



**Mayor and Council Meeting  
Work Session Minutes  
August 13, 2012 6:00PM**

The Riverdale Mayor and City Council met on August 13, 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.

**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**

City Manager, Iris Jessie, briefed the Board about the proposed plan to place a memorial plaque at Riverdale Regional Park in remembrance of Travon Wilson and, former city council member and war veteran, Daniel Lee Williams. Council Member Wallace expressed concerned over potential legal liabilities for the City. She proposed that the legal department issue a letter to the family of Travon Wilson informing them of any usage of the name on any part of Riverdale Regional Park. Ms. Jessie advised that the proposed plan was to honor Travon Wilson with a plaque; there would be no usage of his name on any part of the park. City Attorney, David Johnson stated that the legal department would make contact with the family and notify them of the City's plans to add Travon Wilson's name to a memorial plaque.

Mayor Dixon advised that there were challenges with establishing and maintaining contact with the mother of Travon Wilson, who was the legal guardian of Travon Wilson. She further advised that the prior legal issue with the usage of Travon Wilson's name arose from the grandparents of the deceased who were not his legal guardians.

Council Member Stamps-Jones inquired about the former city council person being honored with the naming of the walking trail. Mayor Dixon advised that the former councilperson had been honored as a military veteran. City Clerk, Stephanie Thomas, asked Mayor Dixon if she was aware of the year the council person had been honored. Mayor Dixon was not aware.

Ms. Thomas advised the Board that a resolution had been passed to rename Riverdale Recreational Park "Travon Wilson" park and that she would research records to locate the resolution if necessary. Council Member Stamps-Jones asked whether the resolution that was passed mandated the transference of the name of the deceased onto a new park facility. She then brought to the Board's attention its prior consideration to honor the late Council Member Wayne Hall.

Council Member Ruffin expressed concern with the legal implications of using the name of the deceased in any fashion. He suggested having the legal department contact the family of Travon Wilson. Council Member Wallace added those sentiments as well. Ms. Jessie iterated that she was unaware of any such need to notify the family given the fact that the name of the deceased would be added to as plaque only.

Mayor/Council reached a general consensus to honor late Council Member Daniel Lee Williams with a memorial plaque.

### **Overview of Upcoming Council-Sponsored Events by Councilwoman Cynthia Stamps-Jones**

Council Member Stamps-Jones briefed the Board on two upcoming events that she felt would increase community support of educational centered activity. The first event is a Preparation Spelling Bee that will feature students from each school. The second is the graduation celebration, *Destined for Greatness*. These events will take place in November 2012 (the former) and June 2013 (the latter).

Mayor Dixon opened the floor up to the Board for discussion of the Preparation Spelling Bee. There were no questions or comments.

Council Member Stamps-Jones advised that after the *Destined for Greatness* there would be opportunities for graduates to meet vocational and technical school recruiters, as well as military branch representatives. She stated that they would be partnering with AirServ and the GA Department of labor to put on the professional development

workshops. They will also be inviting a popular musical artist that would serve as entertainment for the graduates; she set the fundraising goal at \$30,000 for this event. Mayor Dixon was in favor of the idea, but expressed concern about crowd control specific to the inside use of the town centre. Council Member Ruffin advised educating students about the benefits and drawbacks of military service; that this education be independent of what the military recruiters will advise.

Mayor Dixon advised involving JROTC instructors to work in concert with, but independent of, the military recruiters so as to provide guidance to graduates considering the military option. Council Member Stamps-Jones and Ruffin suggested partnering with Arthur Hughes for this task.

Mayor Dixon asked Council Member Wallace for comment. Council Member Wallace stated that she supported the idea. Mayor Dixon then offered to assist with the professional development and work readiness components of the program.

Mayor/Council reached a general consensus to support the proposed events and assist with the planning of them.

**Discussion about setting a date for the GOV360, Mayor and Council Fall Retreat and appointed officials evaluations by Stephanie Thomas, City Clerk**

City Clerk, Stephanie Thomas, gave an overview of the Gov360 program and advised the Board to set a date for the retreat to take place. She provided them with a list of dates in September and October. Council Member Wallace advised that the month of October would better suit her schedule. Ms. Jessie suggested that the scheduling be coordinated so as not to conflict with other activities that could be happening on the campus at the same time. Council Member Stamps-Jones asked to add classes that will have been taken during the course of the year. Ms. Thomas agreed.

Mayor/Council reached a general consensus to select from the dates after viewing their respective schedules.

**Discussion about the City's ability to Accept Partial Payments on Outstanding Taxes by Council Member Wanda Wallace**

Council Member Wallace presented to the Board the case of a senior citizen of Riverdale that had received a tax bill in the mail. She advised that the senior's caretaker attempted to make partial payment; however, payment was not accepted. Council Member Wallace proposed revisiting the City's policy for accepting partial payments for tax bills; that the property be assessed a lien; that the citizen make arrangements with the Finance Director and be given a year to pay off the debt and any accrued interest.

Council Member Wallace asked about the age qualifications for tax exemption. Ms. Jessie advised that age as well as income is factored into qualifying residents for tax exemption; that there are provisions for low income qualifications as well. She further advised that the income qualification for tax exemption is \$12,000.

Mayor Dixon opened the floor to the Board for discussion. Council Member Davis supported the proposition to make provisions for partial payment. Council Member Stamps-Jones agreed on adopting a policy of that nature in the future; that a person who can receive eligibility upon showing proof of income. Council Member Ruffin concurred. Mayor Dixon agreed on adopting a partial payment policy provided there were reasonable timetables placed on payment schedules.

Mayor Dixon advised the Board that the liens had to be amended each time a payment was applied to the account. She expressed concern over the additional manpower it would take to execute the partial payment program. Council Member Wallace indicated that under the new policy the Finance Director would be responsible for negotiating the terms of payment. Mayor Dixon invited Attorney Johnson into the discussion.

Ms. Jessie advised that the City had a prior policy of accepting partial payments; that the policy was abolished due to the cumbersome nature of the lien amending process.

Attorney Johnson expressed concern with the judicious application of the policy, as well as the need for a mechanism to be in place whereby any and all liens assessed would be accurately reflected in the records, so as not to create a liability for the city.

Ann Smith, Tax Collector, stated that such a process is not required in this case. She said she had confirmed with Superior Court that there is no such process to amend a lien simply because a payment has been made in the office. Ms. Smith added that the process of accepting partial payment is paradigm to that of how a collection accounts appears on a credit report. She said once full payment has been made, the account will report as satisfied. She said the same goes satisfying a lien when full payment has been made.

Lolita Grant, Finance Director, added that if partial payments are accepted, hardship guidelines would have to be established.

Councilwoman Wallace responded that the intentions have never been to accept any partial payments without there being some type of hardship. She added that Staff will develop the guidelines and bring them to council for consideration.

Ms. Jessie asked the Mayor and Council to think seriously before making a decision in that accepting partial payments could affect the city's bottom line.

Councilwoman Wallace directed Ms. Jessie to have staff research the number of people who do not have mortgages. She said these are the people who most likely would make payments directly to the city and not through an escrow account.

Mayor/Council reached consensus to direct staff to develop a policy a Partial Payment Policy and bring the topic will be revisited at a subsequent work session.

**Overview of Items that appear on the Business Session Agenda:**

Mayor/Council agreed to delete the quarterly financial report presentation and place it on the next business session agenda.

David Johnson requested to defer the sanitation ordinance to a subsequent business session because the ordinance needed further review before being passed.

**Agenda Items for the next meeting:**

Mayor/Council did not make any additions to the agenda for the next meeting.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before Mayor and Council, the meeting adjourned at 6:56 PM. Council Member Kenny Ruffin motioned to adjourn the meeting and go immediately into an executive session to discuss a legal matter and a personnel matter. Council Member An'cel Davis seconded.