

AGENDA
City of Whitesburg
Mayor and Council Meeting
September 6, 2022 – 6:00 p.m.

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

- I. CALL TO ORDER 6:05PM**
1. Silence all Electronic Devices
2. Ascertain Quorum

Present: Mayor Amy Williford, Councilman William Smolar, Councilman Chris Lewis, Councilwoman Lucy Gamble, Councilwoman Donna Whitley

- II. INVOCATION** – Water Superintendent Robert Gamble
- III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Councilmember William Smolar
- IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Councilman William Smolar added naming the new city clerk to the agenda.

MOTION: Councilman Chris Lewis motioned that the agenda be approved with the addition of naming the new city clerk

2ND: Councilwoman Donna Whitley

OPPOSED: none

V. MINUTES APPROVAL

Special Called Meeting – August 8, 2022,

Mayor and Council Meeting – August 1, 2022,

Work Session – July 26, 2022,

01

02-04

05-06

MOTION TO APPROVE ALL MINUTES: Councilman Chris Lewis

2ND: Councilwoman Lucy Gamble

OPPOSED: none

VI. CITIZEN COMMENTS AND DISCUSSION ON AGENDA ITEMS

(Please state your name and address and limit speaking time to three (3) minutes)

none

VII. BUSINESS SESSION

1. Appointment of Kevin Drummond as new City Attorney

07-08

City Attorney David Mecklin has sent a letter informing the city that he is stepping down. He recommends Kevin Drummond as his replacement.

MOTION: Councilman Chris Lewis

2ND: Councilwoman Donna Whitley

OPPOSED: none

2. Appointment of Designated Contact for GMA Employee Benefits

Councilman William Smolar proposed appointing Wanice Odell as the designated contact for GMA Employee Benefits

*MOTION: Councilman William Smolar
2ND: Councilman Chris Lewis*

OPPOSED: none

3. Appointment of GMEBS Pension Committee Secretary
Councilman William Smolar proposed appointing Wanice Odell as the designated contact for GMA Employee Benefits

*MOTION: Councilman William Smolar
2ND: Councilman Chris Lewis*

OPPOSED: none

4. Rezoning Request for Property Located at 965B Main Street 09-15
City Attorney David Mecklin sent a letter to the property owner advising that this could not be done because the property is too small, and we have no multi-family zoning. We do need to address other properties in the city that are also being used as multi-family dwellings.

No action needed

5. Police Chief Salary
Chief Gilliland has done an excellent job with the police department in the past year and a raise has been recommended.

*MOTION: Councilman Chris Lewis
2ND: William Smolar*

OPPOSED: none

6. Appointment of new city clerk
*Councilman William Smolar advised that we neglected to appoint the city clerk at the beginning of this year. He recommends Councilwoman Donna Whitley be appointed.
Motion: Councilman Chris Lewis
2nd: William Smolar*

OPPOSED: none

VIII. CITIZEN COMMENTS

(Please state your name and address and limit speaking time to three (3) minutes)

1. Sue Horn, Star News: She would like to address Councilman William Smolar's actions at the last council meeting, specifically saying to Ms. Sierra Leone that talking to her is "like talking to a rock." Will there be an apology for that action?
Councilman William Smolar: He said that the reason he said that is because she was asking the same question over and over even though he had already answered her. He stands behind his comment 100%. Councilman William Smolar also pointed out that Ms. Leone is not a resident of the City of Whitesburg as she does not own property within the city limits.
2. Councilman William Smolar tendered his resignation as a Whitesburg City Council Member to Mayor Amy Williford, effective immediately. He also recommends that the city conducts proper investigations (unknown reference) and restrict public comments to citizens of the city of Whitesburg.
Mr. Smolar left his council folder and all documents on the table and moved to sit with the citizens for the remainder of the meeting.

3. Sierra Leone: She is a resident of the city. At the previous meeting she did raise her hand and wait to be addressed. All she was asking for was the name of the grant writer and a copy of the report from her that shows that the city is not eligible for grants because of its median income.
4. Citizen Michael Thomas: He asked in September of 2021 that the issue of blighted/ abandoned properties be addressed. It has not.

He also mentioned an issue with some of the roads in the city, specifically Moore Street at Kelly Street. The holes in the roadway cause drivers to run off the road trying to avoid them. He is asking for 250 feet of patches.

He also asked about the area that had previously been cleared for the new city hall and why construction was stopped.

Mayor Amy Williford said that we are waiting on the funds to pay for it without going into debt for it.

Councilwoman Lucy Gamble: She agrees that the land for city hall is in bad shape, but that, like everything else, it costs money that we do not currently have.

5. Citizen (no name given): She stated that she was at the previous council meeting in which Councilman William Smolar said that talking to Ms. Leone was like talking to a rock. She noted that Ms. Leone was out of turn when addressing the mayor and council. Councilman William Smolar should not have spoken to her that way, but Ms. Leone also should not have raised her voice when addressed by saying, "I'm talking to the mayor."
6. Citizen (no name given): Why have we not seen anyone doing community service like picking up the roadways lately?

Chief Chris Gilliland: The judge assigns community service but they are not required to serve it in Whitesburg, so we have not had anyone coming in to serve it.

Water Superintendent Robert Gamble: He has had a few people come in and serve recently.

IX. MAYOR, COUNCIL, AND CITY STAFF COMMENTS

Superintendent Robert Gamble:

- The city dump truck needs repairs. Can we take it to West Georgia Diesel to be serviced?
- Jones Mill Road has holes in it. Is there money to patch them? People are dodging the potholes and that could lead to an accident that the city would be liable for.
 - Mayor Amy Williford will investigate it since the changes to the council tonight.

Chief Chris Gilliland:

- Provided report on numbers of calls answered citations, warnings, and arrests
- Red Speed contacted him last week and installation should begin soon.
- School Resource Officer Danny Salazar offered to participate in the school's fall festival. We are looking to get things to hand out to the kids and possibly child identification kits for parents.
- The school and the students love Officer Salazar. He is making a positive influence with everyone.
- The blood drive still does not have a time, but we will begin advertising as soon as we have that set.
- The Police Department was invited to attend the memorial service and the Carroll County memorial Park on Friday. He will attend and is trying to get other officers to go with him.

Councilwoman Donna Whitley:

- Since she has been appointed the new city clerk, she wants to make sure that she has all materials and information she needs to do the job well.
 - Mayor Amy Williford will look in to getting everything together.

Councilwoman Lucy Gamble

- Asked about Sierra Leone's fees being refunded as requested.
 - Mayor Amy Williford advised that Ms. Leone needs to address the city attorney.
- Where is the refund from the city's fireworks display? The money was personal money that was put down on the event, not city money.
 - Mayor Amy Williford advised it was deposited to the general city fund as part of the money budgeted for the event. When we get an invoice the city will refund the money.

Councilman Chris Lewis:

- The booster pump by the center needs new flange. We will need to hire someone to fix it since it will require welding. He is looking for someone to do the repairs.

Mayor Amy Williford:

- No new business

Superintendent Robert Gamble:

- It's getting close to time for the city's annual Founders Day celebration. Is there anything planned?
- Councilwoman Lucy Gamble said the churches started it years ago but it takes a lot of people to organize the event, not just the council.
- Sue Horn offered free publicity in the Star News for the event this year.
- Sierra Leone volunteered to help with the event.

Citizen (no name given):

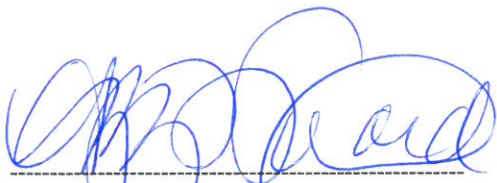
- Asked about the alumni celebration for previous Whitesburg school students. The ladies who have generally organized the event are getting older and not getting out much anymore.

Various ideas for celebration were suggested: food trucks, petting zoo, etc,

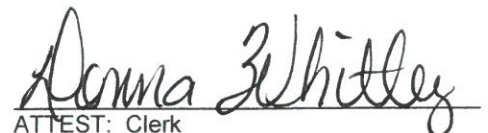
X. ADJOURNMENT 6:45pm

*MOTION: Councilman Chris Lewis
2ND: Councilwoman Lucy Gamble*

OPPOSED: None



Amy R. Williford, Mayor



ATTEST: Clerk

The Agenda for each Mayor and 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 Mayor and 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.