

The Riverdale Mayor and City Council met on September 10, 2012 at 6PM 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 6PM.

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, advised that the mediator appointed by the judge in the Service Delivery Strategy (SDS) Negotiation Mediation has set September 24th as a tentative date for the first mediation. She indicated that the city council meeting date is scheduled on the same day; however, the mediation calls for a majority of the municipal elected officials to be present. Ms. Jessie said the mediation is set to begin at 6pm and end at 8pm. She further said that the first meeting appears to be dedicated to setting forth the process for subsequent sessions. Ms. Jessie advised the members of the governing body that she would keep them abreast of any developments.

Ms. Jessie directed the board's attention to the BB&T Resolution and agreement for deposit accounts. She said that the business session agenda needed to be amended to add the BB&T resolution. She said the resolution would give the bank the authority to open the bank accounts.

Councilwoman Wallace asked why the members of council never received a copy of the banking contract after the contract was awarded.

Sharonda Boyce, Deputy City Attorney, responded that the terms of the contract were still being negotiated.

Councilwoman Wallace said that the members of the governing body should have an opportunity to review the contract so they are aware of what terms they are agreeing to. She said there had been discussions about the adverse affects of the positive pay service and she wanted to know if the City was already enrolled. She further said she had conducted her own research and found that Positive Pay is a fraud protection service that protects the City from fraud and detects counterfeit and/or fraudulent checks.

Councilwoman Wallace said that she had been with the City for nearly 12 years and had never heard of any instances that involved fraudulent checks. She said the City already has internal controls to protect against these types of things. She indicated that the Positive Pay Fraud Protection Program will require the City to provide a list of checks before a certain time and after which no other checks could be added. She said she was opposed to implementing the Positive Pay Fraud Protection program if Staff could not provide alternatives to issuing checks in the event of an emergency.

Ms. Jessie responded that by enrolling in such a service, the City could decrease risk exposure and receive credit on insurance. She said many financial institutions offer this service to protect their customers against fraud. Ms. Jessie reminded the Mayor and Council of one of the findings of the recent audits. She said the auditors have long advised the city to implement risk policies/procedures and services that reduce fraud. She said by enrolling in this program, the City would be resolving the risk finding. Ms. Jessie indicated that a special account had been established for the Mayor and Council in the event of last minute or emergency travel requests.

Councilwoman Wallace said that she is not only concerned with the members of council being accommodated in the event of an emergency, but she wants to know what the alternative is if any department within the City has an emergency.

Councilwoman Stamps-Jones added that her employer uses BB&T and is enrolled in the Positive Pay Fraud Protection service and it has presented issues for them in the past. She provided the example of being in line at the store and the business check was not honored.

Lolita Grant, Finance Director, responded that she is not aware of the type of issue occurring as a result of the Positive Pay Fraud Protection Program (see exhibit B: Explanation of Positive Pay Fraud Protection Program).

Councilwoman Wallace said she still would not support enrolling in the service if Staff could not provide alternatives.

Mayor and Council directed the city manager to provide additional information regarding alternatives to be discussed at the next work session.

Discussion about the Partial Payment Policy by Ann Smith, Tax Collector and Iris Jessie, City Manager.

Ms. Jessie reminded the Mayor and Council of the previous discussions that were held regarding the Real Estate Tax Partial Payment Policy. Ms. Jessie turned the floor over to Ann Smith, City Treasurer/Tax Collector. Ms. Smith provided the Mayor and Council with the proposed policy (See exhibit A: Real Estate Tax Partial Payment Policy).

After reviewing the policy, the Mayor called for questions and concerns.

Mayor Dixon asked if applicants who desire to make partial payments would be required to prove a hardship. She also asked if there would be a minimum payment required and if the Partial Payment Program would be advertised to the general public.

Councilman Davis responded that he was prepared to accept Ms. Smith professional recommendation if there were no other objections.

Councilwoman Stamps-Jones suggested changing the reference from FIFA to something that the general public could better understand.

Councilman Ruffin suggested adding, "government backed mortgages" instead of specifically naming Freddie Mac or Fannie Mae.

Councilwoman Wallace suggested that Staff establish terms, guidelines and payment plans specific to each individual.

There was consensus to bring the item back for consideration at the next business session.

Overview of Items that appear on the Business Session Agenda:

Councilman Ruffin inquired about the revised resolution for the QUINT Truck. He asked Chief Willis to explain the 10 year lease with 1st payment in arrears provision.

Chief Willis clarified that the provision does not mean that the City will ever be in arrears. She said it simply means that the City will commit to a 10 year lease.

Chief Willis further explained that the name in the resolution needed to be revised; therefore, the measure needed to be reconsidered by the Mayor and Council.

Agenda Items for the next meeting:

Mayor/Council reached consensus to add the following items to the next agenda.

Discussion about Beautification Initiatives by Councilwoman Cynthia Stamps-Jones.

Discussion about Cultural Affairs and Leisure Services by Councilwoman Cynthia Stamps-Jones.

There was also general consensus to add the following items to the September 10, 2012 Business Session Agenda:

BB&T Resolution and agreement for deposit accounts.

Councilwoman Wallace asked Staff to confirm that the BB&T resolution agreement for deposit accounts does not commit the City to any of the banks services other than opening accounts and making deposits.

Staff confirmed in the positive.

Presentation by The Willie Whitehead Foundation.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before Mayor and Council, the meeting adjourned at 6:52 PM. Council Member Kenny Ruffin motioned to adjourn the meeting and go immediately into an executive session to discuss a personnel matter. Council Member Wanda Wallace seconded.