



Mayor and Council Meeting Work Session Minutes March 26, 2012 6PM

The Riverdale Mayor and City Council met on March 26, 2012 at 6:00PM for the purpose of conducting a regular work session. The meeting was held in the conference room on the second floor at City Hall, located at 7200 Church Street, Riverdale, Georgia 30274.

Call to Order and Welcome

With a quorum present, Mayor Evelyn Wynn-Dixon called the meeting to order at 6:00PM.

Roll Call

All members of the governing body were present for the meeting except Councilmember Ruffin who arrived at 6:07PM.

Approval of the Agenda

The following amendments were made to the agenda:

Addition(s): None.

Deletion(s): None.

Postponement(s): None.

Tabled Item(s): None.

The Agenda was approved by general consensus.

City Manager's Report

Ms. Iris Jessie, City Manager, asked Mayor/Council for availability to host the next retreat to discuss the topics that were not covered during the last retreat. The topics include:

- Process for Appointed Officials' Evaluations
- Ticket Prices for Concert Events
- Programming of the Riverdale Centre
- Service Delivery Strategy Agreement

Discussion about the City's Participation in GMA's Certified Cities of Ethics Program by Mayor Dixon.

Mayor Dixon requested the City become a participant in Georgia Municipality Association's (GMA) program which awards "Certified Cities of Ethics" designations to municipalities. She advised that this distinction offers an added measure of credibility to municipalities and it holds elected to a higher standard.

Councilmember Wallace expressed that with more information she would be in support of the effort to participate in the program.

City Attorney, David Johnson, explained that the process of attaining the designation allows for more education on the part of the City.

Councilmember Davis expressed support of the effort to attain the designation and added desire for the City to have this distinction not only in word but in deed as well.

Councilmember Stamps-Jones asked about the process of attaining the designation. Mr. Johnson advised that there was more information that he needed to review and he would advise Mayor/Council on such at a later time.

Councilmember Wallace asked if the City would need to endeavor in the process through Home Rule Authority. City Clerk, Stephanie Thomas, advised that any changes made to the Charter must be done through Home Rule Authority. She said this particular program would impact the city's code of ethics; therefore, the changes would have to be made under the Home Rule Authority. She advised Mayor/Council on the process for which it takes to adopt changes to the Charter. She further explained that the Code of Ethics had been recently updated; therefore, if the City wanted to participate in the program, they would only need to adopt a resolution.

Councilmember Stamps-Jones expressed support of the measure and a desire to build cohesion as a legislative body.

Councilmember Ruffin expressed that team building exercises needed to be in place before the City went about pursuing certification. Councilmember Ruffin asked if one hundred percent consensus was necessary to move forward.

Mayor Dixon advised that the matters being expressed could be addressed at the retreat, after which the City could better determine if they will pursue the designation.

Discussion about the Sports Programming RFP by Council Member Kenny Ruffin.

Councilmember Ruffin admonished Mayor/Council to act expeditiously in deciding when the sports programs would begin. He advised that providing recreational services makes the City less dependent on county services.

Councilmember Davis asked if the deadline had passed for the City to host youth football programming, to which Councilmember Ruffin advised the prerequisites for programming to take place. He explained that the Riverdale Blackhawks are overwhelmingly in favor of returning to the City.

Mayor Dixon expressed desire for the return of the Blackhawks and that continued patience during the transition was necessary. She asked Ms. Jessie about the job function of the new Cultural Affairs Director and how and if it impacts the Sports Programming contract. Ms. Jessie explained that the new director would oversee sports programming, with the exception of football and basketball.

Council Member Ruffin announced that there would be a meeting on Wednesday, March 28, 2012 at 6PM at City Hall. He said that everyone is invited to attend and offer solutions.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before Mayor and Council, the meeting adjourned at 6:41PM.