



**Mayor and Council Meeting  
Work Session Minutes  
August 27, 2012 6:03PM**

The Riverdale Mayor and City Council met on August 27, 2012 at 6:03PM 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 6:03PM.

**Roll Call**

All members of the governing body were present for the meeting; Council Member Wanda Wallace was absent.

**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, advised that some information in the Mayor/Council brief was sent to the Board in error. This was regarding the property partial tax payment. She advised that City Clerk, Stephanie Thomas, informed her that the Board had decided to defer the discussion of the partial payment tax until the first meeting in September.

Ms. Jessie informed the Board that the meeting with Southern Crescent Habitat was cancelled due to the outcome of the recent elections. She went on to discuss the Clayton County United Way Health Campaign, which the City has reenergized. She advised that a payroll donation of one dollar would be made by the City. The kickoff breakfast was very well attended. Mayor Dixon asked if the payroll deduction would be

automatic or renewable. Ms. Jessie advised that it would be renewable on a yearly basis.

Ms. Jessie discussed the LOST (Local Option Sales Tax) negotiations which are going into mediation. In the meantime, she advised, a mediator is being vetted. She also advised that there was minimal to no action that newly elected officials could take. However, failure to reach an agreement, Ms. Jessie advised, could adversely affect commerce in the municipalities and the county- there would be no collectible sales tax by either governing types. There was some discussion in 2011 that the county would not renew the LOST and implement a Homestead Sales Tax. It was found impermissible by law.

Council Member Stamps-Jones asked about the timeline for negotiation and mediation. City Attorney, David Johnson, replied that the deadline for the negotiation phase is August 30<sup>th</sup>. The mediation phase follows. There is a sixty day window to reach an agreement. If no agreement is reached each side presents its best and final offer. Then it goes into the "baseball" arbitration phase, whereupon a judge decides, he explained.

Council Member Stamps-Jones asked for a specific date that the mediation phase would end. Mr. Johnson said it would be October 31, 2012. Ms. Jessie advised that it goes into baseball arbitration after the mediation phase expires. She further stated that there has been a precedence set by other county/municipalities wherein talks are still had during baseball arbitration phase.

Council Member Stamps-Jones asked if the City had ever reached the baseball arbitration phase in prior negotiation phases. Ms. Jessie advised that to her knowledge that the City had never reached any such arbitration. She stated that in past arbitration the municipalities agreed to maintain the population splits, which is the current agreement. Council Member Stamps-Jones asked at which point is Mayor/Council involvement necessary. Ms. Jessie advised that, from a staff budget, the LOST has been decreasing, due to the economic downturn. Ms. Jessie advised that if the outcome of the negotiation is such whereby the percentage of taxes that the City receives decreases, then other budgetary considerations would need to be made. In that case, the Board would be involved. Mr. Johnson stated that the municipalities agreed that there would be no heavy involvement of each city's respective boards, in the interest of unification.

Mayor Dixon discussed involving the consultant representing the municipalities; that it appears the municipalities have the edge based on the trends in other county/municipality agreements. Mr. Johnson agreed that the position of the municipalities looked favorable.

Council Member Ruffin asked what type of court would rule on the decision in the event it reached arbitration. Mr. Johnson advised that the case would go outside the county superior court. Council Member Davis asked if there had been any highlights taken from

negotiations in Gwinnet that could be used in this case. Mr. Johnson stated that there had been. He further opined that there was no desire on the part of either side to take the case to the Supreme Court and that an agreement would most likely be reached before such a time.

Ms. Jessie stated that in light of the impending legislative changes the Georgia Municipal Association encouraged municipalities to convene "Hometown Connection." She advised that all new elected officials be invited to the City and provide an overview of the needs and infrastructure of the City to prepare them for the state legislative session.

Council Member Davis agreed that it would be a good opportunity to become acquainted with the new officials. Council Member Stamps-Jones was in agreement. She asked about a timeframe to host the officials. Ms. Jessie stated that October would be an opportune time and that the event would serve as a briefing to create familiarity with the City. Council Member Ruffin agreed as well.

Ms. Jessie advised that there would be parking accommodations made to Mayor/Council at the new Riverdale Regional Park. She also advised that there would need to be a guest list provided for the grand opening of the new park. The grand opening would be September 29, 2012.

There was discussion of the pet policy at the park. There will be no pets allowed. Council Member Ruffin stated that he would speak with some of the coaches at the Riverdale Regional Park to help with the facilitation of the rules. Mayor Dixon advised that customer service training was important to have at the new park as well.

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

Ms. Thomas advised that there was a correction that needed to be made in the attendance record from the previous business session meeting.

**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, Council Member Kenny Ruffin motioned to adjourn the meeting, Council Member An'Cel Davis offered the second and by unanimous vote the meeting adjourned at 6:22 PM.