

City Council Meeting
City Hall – Council Chambers
August 15, 2024
6:00 P.M. – Work Session / 7:00 P.M. – Council Meeting

WORK SESSION

Mayor Pro-Tem Calvin Cooley opened the Work Session at 6:02 P.M. Council Members discussed each item from the agenda with corresponding Staff Members.

Mayor Pro-Tem Cooley closed Work Session at 6:35 P.M.

OPENING MEETING

Mayor Pro-Tem Cooley called the Council Meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Invocation by Council Member Roth.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Council Member Hodge.

The City Council met in Regular Session with Calvin Cooley, Mayor Pro-Tem, presiding, and the following present: Kari Hodge, Council Member Ward One; Jayce Stepp, Council Member Ward Two; Cary Roth, Council Member Ward Three; Gary Fox, Council Member Ward Five; Alyssa Cordell, Council Member Ward Six; Dan Porta, City Manager; Julia Drake, City Clerk; and Keith Lovell, City Attorney.

Absent: Matthew Santini, Mayor

REGULAR AGENDA

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

1. August 1, 2024, Council Meeting Minutes

Council Member Fox made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 1, 2024, Council Meeting. Council Member Stepp seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Vote: 5-0

EMERGENCY READING OF ORDINANCES

2. Amendment of Ordinance 7.5-73 – 7.5-90 Reserved

Keith Lovell, City Attorney, stated this amendment to Ordinance SEC. 7.5-73. - 7.5-90 allows the timely recording of easement plats and the associated easements. This is an emergency reading only requiring one reading.

Council Member Fox made a motion to approve the Emergency Reading Amendment of Ordinance 7.5-73 – 7.5-90 Reserved. Council Member Stepp seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Vote: 5-0

Reference Ordinance # 38-24

3. Amendment to Ordinance 7.5-31 – Plan Review Process

Mr. Lovell stated this amendment to Ordinance 7.5-31. - Plan Review Procedure allows for the timely recording of preliminary plats. This is an emergency reading only requiring one reading.

Council Member Fox made a motion to approve the Emergency Reading of the Amendment to Ordinance 7.5-31 – Plan Review Process. Council Member Roth seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Vote: 5-0

Reference Ordinance # 39-24

BID AWARD/PURCHASES

4. PPE Purchase for Recruits

Hagen Champion, Fire Chief, stated he was respectfully requesting approval for the construction, repair and purchase of the Personal Protective Clothing (PPE) for the newest firefighters that began recruit school the first full week of July 2024. This PPE, known as “turn out gear” is the protective ensemble that firefighters wear while combating a fire and other hazardous emergencies. Quotes were received from Fire Master and Bennet Fire Products. Fire Master quoted a set of PPE at \$2,516.86 and Bennet quoted a price of 2,651.00 per set. The lowest quote from Fire Master for the purchase of seven sets of PPE for \$17,914.00 was recommended. This is a budgeted item for July 2024 new recruits.

Council Member Cordell made a motion to approve the PPE Purchase for Recruits. Council Member Roth seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Vote: 5-0

5. FiberCom Bucket Truck Replacement

Steven Grier, FiberCom Director, stated the FiberCom Department is requesting authorization to purchase a replacement for Truck #195, which is a 40’ Service Bucket Truck that is 21 years old with a 45’ Service Bucket truck from Terex for a cost of \$169,973.00. This was budgeted for the 23-24 budget year but was delayed by the manufacturer. It was requested for this to be paid for out of FiberCom reserve fund and recommended this for approval.

Council Member Stepp made a motion to approve the FiberCom Bucket Truck Replacement. Council Member Cordell seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Vote: 5-0

6. 2nd Quarter 2024 Motorola Radio Invoice

Freddy Morgan, Assistant City Manager, stated Bartow County has submitted the 2nd quarter 2024 invoice for the Motorola radio system that is used by our Police, Fire, FiberCom, Gas, Electric, Public Works and Recreation Departments. This is a budgeted item, and approval was recommended to pay this invoice in the amount of \$38,699.20.

Council Member Roth made a motion to approve the 2nd Quarter 2024 Motorola Radio Invoice. Council Member Fox seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Vote: 5-0

CONTRACTS/AGREEMENTS

7. Architectural and Engineering Services for the Cartersville Police Department Firing Range Facility

Mr. Morgan stated this is the agreement for architectural and engineering services between the City of Cartersville and CPL for the replacement of the Police Department firing range facility. It was requested that Council approve this item to allow CPD to enter into the final agreement.

Council Member Roth made a motion to approve the Architectural and Engineering Services Agreement for the Cartersville Police Department Firing Range Facility. Council Member Cordell seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Vote: 5-0

8. Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) for Police Firing Range and Associated Training Facility

Mr. Morgan stated this is the professional services agreement between the City and Hogan Construction Group to perform CMAR services for the new CPD firing range and associated training facility.

Council Member Roth made a motion to approve the Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) for Police Firing Range and Associated Training Facility. Council Member Cordell seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Vote: 5-0

9. Letter of Intent for Advanced Sports Group

Steve Roberts, Parks and Recreation Director, stated his department is seeking permission to move forward with a Letter of Intent to do business with Advanced Sports Group. We will be using Sourcewell which is a Co-opt with pre-bid contracts, which we are members. Sourcewell information has been included for review. Advanced Sports Group is the contractor for Shaw Turf in the State of Georgia. A letter from Shaw confirming this has also been included for your review. Also included is the pricing from ASG for the work on the fields. The scope of work will include site work, drainage, curbing, turf installation, fencing, concrete work on outside pads, etc. The price for the ASG portion of the project will be \$1,088,016.76. Parks and Recreation recommended approval. This is a budgeted item.

Council Member Hodge made a motion to approve the Letter of Intent for Advanced Sports Group. Council Member Cordell seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Vote: 5—0

Council Member Hodge made a motion to add four (4) items to the agenda. Council Member Roth seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Vote: 5-0

OTHER

10. Federal Annual Report for FY 2023-2024

Frank McCann, Police Chief, stated as you are aware, the Cartersville Police Department must complete the federal annual report for the U.S. Department of Justice each year to account for the federal asset forfeiture money received and spent. The report is for fiscal year starting July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2024. This report was prepared by the police department with the assistance of Tom Rhinehart, Finance Director. Approval was recommended of the annual report and authorization for the Mayor Pro-Tem to sign it on behalf of the City of Cartersville.

Council Member Fox made a motion to approve the Federal Annual Report for FY 2023-2024. Council Member Roth seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Vote: 5-0

ADDED ITEM

11. Surplus Vehicles Resolution

Chief McCann stated his department had two (2) vehicles from the Federal Asset Seizure Program that could be donated to the Cherokee Judicial Circuit District Attorney Office. Both vehicles are 2015 Dodge Durango, and the City of Cartersville Police Department no longer needs these vehicles.

It was recommended to allow the transfer of the two vehicles to the Cherokee Judicial Circuit District Attorney's Office.

Council Member Roth made a motion to approve the Resolution to surplus the vehicles. Council Member Cordell seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Vote: 5-0

Reference Resolution 27-24

PUBLIC HEARING

12. City of Cartersville M&O Millage Rate Set at 2.7830 Mills for 2024

Tom Rhinehart, Finance Director, stated the property taxes received from the Cartersville M&O property tax collections are used for the general city government operations, which include police, fire, recreation, public works, etc. The proposed 2024 millage rate is set at 2.7830 mills and is the rollback rate. I recommend approval of the Cartersville M&O property tax millage rate of 2.7830 mills for 2024.

Mayor Pro-Tem Cooley opened the public hearing. With no one to come forward to speak for or against the item, the public hearing was closed.

Council Member Fox made a motion to approve the City of Cartersville M&O Millage Rate Set at 2.7830 Mills for 2024. Council Member Roth seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Vote: 5-0

13. Cartersville Business Improvement District Millage Rate Set at 0.732 Mills for 2024

Mr. Rhinehart stated the Cartersville Business Improvement District (BID) is made up of the Downtown Cartersville Business District. These business owners have been self-assessing property tax for many years to raise funds for use in the downtown area. The Downtown Development Authority (DDA) works with the local businesses to use the funds to improve the downtown area. The DDA Board requests the City Council approval of their recommended BID's property tax millage of 0.732 mills for 2024. This is the rollback rate. Approval was recommended for the Cartersville Business Improvement District property tax millage of 0.732 mills for 2024.

Mayor Pro-Tem Cooley opened the public hearing. With no one to come forward to speak for or against the item, the public hearing was closed.

Council Member Fox made a motion to approve the Cartersville Business Improvement District Millage Rate Set at 0.732 Mills for 2024. Council Member Roth seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Vote: 5-0

14. GO Parks & Recreation Property Tax Millage Rate Set at 0.383 Mills for 2024

Mr. Rhinehart stated the citizens of Cartersville approved a referendum in November of 2014 authorizing the city to issue bonds to be used to pay for renovations and improvements to the parks and recreation buildings and properties. The bonds were issued with a ten-year payback period. To make the scheduled bond payments, the city is assessing a property tax millage of 0.383 mills (the rollback rate) for 2024, also approved by the citizens. This is the last year for this as the bond will pay off 1/1/25. Approval was recommended of the Cartersville GO Parks and Recreation Bond tax millage rate of 0.383 mills for 2024.

Mayor Pro-Tem Cooley opened the public hearing. With no one to come forward to speak for or against the item, the public hearing was closed.

Council Member Fox made a motion to approve the GO Parks & Recreation Property Tax Millage Rate Set at 0.383 Mills for 2024. Council Member Roth seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Vote: 5-0

15. Cartersville School System Millage Rate Set at 14.50 Mills for 2024

Mr. Rhinehart stated the Cartersville City School System has recommended to their Board to adopt the millage rate of 14.50 mills for 2024. The rollback rate is 12.884 mills. As a result, the rate of 14.50 mills is a property tax increase of 12.54% over the rollback rate. The tax increase on a house that has a fair market value of \$375,000 would be approximately \$208.79. Furthermore, the school system is required to hold three public hearings for the citizens to voice their opinions regarding the proposed property tax increase. The first public hearing was held on August 1, 2024, at 10:00 AM. The second public hearing was held on August 1, 2024, at 6:00 PM, and the third public hearing was held on August 8, 2024, at 5:30 PM. The City Council approves the School Board's recommended tax millage rate for city residents where all the property taxes collected are used by the Cartersville City School System. Approval was recommended of the Cartersville City School System property tax millage rate of 14.50 mills for 2024.

Mayor Pro-Tem Cooley opened the public hearing.

Joyce Higgins, 11 Durey Ct, came forward to speak against the increase in school taxes.

Cynthia Wynn, Ms. Higgins daughter, came forward to also speak on behalf of her mother and other citizens in the area at the lack of discount that senior citizens receive on school taxes.

Jason Trainor came forward and urged Council to listen to the seniors of the community in regard to the school taxes imposed on senior citizens.

With no one to come forward to speak for or against the item, the public hearing was closed.

Council Member Stepp made a motion to approve the Cartersville School System Millage Rate Set at 14.50 Mills for 2024. Council Member Fox seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Vote: 5-0

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

16. June 2024 Financial Statement

Mr. Rhinehart presented the June 2024 Financial Statement and compared the numbers to the June 2023 Financial Statement.

ADDED ITEMS

17. Resolution – Mimosa Lane Abandonment

Keith Lovell, City Attorney, stated this resolution allows the legal department to run the necessary legal advertisements to abandon a portion of Mimosa Lane located between North Tennessee Street and Gentilly Boulevard.

Council Member Fox made a motion to approve the resolution. Council Member Roth seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0

Reference Resolution 26-24

18. Deed of Dedication – Valvoline

Mr. Lovell stated this Deed of Dedication was recommended for approval. The property is located at 2 Dixie Ave.

Council Member Hodge made a motion to approve the Deed of Dedication – Valvoline. Council Member Stepp seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Vote: 5-0

19. Contract for Performing Services – Etowah Bush School

Dan Porta, City Manager, stated this is an annual Contract for Performing Services with the Etowah Bush School and was recommended for approval.

Council Member Stepp made a motion to approve the Contract for Performing Services – Etowah Bush School. Council Member Fox seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Vote: 5-0

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business to discuss, Council Member Stepp made a motion to adjourn.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:43 P.M.

/s/ _____
Matthew J. Santini
Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ _____
Julia Drake
City Clerk