Ashburn City Council Meeting

Thursday, May 2, 2024

6:00 P.M.

Present: Mayor Sandra Lumpkin, Councilmember Corey Jordan, Councilmember John Burgess, Attorney Gary Lamar, Councilmember Sheldon Smith, Councilmember Jermaine Rockwell, City Manager Daryl Hall, City Clerk Amanda Hill, Councilmember Andrea Pierce absent due to being at training, but she phoned in

Guests: Ben Baker, Richard Purvis, Howard Jordan, James Wise, Ashley Miller, Daryl Burgess, Selena Mahan, Mike Burgess, Betsy Burgess, Shylynski Smith, John Holland, Eva Lynn Holland, Renae Cross, Jaycee Cross, Roy Reynolds, Officer Kendrick, Lamesha Gaskins, Kaycie Williams, Charnelle Martin, James Burgess, Officer Jacob Burgess, Major Troutman, Tosha Turner

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Lumpkin. The Invocation was done by City Manager Daryl Hall. The Pledge of Allegiance and roll call was then done.

Mayor Lumpkin asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the April 11, 2024, regular council meeting. Councilmember John Burgess made the motion to approve the minutes of the April 11, 2024, regular meeting minutes and Councilmember Jermaine Rockwell made the Second. Ayes: Burgess, Rockwell, Smith, Jordan

Mayor Lumpkin asked for the agenda to be adopted with corrections; Item 13, LMIG/Councilmember Sheldon Smith will be omitted and the discussion of police car dash cams and allowing Wesley Hughes to speak will be added. Councilmember Rockwell made the motion to omit Item 13, add police car dash cams and allow Wesley Hughes to speak to the agenda. Councilmember Smith made the Second.

Ayes: Rockwell, Smith, Burgess, Jordan

Mayor Lumpkin apologized for the air not working properly in the municipal building. She said that we would work as quickly as we can. She discussed Georgia Cities week and the amazing week that we had. Prizes were awarded to the quiz show winners. They received a gaming chair donated by Councilmember Corey Jordan and a $10 Zaxby’s Gift card from the City. The participants consisted of Nykellan Pickett, Kaleb Merriweather, Jeremiah Williams, Serenity Lewis, Travian Smith, Jaquan Williams, and Vermerione Richardson, and teacher Caleb Jordan. They were not all present.

Prizes were also awarded to the Color Contest Participants. They received gift certificates to Dairy Queen. The participants were Bryson Creek, Christopher Atkins, Kaycie Williams, Jaycee Cross, Asher Ames, Zuri Nelson, and Tarriah Tanner. They were not all present.

Mr. Roy Reynolds made a speaker appearance concerning our employee, Mike Burgess. He said that Mr. Burgess helped him when he was sick. He thanked him for being so generous in helping him.

Tosha Turner, District Mental Health, made a speaker appearance concerning May being mental health month. It references emotional, psychological, and social well-being. She said that mental health is just as important as physical health. It affects how we think, feel, and act.

Mr. John Holland , of 423 North Main Street, wanted to speak if someone was in favor of the A& K Railroad and the noise ordinance. Mr. Wesley Hughes was allowed to come up and speak for A&K Railroad Materials Inc. He said that the noise and zoning ordinance for the city needed to be revisited. He stated that companies are losing money due to the noise problem because they are stopped from working. Someone asked if this was a scrap yard or sort yard? Mr. Hughes said it is not a scrap yard.

John Holland discussed the noise at the location next to his property. He played a recording with the noise on it. He stated that no permits were requested. Mr. Holland said that this is a scrap yard. He wants the Council to do what is right. He said that a hardship noise permit is not warranted. Councilmember Smith asked Wesley Hughes his normal business hours before this encounter? Mr. Hughes said the hours were from 7:00 A.M. to 5:00 or 6:00 P.M. maybe except for one other incident where the company worked until 10:30 P.M.

Councilmember Rockwell discussed that he could see both sides of the story. The ordinance needs to be revised because it is so vague. He suggests that A & K are given a set period of time to clean up and go. Mayor Lumpkin discussed that the company came into our small city and did not even try to get a business license. Mr. Hughes spoke about the company spending money in the community.

Councilmember Smith said that anyone else who wanted to speak in this matter against A & K Railroad can. Mr. Robert Williamson of 506 North Main Street, spoke concerning the company not putting up barriers to keep the sound down. Mr. Ramon Cotto of 411 North Main Street, also spoke concerning the noise in the neighborhood. John Holland said that this should not be allowed. The 2011 court case violated the city’s ordinance with the moving around of metals. Councilmember Smith made a motion to deny the hardship application submitted by A & K Railroad Materials Inc. Councilmember Burgess made the Second. Ayes: Smith, Burgess, Pierce, Jordan

 Nays: Rockwell

Councilmember Burgess made a motion to allow A & K Railroad to sort and temporarily remove all items from the property from May 6, 2024, to June 17, 2024, Monday through Friday from 7:30 A.M. to 5:30 P.M. No additional railroad material or scrap metals are to be brought onto the property after June 17, 2024. Councilmember Jordan made the Second.

Ayes: Pierce, Jordan, Burgess, Rockwell

Nays: Smith

The Municipal Court Technology fee was approved for the second time. The first reading was done April 11, 2024 and May 2, 2024, is the second reading. Councilmember Burgess made the motion to accept the second reading of the Municipal Court Technology fee and Councilmember Pierce made the Second.

Ayes: Burgess, Pierce, Smith, Jordan, Rockwell

Councilmember Rockwell discussed police car dash cameras. Only five cars have these now. We need more installed into the other cars. The payment would not come due until September 1, 2024, in the new budget year. Public Safety Director Purvis would like to go ahead and sign the contract. It would be for a total of sixteen (16) cars at $46,000 per year with a five (5) year contract. The current company has gone bankrupt. Councilmember Burgess wanted to know why the council is just now hearing about this. Purvis said that Councilmembers Rockwell and Smith were already made aware of this. City Manager Hall wants this total to be incorporated into our budget and then discussed by Council. Councilmember Rockwell made a motion to approve the contract for the car dash cameras at a cost of

$46,000. Councilmember Smith made the Second.

Ayes: Rockwell, Smith, Pierce

Nays: Burgess, Jordan

Mayor asked for a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:04 P.M. to discuss litigation. Councilmember Jordan and Pierce made the motion to enter executive session for litigation and Councilmember Rockwell made the Second.

Ayes: Jordan, Pierce, Rockwell, Burgess, Smith

Motion allowing Attorney Lamar to make a formal offer to pending litigation and City Manager Hall brings results back to Council. Councilmember Jordan made the motion to allow Attorney Lamar to make the formal offer to pending litigation and Councilmember Rockwell made the Second.

Ayes: Jordan, Rockwell, Pierce, Smith, Burgess

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:24 P.M. by Councilmember Jordan and Seconded by Councilmember Burgess.

Ayes: Jordan, Burgess, Smith, Rockwell, Pierce

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 City Clerk

Approved this 13th day of June 2024

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Mayor