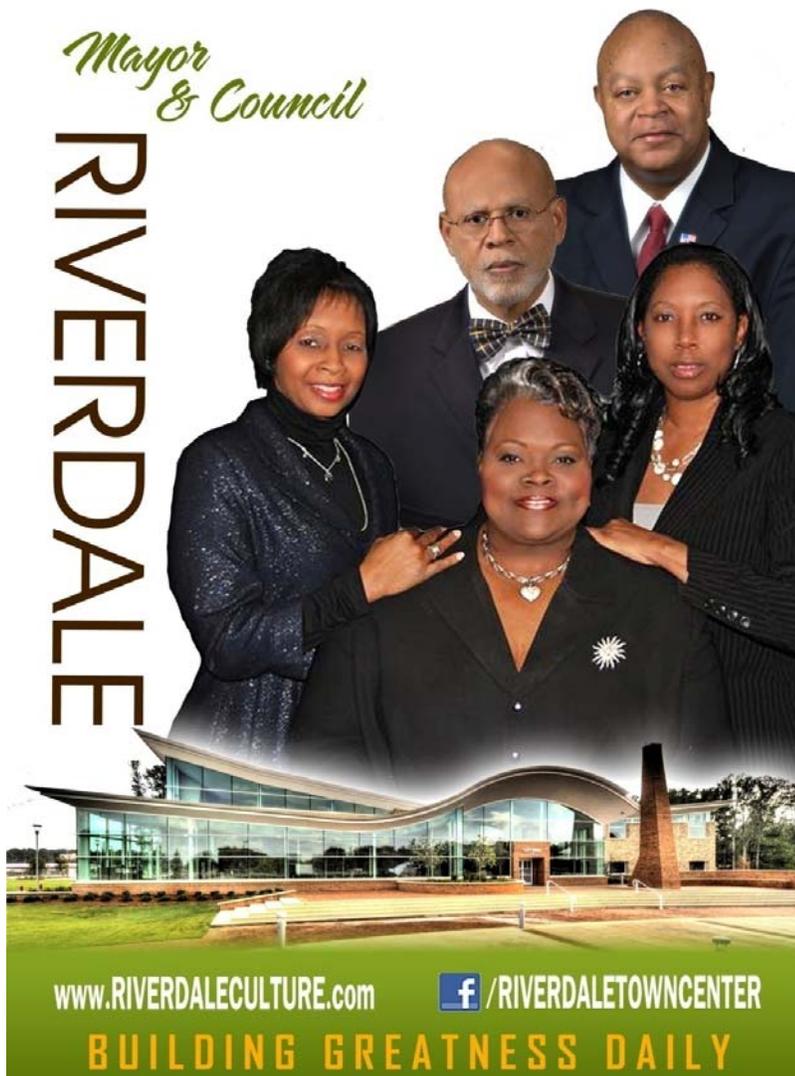




**CITY OF RIVERDALE'S
MAYOR AND COUNCIL BUSINESS SESSION
MINUTES
July 27, 2015
7:00PM**

Minutes



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 Clerk
Sylvia Vaughan

CITY ATTORNEY
L'Erin F. Barnes

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

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

**CITY OF RIVERDALE'S
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
BUSINESS SESSION MINUTE
MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY JULY 27, 2015 | 7:00 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
L'Erin Barnes

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

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

3. **INVOCATION:** Provided by Pastor Riley.
4. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Recited in unison.
5. **OFFICER IN ARMS TO READ RULES OF CONDUCT:**
6. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:** There was a consensus to approve the Agenda with one deletion; Item no. 2. Approval of the Attorney Fees for the Personnel Board Attorney Damon Elmore.

Council Member Wallace made a motion to adopt the agenda with the one deletion. Council Member Ruffin provided the second. **The motion carried unanimously.**

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

1. Mary LaSonde, 6844 Tara Oaks Drive, Riverdale GA. 30274 thanked the City Manager, Council Member Ruffin and the Fire; and Police Department for assisting her with the concerns she had in her neighborhood. She stated she looks forward to a final resolution to an ongoing issue.
2. Joseph Hudson, 6856 Tara Oaks Drive, Riverdale GA. spoke on small business development strategies to bring in economic businesses to the city. He stated that small businesses are recognized as an engine that brings in the most jobs in the United States. He commented that we need to build a prosperous economy.

8. PRESENTATION(S) 10 Minute limit The Rotary Club of Clayton County President Dr. Paddy Sharma-Requested by Council Member An’cel Davis

Dr. Sharma of the Clayton County Rotary Club thanked Council Members An’cel Davis, Cynthia Stamps-Jones and Mayor Wynn-Dixon for their \$1600.00 donation.

Council Comments:

Council Member Wallace thanked the Rotary Club for all their efforts and stated the donation was given for a good cause.

Council Member Davis thanked the Rotary Club for embracing his wife to be a part of the team. He stated she has worked very hard for the cause. He also stated Mrs. Davis looks forward to working with the Rotary Club next year.

Council Member Stamps-Jones thanked the Rotary Club and stated she was honored that Riverdale was asked to participate. She thanked them for all they have done and commended them on being a servant for the public.

Mayor Dixon stated she had a meeting with the new owners of South Regional Hospital and was elated to learn about their five year plan. She stated that she is very impressed with the new owners and their plans to move forward.

9. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Council Minutes of June 22, 2015 Business and Work Session

Council Member Ruffin made corrections to the Minutes of June 22, 2015 Business Session, listed on page 6; under his comments. Council Member Ruffin stated it is essential that there are specific documented benefits to the City that are a result of the travel and training that the governing body utilizes. The \$20,000 grant from KABOOM for the Regional Park Playground and the Prescription Discount Card Program that has directly

saved over \$6,000 to residents buying medications. The initial contact and presentation to Congressman David Scott's \$250,000 earmark to the city for the Towne Center are three examples of benefits resulting from travel and training. These programs did not come at a personal cost to our citizens.

Council Member Davis requested additions to the minutes under his comments regarding the service warranty for the City of Riverdale's utilities. He stated how the service warranty would provide great benefits to the residents. He explained that the service warranty is like the sewer line; if you break the sewer line, it will cost more than \$6.00 per month and it can be replaced from the street to your home. The cost for the water line is \$8.00 per month.

Council Member Stamps Jones made a motion to table the minutes with Council Member Davis providing the second.

Council Member Wallace made a recommendation for the board to review the minutes prior to the meeting and notify the City Clerk of any changes. Council Member Stamps Jones asked about the timeframe for submitting the minutes to the City Clerk once they are provided to the Council for review. Council Member Wallace stated the minutes should be returned to the clerk prior to the Mayor and Council Meeting. **After discussion, the motion carried unanimously.**

10. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA ITEMS:

1) THE AUTHORIZATION FOR THE MAYOR TO SIGN THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT (IGA) BETWEEN CLAYTON COUNTY AND THE CITY OF RIVERDALE TO CONDUCT THE 2015 GENERAL ELECTION

Council Member Wallace made a motion to approve the IGA between Clayton County and the City of Riverdale to conduct the 2015 General Election. **The motion passed unanimously.**

2) APPROVAL OF THE FEES FOR DAMON ELMORE PERSONNEL BOARD ATTORNEY

This item was deleted from the agenda.

3) DISCUSSION OF THE NEWLY ADOPTED BUDGET QUESTIONS AND IT'S IMPACT

Council Member Stamps Jones inquired about the 2016 Budget and asked if the city is 1.5 million dollars in the red. Mr. Wood stated that we started out with 17 million dollars in budget requests and we came back with 4 to 5 million dollars. He said last year's was 13 million dollars and this year's budget is a -12.5 million dollar difference. Council Member Stamps Jones asked if the budget was balanced and how much money did the City save from the recent RIF. Mr. Wood answered yes, the budget was

balanced and the full time employees were reduced from 152 to 144. He said he will be happy to provide the dollar amount of the money that was saved from the reduction of employees. Council Member Stamps Jones also asked what else we had to do to balance the budget. Mr. Wood explained we went through three separate public work sessions and the budget was approved over a month ago. He stated he will be glad to meet with Council Member Stamps Jones in his office and go over the budget. Council Member Stamps Jones stated that the Finance Director miscalculated a half a million dollars and asked what has been put in place to prevent that from happening again.

Council Member Ruffin stated that the items listed at the bottom of the agenda were added by Council Member Stamps Jones. He stated the relationship with the Council and the staff has to be a working one which means we need to be fair to each other. Council Member Stamps Jones stated she was listed on the agenda to speak and asked the Mayor if Council Member Ruffin could wait until she has finished asking her questions.

Mr. Wood stated that the Finance Director owned up to his mistake. Council Member Stamps Jones asked if there will be a pay increase for the employees who took on added duties due to the reduction in staff. Mr. Wood answered there may be added increases for individuals who receive additional responsibilities. Council Member Stamps Jones asked how this would affect the employee. Attorney Barnes stated that when employees take on additional duties, it would make them at will employees. She explained that the process would be done through the Human Resources department.

Pastor Riley approached the podium and stated that he has prayed the same prayer for years regarding the City of Riverdale and the questions that are being asked today should have been addressed before the meeting. He said "This is representing the city and we should be in peace and harmony."

Council Member Stamps Jones stated she is all for peace and harmony, however since the board does not have a retreat, she would like for her questions to be answered in the meeting. She recommended further discussion on this agenda item.

Council Member Davis stated he would respond in the spirit of Pastor Riley and explained that we do have some issues which needs to be discussed and a retreat would be in order to have these things hatched out. He stated we are not hiding anything, however; these issues do not have to be discussed in front of everyone. He said "We must come together as one, because one person cannot make the oneness of a five member board."

Council Member Wallace stated there is a time limit to speak according to the parliamentarian.

Council Member Ruffin stated these items on the agenda are just titles and there should be an explanation as to what the topic or issue is. He explained that we hire people for their expertise and that this is not fair to the staff. Council Member Wallace

commended Mr. Turner for doing a great job and encouraged him to stay focused in performing his job responsibilities.

Mayor Dixon stated that we have had adequate training and adequate meetings to discuss the adoption of the budget. She stated the staff is always available to answer questions regarding the budget. She apologized for any disruptions caused in the meeting. Mayor Dixon concluded by stating that we have a balanced budget and that the city will be moving forward.

Council Member Stamps Jones asked Mayor Dixon what was meant by her comment regarding the city moving forward. Mayor Dixon answered, we have a lot of things coming to the City that will impact young people's lives and creating jobs to help the City of Riverdale to move forward.

4) QUESTIONS REGARDING THE FUTURE OF RIVERDALE GUIDED BY CITY MANAGER (ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT etc.)

Mr. Wood read an Economic Development Report into the record (please see attachment).

Council Member Stamps Jones commended Mr. Wood on the report and requested a copy for the board.

Council Member Ruffin commented on the City Manager's Economic Development Report and stated that all of us should be involved.

Council Member Stamps Jones made a motion to table items 5, 6 and 7 to the next meeting Council Member Davis provided the second. **The motion passed unanimously.**

5) BEAUTIFICATION DEVELOPMENT OF CITY AND GENERAL SERVICES

This item was tabled until the next meeting

6) CULTURAL CENTER FINANCIAL UPDATE

This item was tabled until the next meeting

7) STAFFING UPDATE

This item was tabled until the next meeting

11. MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Council Member Stamps-Jones stated we are here saying we care and we all want to be in unity with, harmony and peace, however; the democracy swing vote's throws things off.

She stated she stay focused to make the city better until she cannot do it anymore. She goes on to say that if we cannot get along, we should still build a bigger and brighter city.

Council Member Davis thanked everyone for coming out and attending the meeting. He stated he is an uptown person and he is respectful of all people. He said “One of the things we need to remember is everyone has a right to their own opinion.” He stated when a person run in an election, they do not run as a twin, they run as an individual. He said “Respect is a powerful seven letter word, we have to respect relationships, responsibilities, family, authority and we have to respect God. He also state we have to respect church and how this country was founded. We need to respect ourselves and each other. He announced Marta is increasing three routes. He also spoke about the Southern Regional Hospital. He stated that what we did for them today was a small thing and we need to pray for the chairman. Council Member Davis goes on to speak about the total recklessness of guns and how people’s lives are being scuffed out. He stated we need to pray for our city, our president and our country. He said “Most of all pray for him.”

Council Member Wallace wished everyone a good night and to have a safe trip home. She apologized for any disruption that occurred tonight and she hopes to see everyone at the August 10, 2015 Council Meeting.

Council Member Ruffin stated we need to create and incentive for economic development. He spoke about the travel budget and expressed how we need to show good leadership. He goes on to speak about those who have overspent their travel budget and recommends that they repay the money back to the city.

Mayor Dixon commented that great things are going on at the city. She encouraged everyone to continue to come to the meeting. She stated we need to keep peace and order and wished everyone a good night.

12. AJOURNMENT:

Council Member Wallace made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 PM Council Member Ruffin providing the second. **The motion carried.**