

# MINUTES

## Mayor and Council Special Called Meeting

City Of Whitesburg

December 19, 2022 - 6:00 p.m.

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

### ATTENDEES

✓	Mayor, Amy Williford (AW)	✓	Councilmember, Lucy Gamble (LG)
✓	Councilmember, Chris Lewis (CL)	✓	Councilmember, Donna Whitley (DW)
✓	Water Superintendent, Robert Gamble (RG)	✓	Chief Of Police, Chris Gilliland (CG)
✓	Assistant City Clerk, Wanice Odell (WO)		

#### I. CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Williford

1. Silence All Electronic Devices
2. Ascertain Quorum

#### II. INVOCATION: Water Superintendent Robert Gamble

#### III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Councilmember Chris Lewis

#### IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA - Mayor Williford

Motion: Councilmember Chris Lewis Second: Councilmember Lucy Gamble  
Vote: 3-0 **Approved**

#### V. CITIZEN COMMENTS & DISCUSSION ON AGENDA ITEMS: (For the record state name & address; speaking limited to 3 minutes)

None

#### VI. BUSINESS SESSION

Councilmember Chris Lewis – What we are voting on is the approval to purchase K-9 for City Police Department. Hopefully, everyone has read through the contract; the questions from the last Meeting were regarding Liability Insurance which we are covered; other areas the Chief and I area working on are raising funds for food and other incidentals. If anyone has any other questions Mr. Moses is here.

Motion: Councilmember Chris Lewis Second: Councilmember Donna Whitley  
Vote: 3-0 **Approved**

#### VII. CITIZEN COMMENTS: (For The Record, Please State [Your Name & Address] Each Person Kindly Limited To 3 Minutes

CL Voting on K9 everyone read through the contract. There were a couple of questions regarding insurance. There is a liability policy on the dog in case it harms anyone that is covered. Willie, Chief and I are working on different ways for food, vet bills and different things like that. If anyone has any questions, Moses is here, if anyone wants to address anything.

AW Is Danny already set up at home

CL Yes

AW What if he leaves

CG We will reassign a K9 officer. If Danny was to leave us and we have to get another officer to work with Molly, how much would that session run?

Moses -It just depends on if they have already done a K9 handler vs not done a K9 handler. If they have already done a K9 handler than its just a recertification. If he hasn't and has to

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- learn how to go through all the steps, then we would try to put up a different program form then and try to make it a little bit easier than what the cost was spent for the dog.
- DW Y'all already have somebody that shadows Danny, anyway.
- CG Right
- CL Who are we thinking about doing that?
- CG David
- AW He will be listed as a backup for Danny, right?
- LG Do you have an approximate timeline if Danny leaves, and David takes over how long it would take them to mesh together?
- Moses You talking about Danny Now? That won't take long at all. What I did was I'm not going to start the fully training of the dog until the end of January. The reason for that is for the bonding of them two and I am going to show them things to do. I never want to start a dog right away training, cause the dog don't know the handler and it gives him too many things to have on his mind. So, I do this here, I'm going to have the dog feed out of his hand and it's a bonding session, so that the dog and him get bonded. Then start training him so all the stuff I've done with the dog is nothing. When we start in January, we are going back to the beginning of training just like we start off. No matter how far along the dog is in training, we take him back to the first beginning.
- CL With Danny
- Moses Yes
- AW Have we had a lot of calls for one?
- CG With a K9 there's always a need if you work a lot of traffic. Our main goal cause of the K9 is because of the drugs. We are all the time stopping cars that we had tips; we know it's in there but without a probable cause you cannot go in that car. But, when you pull that dog out and that dog does a free air search make an alert, spring forward that's when we can go on. There's been a ton over the past several since I've been here.
- AW Oh, I can name them when they ride by
- CG There's been several times here in the City or within the area where a dog had been needed and they county has to call somebody in and come out.
- AW Have we had to do that?
- CG We haven't, we have kind of steered clear of it. The one time we had a missing person that I have been made aware of, we let the county come out and it turned out before they got on scene, they had located the person. Thank Goodness. It's hard to say how much you are going to need a dog. That can change from day to day.
- CG Oh yea, I've been hit with all these questions too.
- AW Well, that and I'm going into my 21st year and we've tried this several times before, of course we were the laughingstock and different things I'm just trying to cover everything, The citizens that don't come out here and sit they sit out at Mikes and talk.
- CL Well, you don't need one until you have one
- DL We have a lot of elderly people here in Whitesburg, I mean a lot and you're always hearing about somebody wondering off. I mean, so I think that might be a big benefit.
- LG So, the K9 is crossed trained?
- CG Is it multipurpose or dual purpose
- Moses Dual Purpose
- AW That's search and Drugs

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Moses We do patrol, narcotics, and audible search, just in case somebody throws something out to the side, the dog can go find it.

AW What about a person?

Moses Same thing, traffic, all that comes from the same area.

LG So, it means he needs something to sniff?

Moses Well, no, tracking deals with ground disturbance. Where a person's goes, they learn to pick up the ground and sniff. On an audible search it's done with human scent. It's like on day you might put it out, this person might put it out the dog learns to pick up human scent and that's how they do the search.

CG If you have ever watched any true police tv shows when it comes time for them to put a K9 on the ground for a traffic stop or a child that wandered off, you will always hear them say don't go out there stay where you are at. You want to leave that one path for that dog to pick up and start tracking.

CL Can the county utilize us if they have calls within this area?

CG I've already talked with one of the lieutenants with the sheriff's office. They want to swear Danny in like they did me, they want to swear him in to. They got word of us looking to do this and I'm all about agency assist. They have been really good over the past 8 months assisting us with a lot of stuff and I'd like to do the same for them if they have. There's all the time stuff happening that we go to right outside the city limits. I go to everything I hear on the radio to assist them. So, they have asked about swearing Danning in and using the dog.

AW Of course, everyone is asking don't City Hall come first. I let them know we are putting things in order, now.

CG In the long run there's a lot of potential for revenue generated revenue.

AW And we are working on getting things lined up.

AW Is there anything else?

CL I make a motion we approve the purchase of the K9

Motion: Councilmember Chris Lewis Second: Councilmember Donna Whitley

Vote: 3-0 **Approved**

AW Thank you

CL \$7,000 will come ARPA City Funds and the other will come from Dogs on Duty

Moses They are sending a temperature sensor, Dogs on Duty

AW What's her name?

Moses K9 Molly

### VIII. MAYOR/COUNCIL/CITY STAFF COMMENTS: None

AW If there are no more citizens or newspapers comments; I need a motion to adjourn.

Motion: Councilmember Chris Lewis Second: Councilmember Donna Whitley

Vote: 3-0 **Approved**

### IX. ADJOURNMENT: Yes

Time: 6:35 pm

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Amy R. Williford, Mayor

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ATTEST: Clerk

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