



MINUTES

Mayor & Council Meeting

April 3, 2023



Council Chambers, 50 Booster Field Drive, Whitesburg, Georgia 30185

Elected Officials Present

Mayor, Amy Williford (AW)
 Councilmember, Chris Lewis (CL)
 Councilmember, Lucy Gamble (LG)
 Councilmember, Donna Whitley (DW)

City Staff Present

Water Superintendent, Robert Gamble (RG)
 Chief Of Police, Chris Gilliland (CG)
 Assistant City Clerk, Wanice Odell (WO)

The Mayor and City Council met for a regular meeting on Monday, April 3, 2023. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Amy Williford at 6:00 pm, stating we had a Quorum and requesting everyone to silence all electronic devices.

- I. The first order of business was the Approval of the Meeting Agenda; Mayor Williford asked for a Motion to approve the Agenda. **Motion By:** Councilmember Lewis, **Second By:** Councilmember Gamble, **Motion Approved** with No Objections.
- II. **Minutes For Approval:** March 6, 2023 - **Motion By:** Councilmember Lewis, **Second By:** Councilmember Whitley, **Motion Approved** with No Objections.
- III. **Citizen Comments & Discussion On Agenda Items:** *(Please state name & address; speaking limited to 3 minutes)*
- IV. **David Mecklin, Tisinger Vance, P.C. Attorneys** - Comments could not be understood as he did not approach the podium.

William Smolar - 122 railroad St. I'm here tonight to voice my concerns with the proposed RV park, which is proposed to be located at 61 Brannon St. I as well as several other community members are 100% against this proposal for the following reasons: the RV park has no economic value to the city. The property tax is only \$90.00 and a business licenses only \$35. This will not cover the cost impact to the city. The streets leading to this property are not wide enough for two cars to safely pass, let alone an RV and a car. The proposed RV park will diminish property value with the property in the community. It was stated by the applicants that the sole purpose of the RV park was for George Power shutdowns. Georgia Power has and is moving to gas. Shutdowns are now only once a year at Plant Yates and for two weeks only. Or the owners going to let this property sit empty for the other fifty weeks of the year? How is the city going to regulate this? Whitesburg City code, section 32-547, subsection F states that neither the zoning administrator nor any member of the Planning Commission shall appear or represent any person in any matter pending before the Planning Commission. I have a copy of a letter from the zoning and Planning Commission dated November 17th, 2022, four months prior to any public hearing by the Commission recommending approval. This clearly shows the members were for this proposal before any application was filed and any evaluation was conducted. Whitesburg City Code section 32-552 requires the City Council to hold a public hearing before taking any action on any proposed amendment and after the receipt of the zoning administrator and Planning Commission recommendations. Whitesburg's City code section 32-553 requires this public hearing to be published in a newspaper of general circulation at least 15 days and not more than 45 days prior to the date of the first hearing conducted by the City Council. These have not been done. Whitesburg city code section 32-562, Substation 2, Conditional use standards states, a conditional use shall be approved if it meets all of the following factors. A rezoning to award intentional zoning district which contains such use as a use of right would not be appropriate for the property. The current zoning is appropriate for the property. The location and character of the conditional use shall be compatible with the community development pattern consistent with the needs of the neighborhood. An RV Park is not consistent with the pattern or consistent with the needs of the neighborhood. The conditional use will not be injurious to the use and enjoyment of the natural environment or of other property in the immediate vicinity, or to manage and impair property values within the surrounding neighborhood. This it will do. The conditional use will not increase local or space expenditures, glacial cosmic service, servicing or maintaining neighborhood neighboring properties.

The Agenda for each Council Meeting is available for review in the City Clerk's office located at 60 Booster Field Drive, Whitesburg, GA 30185 and also on the City's website at www.whitesburg-ga.com at least five (5) business days prior to a Council Meeting. A summary of Agenda items acted upon is available within 48 hours of the meeting at the address indicated above. Minutes to a previous meeting (once adopted) are available upon request or may be viewed on the City's website. The City complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). If you need special assistance at a meeting, the City will try to accommodate you in every reasonable manner. Please call (770) 834-0848 from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday at least 48 hours prior to the meeting if special assistance is required.



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The road would have to be widened, so it's an additional cost to the local government. Mayor and members of the Council I implore you to deny this based on the grounds I have stated. Like I said, \$125 a year. Is not going to cover the cost impact in the city. **Mayor Williford** - Thank you.

Patrick Marks - 205 Sammy Duke Road. I have concerns about the zoning of Sammy Duke Road and the changes proposed therein expressed my concerns previously, predominantly on the grounds of pollution within a residential area. We are talking about the introduction of silicone, aluminum, chromium, lead anybody born prior to 1985 knows something about that. Sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide and many other concerns. Property valued decreasing, dust, you know getting it up on your vehicles your homes. How is this going to impact any type of outdoor activities, things of that nature. You're also looking at a significant upper respiratory harm, especially when it comes to the development of children, you know, toddlers and babies and such heart disease. There was a town in Harris County, Texas that has a concrete facility right there within the county, and there have been significant data that has been released that leads to asthma bronchitis, heart disease, and cancer. In 2015 alone, there was over 5200 premature deaths that were linked to particular matter released into the air within that county. Headaches breathing concerns, fatigue, skin problems, and impairing memory. Also with the damaging liver, kidney, brain, according to Doctor Latrice Appin; I think that's about it, Thank you very much for your time. **Mayor Williford** - Thank You.

Amy Musick - 710 Jonesmill Road; I'd like to talk about the proposal of the Sammy Duke Racetrack deal; I'm not sure exactly what it is, but our family has owned the property since around 1960. The problem we have with the present property is there is pollution coming onto our family's land. We have battled back and forth from the county for years and years because our lake is filling. We have had samples taken from the lake and racetrack and they match. So it is inevitable that our lake will continue to be filled and the natural resources that are there are being harmed. With this being said, it just looks like this will be bringing in more pollution than we already have, that is just a hot mess. We cannot continue to allow that. I mean there used to be a time if you've ever been down Jonesmill Road you could drop a boat under that road, now you can't even get a plastic boat under it. We have pictures, we have been on and off with the county for years and years. So, I'm a little concerned why the city would take on an annex, bring this in and rezone it unless there are some very strict guidelines about pollution. Right now currently, the pile of mess they have is not even on their property, it is sitting on Timberland property. It still runs in the lake, any hard rain you look down Jonesmill Road and look into our family lake, it will be gone for my grandchildren. So to me, I worry about pollution, the noise level that has been here for years and years. My children used to think that Bumble Bees lived near us because the noise levels were so loud; when I was putting them to bed, they'd ask why the bumble bees were buzzing, but it was the extreme noises they were hearing from the racetrack that was kind of in front of the property. And I know last time I was here; I was met very cruelly in the parking lot; people asking me why I didn't I just move. That is just not right to me; this is my family's home. I implore you to protect the taxpayers and the people that are in this community and not allow something to come in that is going to pollute us even more. My family has a right to live somewhere clean. That's all I have to say, Thank you.
Mayor Williford - Thank you.

Daryl Mathews - 62 Log Cabin Road, I am just a mile away from Sammy Duke Road. I know everyone is saying they are concerned with the pollution on Sammy Duke Road, but I haven't heard anyone saying anything about the smell of the doggone trash coming from the convenience center. You know, they are only complaining about a man that is trying to give more business to the community, offering jobs. Every truck you know he's probably not going to operate every single day and he's probably not going to be operating at midnight and probably won't start until 8 am in the morning and stop at 4 or 4:30 pm in the afternoon. So you going to take away businesses that can bring in money from fuel and everything else. It might be an opportunity for our law enforcement to be DOT certified to wave trucks; I mean we missed out of a lot of money that went to Georgia



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Power with trucks coming right through Whitesburg at the little circle. Many of those trucks were overweight and should have gotten tickets. A lot of people complain about noise, but there is not anybody really saying anything about the Jake brakes that is going right through Whitesburg that is loud man, and they don't stop; they continue to go right through the middle of the night. The round-about-circle up in Whitesburg, we really need to look at because there's going to be a really bad accident up there man because people coming out of Newnan when they get off work and they don't care about where anybody else is coming from, they are wide open and do not use it like a four-way stop. I know the Chief of Police likes to help out so, I wanted to bring this to his attention so maybe his officers can look into this situation before someone gets seriously hurt. That's all I got to say, thank you. **Mayor Williford** - Thank you.

James Williams - 235 Guthrie Road, I know, sitting on the lake. Probably at least three or four times a week, I hear sirens go by and I know there's been a wreck where somebody got hurt and I don't really like it. I've worked in construction for the last 18 years. Truck drivers are not the best, I can promise you that and if you all get a recycling place in here with concrete and other recyclables, all they care about loads per day not so much about safety. That's really my only concern. Thank you. **Mayor Williford** - Thank you.

Joe Fowler - Hartley, Rowe & Fowler Lawyer Douglasville, Georgia; representing the Holder's on the 1936 Sammy Duke Road Property, also present tonight is James Moorehead who is assisting with this project. The application before you, as you know is asking for the approval of a Recycling Center for concrete, metal, and mulch. One portion of this property is 13.63 acres which the Holder's wish to annex into the city, and then rezone to general industrial, which is the same zoning for the property they own across the street that actually enjoins that 13.63 acres is the current home of the racetrack that you're talking about that was in regular use until it was closed due to COVID. So as far as silt comes into the lake, what's going to happen is you have to have stormwater controls on this property. So, the law of uncontrolled flow of siltation of this property will stop if this project goes forward because they have to have a detention pond and secondly, they can't have any disturbed areas and furthermore with respect to pollutants coming from the site, this property is state and federally regulated in this regard. The county received a notice of the annexation and did not oppose the request. So it's before you tonight with respect to this particular rezoning. Now I've got some handouts if I can just pass them along to you. What you'll see is a series of six different exhibits. The first exhibit is the tax map of the county that enlarged, you can see the racetrack obviously on the righthand side that is exactly how it is described. It's a dirt track without any storm water control. Exhibit #2 is the property of the Holders. You can see the Racetrack on one side and the other property that been that wrong right after that. Next to that if you don't have any questions, I'm going to move on. Next is the proposed drawing for the plant of the property. What you'll see on the upper right-hand corner is the place where the concrete crusher machine will be located, if you would just flip over to Exhibit #5 it says OSHA Fact Sheet. It shows there what the yellow iron crusher looks like. It's a machine, and a couple of them could fit into this room easily. It is a machine that is used to crush the concrete that is brought to site. That's what will be on this property, and there will be a detention pond on this property and the undisturbed soil will be stabilized. Now on the City part of the property, remember this is already correctly zoned, so there will be a station where essentially all the material is brought to the site. As it was mentioned a moment ago, brought in and there it will stay inside this covered facility where it will remain there will be probably two or three days a week when there will be crushing operations. I'll talk about the noise in a moment with respect to that, but this is a covered building and that will receive the debris that is shipped to the site. It is from that location that the concrete material will be separated, moved to the crusher and any metal would to the south, to the building just below. Let's say that this building is going to be removed. It's metal and has iron rebar in the floor. What would happen is some machine would come in here and breakup this floor. They would then haul that in the middle to this location. It will be separated; concrete to the left, metal to the right and the concrete in whatever size it comes on a dump truck, would go there to be broken up later into smaller particles. To the right, will go the metal building into which the metal recycling will take place.



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Once the metal is collected and assembled, it's going to be transferred offsite for further recycling; there is no recycling of metal products on this site. All they're doing is taking it into portions so it can be shipped elsewhere. Now below that on that site plan is the area for dealing with the organic material that will be grounded and shipped off this site. Those are the three things that you see on that site plan. In general, notes the proposed recycle center will be part of the state of Georgia Green Initiative, and it actually fits under their category called reduce, reuse, and recycle. Everything that comes to this site will be removed from the site after it is processed. The crusher then will take that concrete and that will be what I'm talking about a while ago. Demolition debris, things like sidewalks, concrete, brick and block, those kind of things that would otherwise go into a land field. I don't know what the arrangement is about using utilizing land fields for the city, but land fields are being filled up and this eliminates that requirement for those types of materials. What is produced with the concrete crusher is gravel type products. From crusher run, 57 stone and that will then be shipped out to the end user. This will keep all of these inert products out of the land field. It is inert without pollutants. Now there may be dust that comes from it, but there are regulations that deal with that. There has to be a watering facility available to keep the dust down. I mentioned, the crusher will operate two or three days per week and none on the weekends and fortunately for people who may live in ear shot, none at night. A picture of the crossroad as I mentioned is shown on Exhibit #5. This recycle center must meet all of the State of Georgia and Federal EPD Regulations. They are inspected periodically for potential violations. Systems will be in place to minimize any possible dust, to include water. The facility will produce reusable metal inside the shed that you see located at the second building below on the part of the city property. Metal will be recycled simply using torches and cutting shears. There will be no metal shredding at this particular location, which was a concern that was expressed earlier per the planning and zoning. Below that building will be a covered area for receiving and then grinding up waste, stumps, trees, trimmings, other organic debris. That grinding process is to replace mulch. Exhibit # 4, what you see there is a noise study that was produced for Mr. Moorehead who's here with us tonight and will be facilitating this project. This is a noise study that was prepared for him with a project that is very similar to this proposed facility. I will note first, the sound from this plant is likely much less than was produced by the racetrack, and only occurs during daylight hours, and only, at least at this point, two or three days a week. Given this area is already mostly zoned industrial and its course for that reason already used in that way, and in neighboring areas, a recycle center would have minimal impact upon the surrounding properties. The closest residents to this is 1,300 feet away. If you look at this report at the bottom of the page, you'll notice that the crusher that will be in use produces no more than 63.8 decibels of sound from 750 feet away and that decibel level is less than normal conversation. We believe that the closest residents will not be impacted by noise, since they are much farther away. I will note too that all truck traffic will be doing normal business hours. The amount of truck traffic will not be more than what happened during racing hours obviously, and will be spread out over the workweek, and will be concentrated Friday through Sunday for the same as was the racetrack operation. I will tell you about this construction debris will be accepted, but it will be kept out of land field and land field space, and there will be under no circumstances any household garbage or wet garbage on this facility. It will begin with 6 employees, then to a total of 30 when these facilities have been built and is fully operational. There's no public facility here, so parking will not be an issue; there will be adequate parking for all of their employees. Electricity and water already on site generally available and appropriate for employees. I mentioned Exhibit #5 a moment ago, that's the Fact Sheet brochure regarding the crusher operation. I would ask you before you make your final decision to get with Mr. Morehead about that on what all this provides. It's a recycling operation 100%. Finally, Exhibit #6 deals with this whole issue of recycling regarding the benefits of that kind of program. Now I notice the City's Comprehensive plan lists as opportunities under that section. The goal of attracting larger businesses that open more consistently, respectfully we believe this is that now. You also indicated that one of the threats to the future of the city is a lack of industry, and this is an industry from people who have a reputation with their facility just a couple miles down the road. They have operated that facility as God fearing people from, I know them personally in that way. And they have done a great job putting West Georgia on the map. We believe this project is environmentally sensitive, it's sound, it's got a recycling emphasis and it'll provide consistent employment and tax revenues. **Mayor Williford** - Thank you.



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Ronnie Musick, 42 Richards Dr – I've been sitting here listening to this gentleman; all this information y'all should have a long time ago. If ya'll believe everything he said, well I mean he's probably truthful, but he is a Lawyer. They are going to tell you anything that you want to hear. If you think this site will be good for our area and community, then I got a Bridge I want to sell you! You know who regulates the site when he's saying the EPD, EPA; it's the county. They put it back to the county to force the rules and regulations, there's no state involved. They'll give him a phone call, but that's it. It's up to the county. Money talks believe me, I know. The last time I was in front of you all, we were talking about sewage, it's been a long time. We've been battling the racetrack problem for 30 years. Personally, I've been doing it! Yes, I'm sorry that Sammy has passed away, that's tragic. But we got an opportunity here, we don't need to let something else come in and be a headache or problem for this community. I don't know what they're trying to zone it to, because the sign at the side says, "conditional use" someone said "no". Ronnie says, yeah, that's what the sign at the entrance to the site says, "conditional use". It doesn't say anything about industry. Now the posting says general industry, but the sign at the entrance of the site says, "conditional use". So, they get already got their hands on the property, they can say a part is already zoned industrial. If you go online and look today it says residential.

So, I don't know who's looking at what, but go home and pull up the map, it is classified as residential. 12 of his acres 12 that they are looking to rezone is label commercial; totally different from what I am telling you here tonight. So ya'll got a decision to make; I mean, if we had the money, we could buy it and make it a Park – name it after Robert Gamble's mom - God bless her heart. I mean, there's better things to do than put something like this around all the houses in this area. Plus, I don't want the stuff in our lake anymore; we haven't been able to get it out of it or stop it. Contrary to what Ben Skipper says, it is open and flows every rain. You can't contain that water on that property, it's going to flow somewhere and that branch right down the hill from it, so there's no room to put sedimentation pond; they run over believe me, the property next to it has a sedimentation pond, and it constantly runs on when you get two to three inches of rain. We had to endure the racetrack, the dump trucks, and we're going to have to endure the rock quarry. So, if you want to depend on the county to enforce things for us; you need to rethink it. Protect us, we can't do it by ourselves, folks. Thank you. **Mayor Williford** - Thank you.

Jay Williford, 609 Main Street – I just want to speak a little bit about the racetrack property. I don't know that I'm in opposition of the racetrack property being rezoned, but you guys have I guess a fiscal responsibility for us and there may be some environmental issues that come along with this, and people are discussing this with you guys on rezoning the property and really this is an annexation meeting if I am correct. So, what I would suggest is just don't annex because the county officials have already told some of the zoning board that they were moving ahead with the project anyway even if the city didn't zone it they were going to do it anyway. So, why don't we let the county deal with that part instead of the City of Whitesburg. Thank you.

Mayor Williford - Thank you.

Ken Yearta, 1451 West Hwy - If you come down to put a mobile motorhome RV spots over on 61 Brent right street. It's not for outages at the plant, it's for their long-term Ash Removal Plant at Wansley. It'll take years to do. Like I said, we wouldn't even consider doing it for if a Local Company got it. This is for out-of-town workers. It isn't going to be a bunch of rowdy people it is workers that have to move around for their job. We are going to keep it up, we've cleaned a lot of it already; I mean, I could've let this stuff just sit there, but I didn't. We put out a drawing of the distances and everything. It is only for out-of-town workers. Like I said, if she keeps doing it, I wouldn't even take it on and take the first camper until she was cool, because I'm not going to cut her out. You know, I'm good either way. Thank you. **Mayor Williford** – Thank You.

Duana Williford, 131 Kelly St – I'm on the Planning & Zoning Board and I'm speaking about the Racetrack issue; a lot of people have brought up about the different 're on the zone and I'm undersigning. And, and I'm speaking about the right track machine. A lot of people brought up different issues, but nobody has really mentioned a lot about the health issues from concrete dust. I realize it can be wet down, but there's also a lot of health issues that are for children, people with underlying conditions, especially people with asthma, COPD



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conditions. I just wanted to put that out there as I did research and read many articles from places like the Environmental Protection Agency, and National Institute of Health and I just wanted to say that the concrete dust can and will pose a health problem for those with already underlying health conditions; especially, for those close by residences. Thank you. **Mayor Williford**, Thank you Duana.

Donna Holder, 205 Horseshoe Dam Rd – I am Mike Holder's wife; I just wanted to let you all know the difference that you have number one is the dust from the concrete and recycling, is not classified as a hazardous material. The dust is going to be Regulated, and the gentleman was wrong, it won't be by the county, it will be by regular state inspections. There is nothing that classed as residential, it is general industrial already, not residential. The next section we want to do is commercial, which we are asking to be general industrial. So, you've already got general industrial already, you've got a surface mining next to it. You've a lot of land and it will be wet down and won't be tracked like everybody is saying. Please read your addendums and think about it; if anyone needs a copy, please let us know. Thank you. **Mayor Williford**, Thank you Donna.

Tim Dillard, 262 Moore St - The City Council, in my opinion, has a moral and ethical obligation to represent the people of the City of Whitesburg. We now have a Liquor and Vaping Store. Like Mr. Holder here, I am retired from my job also and had the same career. I've flown over many places that have looked down on rock quarries and from those rock quarries are to the expanded parameters of numerous miles is waste land. So, whenever a rock quarry comes in, it's only going to expand the size of that waste land depending on the size of that rock quarry. I think there's 60 something acres involved with the recycling center coming; I don't know how many acres are going to be utilized at the beginning, but in my profession, which was aviation; the thing we feared most, was considered "the camel's nose under the tent". This phrase means, "once the camel has the nose in the tent, sooner or later it takes over the entire tent". So, whatever this Council approves of tonight, will only be this big now (shows small opening with arms), but could be this big in the near future (shows arms fully extended out wide). So, when it starts as the size proposed tonight, this county, this city, and everybody has to be prepared for the size to be the fully extended size in the future. The question is, can we regulate it now, what about in the future? I don't really have a big dog in this fight, I have a lot of respect for Mr. Holder and these types of projects as we did a lot of these over the course of our career, and we worked very hard. I like where I live and do not want any more noise, the racetrack ran like one night a week. I don't know how many days the center will run, I believe they said 3 for now, maybe 5 later, could even be 7, depending on what they're bringing into the center. I don't know how many trucks or the weight, but I do know there will be a lot of wear and tear on our main streets and on the roads in front of people's houses and a lot of dust being moved. These are all factors to be considered. We, the people of this town, do want expansion and growth, but we need to be careful what we ask for and need to be sure this is what we truly want and is it the right fit, because it seems to be coming. All I'm asking is that this Council take into consideration who you represent and the majority of the people in the community. I have been here for many years as have a lot of other people and I want what is best for our community and for us. I don't care about the outside stuff. Thank you very much for your time. **Mayor Williford**, Thank you.

V. Business Session:

Councilmember Whitley - For Vote: Effective Start Date for (New Water Department Fees & Deposits) During Council Meeting March 6, 2023, we voted to accept the new proposed Department Fees & Deposits; however, did not give an effective start date. 2023 - **Motion By:** Councilmember Whitley for the Effective Start Date to be April 15, 2023. , **Second By:** Councilmember Lewis, **Motion Approved** with No Objections.

V. Business Session - Continued: Budget Discussion/Update

Rick Hartley, City Account - I've looked at what we've received so far this year. We started at \$14,000, then it went down to \$12 and then down again to \$11, which is what we received last month. I'm calculated where we're going to be losing about \$120,000 to \$130,000 for this year. I don't have a crystal ball and I don't know



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what next month is going to be, that's what the holdup has been as it's horrible trying to figure out where to cut that much money in the budget. Everyone is busy and has got a lot on our plates. I know y'all have been working really hard. I know we've got road issues we are dealing with and that's one of the top priorities. We've got the wells we're looking at I see progress. I know we've got to get quotes, there's policies and procedures we've got to go back over, but we're working on it. I know the Police Chief talked to me about several things that they need, and I know everybody has their lists. I don't live here, but you know, I consider my part of the city. I know there's the eyesore of the big mud pit where the new City Hall should be, so the issue that I see there is, the cost that was put in or estimated was several years ago. Everybody knows everything is higher now, and we've got to deal with concern. I think at this point our priorities are the roads and wells, and the Police Department that will come. We also got to look at LOST money that comes in monthly, the only other option would be for us to issue debt to get that building built. I've spent a lot of time in Carroll County so I would say that one of the top things is that we've got estimates for those and I've seen some stuff that is in the works, but the big thing is wrestling with the \$120,000/\$130,000 deficit I mentioned we are dealing with, I mean we've got fund balance from the previous year that we could use, but I'd rather not do that unless absolutely necessary. So that may be how we balance the budget before it's over. Right now we're still following the 2022 Budget until we get the 2023 worked out. You all are not my only client that is dealing with that negotiation and every ten years, it has hurt a lot of them. I'm going to look at what we get in April and hopefully, I can get some budget actuals stuff for the first four months, and we'll see what it comes out to and hopefully we find the budget taking its final stage. Thank you. **Mayor Williford & Council** -Thank you.

Councilmember Gamble - We need to vote on the proposed estimate from Georgia Power for 7 Street Lights on Landon Drive and if we would like to add the 8th light on the wooden pole at the entrance.
 The Council recommends going with the Aluminum Black Poles 16-Foot (Post Top) \$503.24 per pole x 7 = \$3,522.68 Upfront Cost LED 74-Watt Post Tops @ \$17.86 ea. = \$125.02 Per Month
 And going ahead and adding the 8th light on the wooden pole at the entrance.

Shelly Ward, 126 Landon Dr – been there 2 years, we were here last week and there were 9 out of 10 that wants the aluminum poles. We have tried really hard to make this a beautiful place and believe the aluminum poles go best with the homes in our neighborhood. We vote for the Aluminum Black Poles. Yes, we are good with placing the 8th light on the existing wood pole at the entrance.

Motion By: Councilmember Gamble, **Second By:** Councilmember Whitley, **Motion Approved** with No Objections.

Georgia Cities Week April 23rd – 29th This is an ongoing effort to raise public awareness about services that cities perform and to educate the public on how city government works. Cities are encouraged to involve their local schools, businesses, legislators, Chamber of Commerce, media, and civic clubs in planning Georgia Cities Week activities. We would like everyone to join us for our main event “community clean-up” contact us on Facebook or City Web Page if you'd like to help. The Water Department will also be hosting a Water Customer Appreciation Day, maybe on a Friday – follow us on Facebook to see the details. There will also be a Resolution advertising April 23-29, 2023 as Georgia Cities Week.

Mayor Williford – What everyone has been waiting for tonight' the voting for the following:

Planning/Zoning (61 Brannon Street - Conditional Application)

Planning/Zoning (Sammy Duke Road - Annexation & Zoning Application)

Update On: Stop/Street Signs

Tommy House, 76 Military Rd approached the podium and started to speak; however, **David Mecklin**, Attorney at Tisinger Vance, P.C., interrupted to remind Mayor Williford and Council that if they allow Mr. House to speak, they will be opening the floor back up to anyone else who wishes to speak on these two Items up for vote. The Mayor agreed and will allow Mr. House to speak.



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Tommy House, 76 Military Rd - You know our attorney here; well, he can make some things smell really bad and make things smell really good you know? I don't want this rezoned, but if you were going to rezone it, why not put a subdivision down there? Something that's going to bring in money and tax dollars every year. I think it would not be nearly as noisy as what they are talking about either, the city council needs to look at the people who are paying taxes here instead of some of this zoning stuff. Thank you. **Mayor Williford**, Thank you Tommy, I'll call you back up at the end for your other comments. Are there any other comments on the Zoning Items?

Mayor Williford, Are there any more comments on the **61 Brannon Street Proposed RV Park**? If there are none, I need a motion. **Motion By:** Councilmember Whitely for Council not to approve the proposed 61 Brannon Street RV Park, **Second By:** Councilmember Lewis, **Approved:** 2:0 (**Abstained Voting:** Councilmember Gamble).

Mayor Williford, we now move to the Zoning/Annexation Application of the **Sammy Duke Property**, Are there any comments? David Mecklin, Attorney at Tisinger Vance, P.C., spoke up to remind Mayor Williford that these must be voted on separately. If the zoning passes, you then proceed to present the Annexation for approval. **Mayor Williford**, okay so I need a motion regarding the Zoning Application of the Sammy Duke Property. **Motion By:** Councilmember Lewis that the Council deny the Zoning Application of the Sammy Duke Property, **Second By:** Councilmember Whitley, **Approved:** 2:0 (**Abstained Voting:** Councilmember Gamble). **Note:** Councilmember Gamble stated she did not fully understand the Sammy Duke Road Property, and that is why she abstained from voting.

Joe Fowler - Hartley, Rowe & Fowler Lawyer Douglasville, Georgia; representing the Holder's on the Sammy Duke Road Property, Madam Mayor, we wish to withdraw the Sammy Duke Annexation Application of the Sammy Duke Property. Thank you. **Mayor Williford**, okay, thank you. **David Mecklin**, Attorney at Tisinger Vance, P.C., stated, this is why it's necessary to vote on these separately so that if the Zoning Application fails, the Applicant has the right to withdraw. Thank you. **Mayor Williford**, Thank you.

Mayor Williford, I want to give an update on our Street/Stop/Speed Limit signs that I mentioned the other night at our Work Session. Our Officers have been working hard and doing a really good job with getting us a list, but if you see one personally in the city limits, your street, or wherever, please reach out to City Hall and let us know; we'd appreciate it.

VI. Citizen Comments: (Please state name & address; speaking limited to 3 minutes)

Mayor Williford, Mr. House if you'd like to come back up and finish your comments.

Tommy House - 76 Military Rd - You know like Councilmember Gamble was speaking about, you know the dollars in the Whitesburg fund has been cut and all you know, and we don't have a lot of money for things anymore. I've lived here for a long time, and I hate to say how long. I've had people tell me all over the place from Coweta County that travel through here that you'd better be slow down in Whitesburg, or them dang police officers will give you a ticket, well it's true, they will give you a ticket if you're going too fast. But you know, I've always defended our Officers because of what they did, we don't want people speeding through here. I have driven through Whitesburg twice a day for 25 years alright, and have never once got a speeding ticket, because I know the speed limit. Just a few weeks ago, one of the little Mixon guys got hit by a car, and his brother is one that they can't calm down, they called me to come check on Joey to see if I could come and calm him down because he works with me some on the weekends. I went down there, I came through Whitesburg in the middle of the day doing 47 miles an hour most officers allow 10 miles an hour over the speed limit anywhere, but I was going only 2 miles over – someone spoke up and said, "no, actually it was 12 miles over".

I mean I didn't even know that there was a camera system installed here in town. I mean I work in the County, but I don't read the newspaper or watch the news. I mean, my thing is, I didn't even know that Whitesburg had put in a camera system. I know. I mean there were something like 1300 speeding tickets collected last



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month; heck that kind of money every month should solve all our problems! I just didn't feel it was right for you put up the camera system, and then somebody who's lived here as long as I have got a ticket for going 2 miles an hour over the speed limit for helping care for one of our patrons. Chief Gilliland, it wasn't 2 miles over and the speed limit was 35. Tommy House – I get it's a school zone and if I'd been going that fast, I would have got a ticket. If it is just for the school, it should only be during school hours, like first thing in the morning. The state says the cameras can run from 6:40am-7:40am at 25mph, from 7:40am-2:20pm at 35mph, and then 2:20pm-3:20pm at 25mph. Chief Gilliland, Does living here a long time mean you should be exempt from getting tickets? Tommy House - well no, I'm just saying it just don't seem right that you all were only writing like 200 tickets a month and now you've gone to 1300 or more a month; I mean the city should have plenty of money! Chief Gilliland, it's not about making money it's about slowing people down in the city; Stevie's injuries would have been much worse if the driver had been going at a higher speed like some, we have clocked doing high speeds like 60 plus mph in a 35mph zone, which is ridiculous. Mayor Williford, okay Tommy, we ran the cameras as a warning for 30 days. Chief Gilliland, the signs were up for about 4 months before the cameras were installed. Tommy House - Yeah, well I come through and I don't pay attention to every sign on the highway, so okay my bad! Y'all want me to pay the \$75, I may have to, but I just think it's plain wrong. **Mayor Williford**, Tommy

Jill Smolar, 122 Railroad St - I agree with some of the things Mr. House said, I got my warning, but I guess I didn't realize just how slow 25 mph was, and I work as a Teacher at the school. What I am speaking about tonight is there's a gigantic pothole in the middle of my street; I'm thrilled you all are getting your streetlights, but would ya'll give me a timeline of when this will be fixed? I mean it's right in the center and it is getting bigger and bigger. It's right in front of the water tower because it's in the center, it's challenging to go around it. **Mayor Williford**, we'll be glad to look into it, because it's not on our list. **Jill Smolar**, well I'm glad I said something. **Mayor Williford**, We'll look into it. **Jill Smolar**, Alright, thank you Jill.

Mayor Williford, anyone else with comments?

Margery Bouris, 450 Black Dirt Rd - I noticed when you all were discussing budgets, the library didn't come up; I would love it if some member of the Council had the Library as one of the items of concern that they are responsible for, so when we have concerns there will be a source of help for the Library. It wasn't even mentioned during the Budget Discussion as something that all the lack of funding was affecting. **Mayor Williford**, well Mrs. Margery, it is everything across the board. **Margery** - Well, I think the Library should have its own designated Councilmember just like the Senior Citizens, Water Department, Roads, Police Department, and everything else, these all have a voice to speak up for their goals/projects. **Councilmember Whitley** – Rick and I had a meeting and conference call to review everything, and I explained where we were on the LOST Funds and so forth and that we were hoping to be able to keep everything going as is with what we're providing for the Library right now. As of right now, we are going in that direction and are keeping the Library a priority; we appreciate the Library, we really do. **Margery** I'm just saying it would be really nice to see one of the Council officially appointed as a spokesperson and someone who worried about our best interest on behalf of the Library. Thank you. **Mayor Williford**, Mrs. Margery

VII. Mayor / Council / City Staff Comments:

Chief Gilliland - Just two things coming up Wednesday, traveling's going to be a little nightmare the city because Rodriguez Tree Services is coming in with a crane. We're going to have Hwy 16 down to one lane for the majority of the day as they take down the big oak tree right near the car wash. Some of those trees are leaning out over the highway and power lines. Then coming up later will be some slow down traffic on Jonesmill Road, they'll be a painting crew coming in to repaint from the railroad to the city limits, but they're going to call us back with a confirmed date. They'll need to take Jonesmill down to one lane during the day. So just look out for some traffic updates, maybe in mid-April. we'll let you all know when we have a confirmed date.



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Water Superintendent, Gamble – In the last couple of days we had two major water leaks; at Railroad Street & McIntosh Street, I contacted the Fire Department to let them know it was out of service. The estimated repairs will be somewhere around \$4,000. **Mayor Williford**, it was good that you all notified city hall so we could put it on the website and on Facebook; this definitely helps people be aware.

Councilmember, Whitley - I good, I don't have anything

Councilmember, Gamble - Okay for those of you who are spicy and past 55, remember the Senior Meeting is the 3rd Monday of the month; we will have a speaker from Three Rivers speaking to us on insurance and health & safety. Also, I would like ask the Council to think about if there is any way possible to put a sign up over the railroad so the truckers will stop getting their tractor trailers stuck! They keep saying we didn't see the signs because of the sun. Chief Gilliland - I think they just put up a larger sign.

Mayor Williford – Well, I don't have anything else.

Councilmember, Lewis – We've had two promotions within the Police Department. Officer Keith Creel, promoted to Corporal and then today we promoted Danny Salazar to Lieutenant. These guys do a great job and is well deserving. Mayor Williford, if some of you may not know; he is our K-9 Molly's keeper that we got back in January, and he is also our School Resource Officer.

Justin Robinson, Citizen at 107 Lambert Rd - I apologize, this is my first time at one of these meetings and I wasn't exactly sure when to speak.

So first of all, my family and I only moved to Whitesburg about three weeks ago and I was trying to find a place to sign my kids up to play sports; however, come to find out there's nothing here. So, I graduated from the University of Alabama State where I play 2 years of college football. For the past 5 years I have been working with underprivileged kids helping them to play sports and paying for it out of my own pocket. So I'm here before you tonight looking for a place to start a sports organization. I had my own non-profit organization for 5 years, so I raised like \$20,000 and that helps a little bit. I don't know if you all have children and grandchildren that play sports, do you want to keep taking them to Carrollton or would you like to have sports here in Whitesburg? I can help make that happen. I would like to see some of the funds raise for the sports to go other areas like Councilmember Gamble was speaking about the Senior Center, cleaning up the community, our teams we can make it mandatory they help with this as part of the community. Thank you. **Mayor Williford**, Mr. Robinson, if you'll get with Councilmember Gamble afterwards, she will get your contact information as she handles our Recreation Department. Thank you.

Mrs. Wanice - I good, I don't have anything

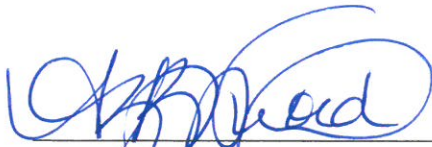


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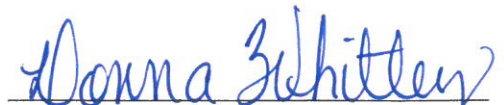


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- VIII. Mayor Williford**, If there are no other comments, I need a motion we adjourn. **Motion By:** Councilmember Gamble to adjourn, **Second By:** Councilmember Lewis, **Motion Approved** with No Objections. The April 3, 2023 was ended at 7:45 pm.



Amy R. Williford, Mayor



ATTEST: Clerk