

Ashburn City Council
Thursday, November 2, 2023
6:00 P.M.

Present: City Clerk Amanda Hill, Mayor Sandra Lumpkin, Councilmember Andrea Pierce, Councilmember Jermaine Rockwell, Councilmember John Burgess, Councilmember Corey Jordan, Councilmember Sheldon Smith, Attorney Gary Lamar, City Manager Daryl Hall was out sick

Guests: Howard Jordan, Charles Jordan Jr., Janet Winter, Ashley Miller, Ben Baker, Chief Richard Purvis, John Y. Christian, Bob Mitchell, Blake Christian, Officer Chester King, Shawn McRae, Buster Felton, John Lindsey, Dana Whiddon, Kenny Guy, Chuck Bobo, Investigator Calvin Johnson, Brad Christian, Gloria Sims, Wayne Woodruff, Jamie Turner, Amanda Haralson, James Wise, Angela Tye, Matthew Perry, Tommy C. Bateman, Angela Office, Jackie Daniels, George Kennedy, Sam Johnson, Giselle Smith, Major Richard Troutman, Latrice Wilson, Ezra Robinson, Richard Chatfield, John Stevens, Shikina Wilson, Rhonda Walker, Patrick Chevers

Meeting was called to order by Mayor Lumpkin at 6:01 P.M. Invocation was done by Councilmember Pierce prior to a moment of silence being done for citizens that we have lost since our last meeting. The Pledge of Allegiance was done followed by Roll Call.

Mayor Lumpkin asked for approval of the Agenda with amendments of Captain James Wise being added to it to discuss ISO rating. Councilmember Pierce made a motion and Councilmember Rockwell made the Second. Ayes: Pierce, Rockwell, Smith, Jordan
Nays: Burgess

Councilmember Pierce called Captain James Wise up to explain what it would mean with us having no Fire Chief? Captain Wise said that we are at an ISO class 2 and we don't want to lose what we have. Councilmember Burgess asked the question of whether you have a fire chief or public director, will the ISO rating change? Captain Wise replied that it would not change.

Mayor Lumpkin asked for a motion to approve the October 5, 2023 regular meeting minutes. Councilmember Pierce made the motion and Councilmember Rockwell made the Second.
Ayes: Pierce, Rockwell, Smith, Burgess, Jordan

Mayor Lumpkin asked for a motion to approve the October 12, 2023 called meeting minutes. Councilmember Pierce made the motion and Councilmember Rockwell made the Second.
Ayes: Pierce, Rockwell, Smith, Jordan, Burgess

Janet Winter, Elections Board Superintendent, came up to discuss the 2024 Municipal election location since the Middle/High school is under construction. A legal notice has to be run two (2) weeks to have a new polling place for County, State, and Federal. The new polling place will be at the old Moultrie Tech Building on Rockhouse Road in Ashburn. This building is outside the city limits. Ms. Winter stated that everyone knows where it is because they found it when FEMA gave out the free food vouchers. She will have public hearings concerning changing the polling place. The City of Ashburn is asked to change their polling place as well. If they choose not to do this, they will have to use paper ballots and handle their own election. Councilmember Burgess said that Ms. Winter knows that we don't have enough time to prepare for our own election. Ms. Winter said the estimated cost for the City of Ashburn to perform early voting would be around \$6538.00. This would include

seventeen days of early voting with four people. The poll workers would have to be City of Ashburn voters. You can't use the County's. Poll watchers are permitted with the new law. Mayor Lumpkin asked who could be a poll watcher? Councilmember Burgess asked about using the Ashburn Municipal Court Building for voting? Ms. Winter said that parking was an issue. Councilmember Burgess said that there was plenty of parking across the street in front of the building and out back of City Hall. Ms. Winter said that the qualifying dates for city elections is August 19 through the 23rd or 24th of 2024. A decision is needed by December 1, 2023. Ms. Winter also said that candidates can't haul voters but anyone else can provide transportation. Ms. Winter left paperwork with Mayor Lumpkin for anyone to see at City Hall.

Chief Purvis discussed the Hazard Mitigation plan for Turner County. This plan has to be in place before we can receive any monetary funds for things like natural disasters. This will be looked at closer by the council and a decision will be made at the December meeting.

Mayor Lumpkin said that since City Manager Daryl Hall is out sick, she is asking for a motion to table the GMA Defined Benefit Retirement Plan Restatement. He is more familiar with this topic. Councilmember Pierce made a motion to table the discussion of the GMA Defined Benefit Retirement Plan Restatement and Councilmember Burgess made the Second.

Ayes: Pierce, Burgess, Smith, Jordan, Rockwell

Councilmember Smith discussed the Downtown Development Authority and wants to know how many members are included. He said that it includes Hotel/Motel Taxes and is split between the Chamber, City, DDA, and Tourism. He said that a new board needs to be formed.

Councilmember Smith wants to revisit the speed bumps on South Lee Street. He asked Rhonda Walker to come up and speak on this. She is against the speed bumps and stop signs that are already there. She said that the speed bumps and stop signs are an overkill. She wants this to be revisited by the Council. Mayor Lumpkin asked Rhonda Walker if she thought the speed bumps and stop signs were and overkill? Ms. Walker said yes.

Mayor Lumpkin was getting ready to ask for a motion to go into executive session, but Councilmember Rockwell said that the speed bumps and stop signs needed to be handled first. Councilmember Rockwell made a motion to change the speed bumps on South Lee Street since they are too high and to remove the stop signs. Councilmember Smith made the Second.

Ayes: Rockwell, Smith, Pierce, Burgess, Jordan

Mayor Lumpkin asked for the motion to go into Executive Session at 7:06 P.M. to discuss personnel and litigation. Councilmember Pierce made the motion and Councilmember Rockwell made the Second. Ayes: Pierce, Rockwell, Jordan, Smith, Burgess

Regular session was back in at 7:24 P.M. Mayor Lumpkin discussed a reduction in force of several employees. This action was veto'd by Mayor Lumpkin and she now wants a motion for this to take effect. Councilmember Burgess wants to speak first instead of motioning first. He said that we have some people that play both sides, but he was not calling any names. Mayor Lumpkin asked for a motion to reduce force of four employees and reduce one to part-time. Councilmember Burgess made the motion and Councilmember Jordan made the Second.

Ayes: Burgess, Smith, Rockwell, Jordan

Nays: Pierce

Councilmember Smith discussed his decision to reduce the employee force. He said that he tried several other ways to make this happen, but nothing worked. Councilmember Pierce said that her decision is still no. At the end of the day, the vote has won to reduce force. She feels that something else should have been done. Mayor Lumpkin asked for a roll call vote for the reduction in force of the employees.

Councilmember Burgess said Yes, Councilmember Jordan said Yes, Councilmember Pierce said No, Councilmember Smith said Yes, Councilmember Rockwell said Yes. The motion carries.

Mayor Lumpkin asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 P.M. Councilmember Pierce made the motion to adjourn and Councilmember Jordan made the Second.

Ayes: Pierce, Jordan, Burgess, Smith, Rockwell

City Clerk

Approved this 7th day of December 2023

Mayor

**Ashburn City Council Called Meeting
Wednesday, November 8, 2023
6:00 P.M.**

Present: Mayor Sandra Lumpkin, Councilmember Corey Jordan, Councilmember Sheldon Smith, Attorney Gary Lamar, Councilmember John Burgess, Councilmember Jermaine Rockwell by phone, Councilmember Andrea Pierce was out sick, City Clerk Amanda Hill, City Manager Daryl Hall

Guests: Captain James Wise, Chief Richard Purvis

Mayor Lumpkin opened the meeting by asking City Manager Daryl Hall to do the Invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was done next followed by attendance call by City Clerk Amanda Hill.

Mayor Lumpkin asked for a motion to enter into Executive Session at 6:04 P.M. to discuss personnel. Councilmember Burgess made the motion and Councilmembers Smith and Jordan made the Second. Ayes: Burgess, Smith, Jordan, Rockwell

We returned from Executive Session at 6:06 P.M. Mayor Lumpkin asked if we had to have a Fire Chief? Attorney Lamar answered that we do not need a Fire Chief. The Public Safety Director will be appointed.

Councilmember Burgess made the motion to appoint Richard Purvis as the Public Safety Director to be over the Police and Fire Departments . Councilmember Jordan made the Second.

**Ayes: Burgess, Jordan, Rockwell, Smith
Motion Carries**

Mayor Lumpkin asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:09 P.M. Councilmember Burgess made the motion and Councilmember Jordan made the Second.

Ayes: Burgess, Jordan, Smith, Rockwell

City Clerk

Approved this 7th day of December 2023

Mayor