if she was offended in any way and he hope that we can come up with a peaceful resolution to the situation. Council Member Davis stated that this city is about building greatness and treating people right. He congratulated the nonprofit organization, Hearts of Hope on their 20th year anniversary and thanked them for attending the meeting.

Council Member Wallace thanked everyone for attending the meeting and said she hopes to see everyone at the next meeting.

Mayor Dixon stated that she met with the King of Nigeria and he would like to do business with the city. She spoke about Ann Murray who introduced the Alcohol Program for youths. She also announced that the Utopian School opened this year. There being no further business being presented before the board, Mayor Dixon called for a motion to adjourn.

11. ADJOURNMENT:

Council Member Wallace made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:20pm with Council Member Ruffin providing the second. **The motion carried.**

Evelyn Wynn- Dixon, Mayor

Sylvia Vaughan, City Clerk