



**Mayor and Council Meeting
Work Session Minutes
January 14, 2013 6:00PM**

The Riverdale Mayor and City Council met on January 14, 2013 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, with additions, to reflect a matter about the Mayor's signature appearing on City Contracts.

City Manager's Report:

City Manager, Iris Jessie, turned the floor over to Cultural Affairs Director, Cie Cie McGhee.

Ms. McGhee introduced the following new members of staff: Corey Punzi, Marketing and Events Specialist; Aishah Pacheco, Town Center Manager; and Dwight McQueen, Sales & Sponsorship Coordinator. She advised that they each started working for the City January 2, 2013.

The Board welcomed each new staff member to the City.

Council Member Wallace asked about the hiring of the new Athletic Director and Interim Human Resources Manager (Jacquette Jackson).

Ms. Jessie advised that Bryan Carroll was the new Athletic Director. She further advised that she would have Mr. Carroll and Ms. Jackson come to the next work session. She said that she would like the new staff to provide short/long term revenue projections for the Town Center at the next Mayor/Council retreat.

Update On Organizational Leadership Assessment.

Ms. Jessie advised that the Organizational Climate Assessment would be issued to all City employees on Tuesday, January 22, 2013. She further advised that the assessment would be available online until the January 28, 2013. She then turned the floor over to City Attorney, David Johnson.

Mr. Johnson advised that the City had participated in the continued mediation with the other municipalities and the County regarding the Service Delivery Strategy (SDS) and Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) on January 14, 2013. He said that one of the most significant things that occurred was SDS and LOST had been combined into one negotiation. The judge in the December trial, he said, combined the two.

Mr. Johnson added that the proceedings at the January 14th meeting were preliminary because it was the first meeting that the new County Commissioner, Jeff Turner, had attended. He added further that there was a new sentiment which leans toward increased cooperation between the Cities and the County regarding the SDS/LOST negotiations. He said that one of the things that had occurred was the information provided to the new commissioner that outlined the financial impact to both the Cities and County- that the SDS/LOST would have a far less impact on the County's budget than the Cities' respective budgets. Mr. Johnson said that there is an initiative to put more LOST into the Cities in exchange for SDS concessions; particularly the creation of special tax districts.

Mayor Dixon said that all the Mayors left the meeting enthusiastic about the new information that had been presented, as it appeared to have bolstered the case for the Cities. She said that Commissioner Turner was very optimistic and would take time to review the information provided in the financial impact report.

Council Member Ruffin asked if the Finance Director of Clayton County was still employed. Mayor Dixon affirmed. Council Member Ruffin said that it is very important that whoever is over the County's finances be involved in the negotiations.

Council Member Ruffin and Mr. Johnson had a brief discussion regarding the extent to which overseers of the County's finances had been involved in the negotiations.

Mayor Dixon advised that there was a person in the County designated to provide outcomes of various scenarios which could be brought on by the SDS/LOST agreement.

Final Review of Bartos Contract, Sharonda Boyce, by Deputy City Attorney.

Ms. Boyce advised that there was discussion by the Board at the previous work session regarding who would be noticed for any changes to an agreement. She advised that those changes had been made. Ms. Boyce also opened the floor up for discussion about the Board's involvement in receiving notification from the Project Engineer.

Council Member Wallace asked if the Board would receive a final copy of the Bartos Contract.

Ms. Boyce affirmed that it had been sent via email. She then dispersed a hard copy to each Board member, as well as the original value engineering list, on behalf of City Engineer, Karl Kelley. Ms. Boyce said that the matters to be reviewed were not time sensitive, as the deadline for breaking ground on the new parking deck is March 2013. She said that if it was an issue that needed to be tabled at the moment that, too, would suffice.

Ms. Jessie and Mr. Kelley had a brief discussion on the pre-pressed molding.

Ms. Boyce pointed out the changes in the agreement with regard to the signature block- a spot had been designated for the Mayor's signature.

Mayor Dixon asked if the discussion would be centered on adding the Mayor's signature to the current Bartos contract.

Ms. Boyce advised that the discussion would be about adding the Mayor's signature to future contracts, and the pre-conditions that would necessitate that action. She stated that discussions in the last work session indicated a desire for the Mayor's signature to be added to the Bartos contract, based on the dollar amount in the contract.

Council Member Wallace asked if the contract had to be amended to have the Mayor's signature added.

Ms. Boyce advised that it would be done internally (City) and would not necessitate the involvement of Bartos.

Mr. Kelley stated that he would be developing a protocol and checklist to respond to all the matters Council Member Wallace raised. He said that those things would be given to Ms. Jessie to distribute to the Board.

Council Member Wallace asked Ms. Jessie to advise who did the last independent audit on the last City project.

Ms. Jessie suggested that for future projects a discussion be had outlining the definition of audit.

Mr. Kelley said that the City was audited by Clayton County Community Development.

Council Member Wallace asked who conducted a financial audit of the new parking deck.

Ms. Jessie advised that all monies coming to the City is audited by Mauldin and Jenkins.

Mr. Kelley advised that the matter could be better addressed with the Finance Department.

Ms. Boyce asked if the Board would like to table the Bartos contract.

Mayor Dixon asked the Board if they would like to execute the Bartos agreement.

All members of council, with the exception of Council Member Stamps-Jones (who wished to refrain from comment), reached a consensus to move forward with executing the Bartos contract.

Adding the Mayor's Signature to Future Contracts.

Mayor Dixon opened the floor for members of council to voice their respective opinions.

Council Member Stamps-Jones advised that she wished for the City to abide by the charter, which designates the Mayor as the chief executive and executor of business.

Council Member Davis agreed that the Mayor's name should be added as a measure of checks and balances.

Council Member Ruffin advised that the Mayor's signature should be added to contracts over a certain amount.

Council Member Wallace advised that contracts over \$2,500 should require the Mayor's signature.

Mayor Dixon advised that she did not wish to infringe on day-to-day operations of the City; that contracts under \$4,999 should not require the Mayor's signature. She stated that upon advisement of the Georgia Municipal Association it was not necessary to sign each of the City's contract. She added that she does not wish to micromanage.

Council Member Wallace said that she did not agree that signing contracts would indicate micromanagement because she would not be giving any directives to department heads. She said that she sees it as an execution of the job of the Board. She agreed on \$4,999 as the figure.

Mayor Dixon reiterated that any contract over \$4,999, she would add her signature.

A consensus was reached that any contract that the City enters into, involving amounts over \$4,999 would require the signature of the Mayor.

Discussion about items that appear on the Business Session Agenda

Council Member Stamps-Jones asked to discuss the point of contact for collections. There was a brief discussion to provide the correct contact information for constituents paying taxes.

Mayor Dixon asked Ms. Jessie to provide that information before the next meeting.

Council Member Wallace asked Mr. Kelley about the fee structure for the parking deck.

Mr. Kelley advised that the Board would be responsible for determining the cost.

Mr. Syphoe advised that there would be a concert fee, but no general parking fee had been determined.

Council Member Wallace asked if the monies for Phase II of the recreational park be used for the parking deck.

Ms. Jessie advised that it was a matter for the Legal Department.

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 Wanda Wallace motioned to adjourn into the Business Session. Council Member An'cel Davis seconded. The time was 6:43pm.