



**CITY OF RIVERDALE'S
MAYOR AND COUNCIL BUSINESS
MEETING MINUTES JUNE 22, 2015
6:00PM**

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's
Mayor and City Council
Business Session Meeting Minutes
June 22, 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's Name	Title
Evelyn Wynn Dixon	Mayor, At-Large
Cynthia Stamps Jones	Council Member, Ward 1
An'cel Davis	Council Member, Ward 2
Wanda Wallace	Council Member, Ward 3 Mayor Pro-Tem
Kenneth Ruffin	Council Member, Ward 4 Parliamentarian

3. **INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Recited in unison.
4. **OFFICER IN ARMS TO READ RULES OF CONDUCT:** Provided by Pastor Riley.
5. **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA WITH ANY ADDITIONS/DELETIONS:**

Council Member Wallace made a motion to approve the Agenda as presented, Council Member Ruffin provided the second. **The motion carried unanimously.**

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

- 1) Philip Whatley, 203 Sandy Creek Drive, McDonough GA. 30253, an employee for the City of Riverdale, thanked the Mayor and Council for having such a professional and talented department head in the Planning and Zoning Department. He stated that the Planning and Zoning Director Camiller Moore has enhanced their lives in a professional and personal level.

He also commended Mr. Wood for informing the employees about the departmental changes taking place in the city due to the budget constraints.

- 2) Camiller Moore, Planning and Zoning Director for the City of Riverdale, thanked the Mayor, Council and Staff for allowing her to serve as Director. She stated she has a great staff and they have done a great job.

7. PRESENTATION(S) (10 Minute limit): Provided by the Honorable Mayor Wynn Dixon.

Mayor Wynn Dixon announced that Council Member An'cel Davis has been appointed Board Member for GMA as the District III Representative for the Municipal Training Board.

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

Council Member Wallace made a motion to approve the Work Session and Business Session Minutes of June 8, 2015 with Council Member Ruffin providing the second. **The motion carried.**

9. PUBLIC HEARING:

CALL TO ORDER:

1. FY2015-2016 Budget

Mayor Wynn Dixon called the Public Hearing to order and asked if there were any comments.

Comments: (5 minutes)

- 1) Cori Punzi, 3004 W. Sunset Court, Decatur, GA. inquired about the 2015-16 Budget. He asked how would city hall justify voting to eliminate and displace many productive city workers in the name of budget reductions, while the elected officials have not repealed ordinance 07-2014, which authorizes an increase in Mayor and Council compensation within the upcoming budget. He also asked how the City would justify to the taxpayers that the Department of Cultural Affairs has wasted \$250,000 over the course of time. Mr. Wood explained that the City has a Chief Financial Officer who is a Certified Public accountant and the Mayor and Council receives a monthly financial report. He stated that the Mayor and Councils primary responsibility is to the citizens and taxpayers.

- 2) Benjamin Davis who is a non-resident of Riverdale inquired about the 2015-16 Budget. He stated he was the only person who attended the Budget Hearing last week. He goes on to speak about the yearly bond payments made by the city and asked for a copy of the budget.

There being no further comments, Mayor Wynn Dixon Closed the Public Hearing.

Council Questions:

Council Member Stamps Jones stated she had questions about the 2015-16 budget. She asked about the elimination of various positions for the Fleet Department and Cultural Affairs. Mr. Turner stated that the city have current staff to handle those duties.

Council Member Davis thanked the staff for all their hard work. Council Member Wallace commented that we have to do what is right for the City.

Council Member Wallace thanked Mr. Turner for all the hard work he has done on the budget. She stated that after she went back and reviewed the issues with the previous budgets, she believes the Finance Department could have done a better job in the past. She stated there is a deficit of 1.5 million dollars from 2011 to present and our present staff has done a great job. Council Member Wallace explained that some of the positions should have been eliminated in the past. Council Member Wallace commented that we have to do what is right for the City. She stated we may have more budget cuts in the future, however; she knows the city is going in the right direction.

Council Member Ruffin spoke on the travel expense for the budget. He stated that there are individuals who are over spending their travel budget. He also stated that we have to be our own stewards and we do not want to see anyone lose their jobs, however; this is the other side of having the perks of being an elected official.

Mayor Wynn Dixon stated that the budget is crucial but we must keep the City sovereign. She explained we had to fix the mistakes that were made that caused us to make tough decisions. Mayor Wynn Dixon thanked the employees for working at the City of Riverdale and said we have to learn to forgive and move on. She stated we work for the City of Riverdale and we should stop telling lies because no one person has all the power on the board. She stated that the board must come together and be an example for the people.

10. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA ITEMS:

1. ADOPTION OF THE FY 2015-2016 BUDGET/RESOLUTION NO. 40

Council Member Wallace made a motion to adopt the 2015-2016 Budget/Resolution No. 40 with Council Member Ruffin providing the second. **The motion passed with Council Members Ruffin and Wallace voting “Yes” and Council Members Davis and Stamps-Jones voting “No.” Mayor Dixon broke the tie and voted “Yes.”**

2. ZONING CASE: PETITION NO: 2015U-005 (DIVINE HAIR BRAIDING SALON- LEMENTINE KAUASSI

Planning and Zoning Director Camilla Moore gave an overview of the Zoning Case Petition No. 2015U-005 Divine Hair Braiding Salon. She stated that this is a request for the Use Permit for Clementine Kouassi to continue the operation of a Hair Braiding Salon at 6726 Highway 85, Riverdale, GA 30274. This request would allow the proposed use to be in compliance with all the requirements of a Legal Non- Conforming Use as required by the Zoning Ordinance.

Ms. Kouassi came forward and spoke in favor of the Zoning Ordinance.

Council Member Stamps Jones made a motion to approve the amendment with the following conditions:

1. The Use Permit is only approved for a Braiding Salon (Non-Conforming Use).
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 6) and to the site plan that was received by the Community Development Department on May 12, 2015.
5. The business may not extend to occupy a different or greater area of land.

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

3. MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENT(S):

Council Member Stamps Jones thanked Council Member Ruffin for mentioning the different ways we could have done things regarding the budget. She also thanked those who came to speak about the budget and said she appreciates Mr. Woods input. She thanked Ms. Moore and wished her well and she commended all the employees for their time and service.

Council Member Davis thanked all the employees for their service with the city. He also commended Ms. Moore and Philip Whatley. He goes on to speak about the shooting in South Carolina. He said “his prayers go out to South Carolina”. He stated he went to west coast to see his grandchildren and he was very happy to see all the different nationality of children playing in the pool together. Council Member Davis also spoke about the water service warranty and stated that it would be a great benefit to the citizens.

Council Member Wallace spoke on racism and explained the difference between the west coast and the east coast as it relates to the characteristics of individuals who live those areas. She stated she hopes one day people will be able to come together as one. She said “We should educate our kids to do the right thing and not the wrong thing”.

Council Member Ruffin stated that it’s essential that there are specific documented benefits to the City that are a result of the travel and training the governing body utilizes. The \$20,000 grant from KABOOM for the Regional Park Playground, the Prescription Discount Card Program that has directly saved over \$6,000 to residents buying medications and the initial contact and presentation to Congressman David Scott’s \$250,000 earmark to the city for the Towne Center are 3 examples of benefits resulting from travel and training. These programs did not come at a personal cost to our citizens.

Mayor Wynn Dixon stated that there are a lot of great things going on at the City of Riverdale. She stated we should work together and grow from this; and get rid of the negative. She goes on to speak about the boxing event that was held at the city and stated that more people are calling to use for our venue. She thanked everyone for coming out and attending the meeting.

11. ADJOURNMENT:

Council Member Wallace made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:20pm with Council Member Ruffin providing the second. **The motion carried.**

Evelyn Wynn-Dixon, Mayor

Sylvia Vaughan, City Clerk