

MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Wednesday, January 18, 2012

Members Present:

Mayor John Weaver
Jim Looney
John Foust
Tony Fountain
Allison Brown
Anne Morrow

Staff:

Tacie Williams
Michael Castagna
Greg Lovell
Steve Roper
Lonnie Waters
Stella Brewer

Guests in Attendance:

Mari Livsey
Gerry Nechvatal
Joe Walker
Commissioner Robert Jones, Pickens Co.
Thurman Slone
Daniel McKeon
Justin Stover
Mayor David Leister, Nelson
James Johnson, Municipal Court Judge

Members Absent:

None

Legal Counsel:

Bill Pickett

Press:

Angela Reinhardt

Mayor Weaver called the meeting to order promptly at 6 p.m. He requested Lonnie Waters give the invocation.

Mayor Weaver asked that the agenda be reviewed and approved by Council. Councilman Jim Looney made a motion to approve the agenda as presented and Councilwoman Allison Brown seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

City Clerk Tacie Williams read the minutes of the December 5, 2011 regular meeting. Councilman Tony Fountain made a motion to adopt the minutes as read, and Councilwoman Allison Brown seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Ms. Williams read the minutes of the December 12, 2011 public hearing. Councilwoman Anne Morrow made a motion to adopt the minutes as read, and Councilman Tony Fountain seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Ms. Williams read the minutes of the December 19, 2011 called meeting. Councilman Tony Fountain made a motion to adopt the minutes as read. Councilwoman Anne Morrow seconded the motion. Motion carried by four affirmative votes; Councilman Foust abstained as he was not present.

There was no Old Business to address on the agenda.

First item under New Business, Mayor Weaver recognized Commissioner Robert Jones to address Council regarding the courthouse renovation. Commissioner Jones presented conceptual plans for the design of the new courthouse and discussed how it would affect the City's surrounding streets and sidewalks. After in depth discussion with Mayor and Council, Mayor Weaver suggested Commissioner Jones return to the next Council meeting in order to remedy a few issues the Council found with traffic flow and the effect on the downtown businesses. Councilman Jim Looney made a motion to allow a portion of Depot Street to be used as a staging area for the demolition of the existing building and as a storage area for materials during construction. Councilman Tony Fountain seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. Councilman Jim Looney also requested that the construction area be enclosed in fencing during the construction process.

Mayor Weaver recognized Joe Walker with W.S. Pharr & Co. to present his recommendation for liability & property insurance and workers compensation insurance. He presented a renewal amount of \$82,079 from Trident with the addition of an Accidental Death policy from Chubb for \$1,200 for a total annual premium of \$83,279. Councilman Jim Looney made a motion to accept Mr. Walker's recommendation for property and liability insurance and Councilwoman Anne Morrow seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Next item under New Business, Finance Director Tacie Williams and Human Resources Coordinator Stella Brewer presented changes to the GMEBS City of Jasper Retirement Plan, proposed by Georgia Municipal Association per the requirements of the Internal Revenue Service. Ms. Williams explained that there were no changes that affected the actual retirement plan for the employees, but that the language of the plan had been altered and additions had been made to the plan to maintain compliance with IRS regulations. Councilman Jim Looney made a motion to accept this as the first reading of the ordinance to amend the plan. Councilwoman Allison Brown seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Mayor Weaver turned the meeting over to Councilman Looney for appointment of City Manager. Councilman Looney opened the floor for nominations. Councilman Tony Fountain nominated Mayor John Weaver. Being no other nominations, Councilman Looney called for a vote. Mayor Weaver was appointed City Manager for 2012 by unanimous vote.

Mayor Weaver opened the floor for nominations for Mayor Pro Tem. Councilman John Foust nominated Councilman Jim Looney. Councilwoman Anne Morrow seconded the nomination. Being no other nominations, Mayor Weaver called for a vote. Passed with four affirmative votes, Councilman Looney abstained.

Mayor Weaver appointed Council Committees for 2012. Attached hereto.

Mayor Weaver recommended Martha F. Pool be reappointed to the Planning and Zoning Commission, as her term expired in December 2011. Councilman Jim Looney made such motion and Councilwoman Anne Morrow seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Mayor Weaver recommended John Unzicker be appointed to the Planning & Zoning Board of Appeals, as his term expired in December 2011. Councilwoman Anne Morrow made such motion, and Councilman Tony Fountain seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Mayor Weaver recommended Marty Callahan and Chuck Payne be reappointed to the Downtown Development Authority, as their terms expired in December 2011. Councilman Tony Fountain made such motion, and Councilwoman Anne Morrow seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Mayor Weaver recommended that Kirk Garner, Mike Denson and Marty Callahan be reappointed to the Tree Board. Councilwoman Allison Brown made such motion, and Councilwoman Anne Morrow seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Mayor Weaver recommended that Larry Johnson be appointed to the Jasper Housing Authority Board, as his term expired in September 2011. Councilman Jim Looney made such motion, and Councilwoman Anne Morrow seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Mayor Weaver recognized Lonnie Waters and Tacie Williams to present the purchase of trees and equipment. They explained that the City had the opportunity to purchase approximately 1,300 trees from a tree farm in Hill City, owned by John and Henry White. These trees would be used in the new park being constructed on Hood Road, as well in other tree projects in the City. The cost for the trees is \$3,500, and the City would have two years to relocate them, with an option to extend to a third year. In order to move the trees due to their large size, it will be necessary to purchase a tree spade. We have located a spade that is local, costing \$3,800. Ms. Williams noted that if Council was willing to reallocate budget savings realized on the purchase of the Kubota mower in the Street Department in the amount of \$3,500, and the new vehicle in the Animal Control that exceeded \$3,800 to these items, there would be room in the budget to purchase both the trees and the spade. After further discussion Councilman

Foust made a motion to purchase both the trees and the equipment, and Councilwoman Allison Brown seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Mayor Weaver called for short recess.

Mayor Weaver called the meeting back to order.

Tacie Williams recommended setting 2012 candidate qualifying fees at \$35. Councilwoman Allison Brown made such motion, and Councilwoman Anne Morrow seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Last item under New Business, Michael Castagna presented for approval the beer/wine pouring license for Tater Patch Players. He explained that all requirements of the ordinance had been met. Councilwoman Anne Morrow made a motion to approve the license, and Councilman Jim Looney seconded the motion. Motion carried by four affirmative votes. Councilman John Foust abstained.

Mayor Weaver recognized Mayor David Leister with City of Nelson, and thanked him for attending the meeting.

Economic Developer Gerry Nechvatal gave a report to Mayor and Council.

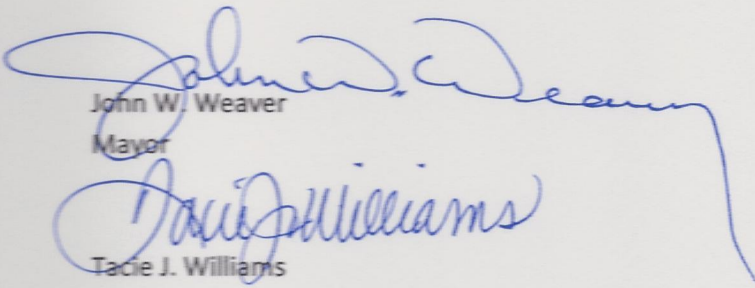
Finance Director Tacie Williams gave the financial report for the month of December 2011, as well as an update from the Clerk's office.

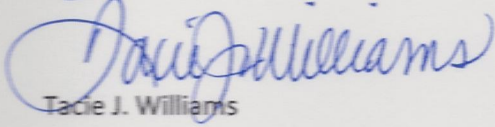
Lonnie Waters gave the animal control report for the month of December 2011.

Chief Greg Lovell gave a report of police activities for the month of December 2011.

Chief Steve Roper gave a report of fire activities for the month of December 2011.

Being no other business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned. Council is scheduled to convene next at the regular meeting on February 6, 2012.


John W. Weaver
Mayor


Tacie J. Williams
City Clerk/Finance Director