

**MINUTES**  
**City of Whitesburg**  
**Mayor and Council Meeting**  
**August 1, 2022 – 6:00 p.m.**

---

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

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

1. Silence all Electronic Devices
2. Ascertain Quorum

**ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Mayor Amy Williford, Councilmember Lucy Gamble, Councilmember William Smolar, Councilmember Chris Lewis, and Councilmember Donna Whitley.

**II. INVOCATION** – Water Superintendent Robert Gamble

**III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Councilmember William Smolar

**IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**APPROVED: Motion – Councilmember Gamble, Second – Councilmember Lewis. Vote: 4-0**

**V. MINUTES APPROVAL**

Mayor and Council Meeting – July 5, 2022  
Work Session – June 28, 2022

**APPROVED: Motion – Councilmember Lewis, Second- Councilmember Whitley. Vote: 4-0.**

**VI. CITIZEN COMMENTS AND DISCUSSION ON AGENDA ITEMS**

There were none.

**VII. BUSINESS SESSION**

1. 2022 Millage Rate Discussion

William Smolar said that the rollback millage rate will be \$7.321. This will provide a gain of \$16,000-\$17,000. The public hearing for the millage rate will be held on August 8 at 5:45. The Special Called Meeting to approve the millage rate will be held on August 8 at 6:00.

**APPROVED: Motion – Councilmember Smolar, Second - Councilmember Lewis. Vote: 4-0.**

2. Rezoning of property at 965B Main Street, Whitesburg, GA 30185

The Planning and Zoning Commission represented by Duana Williford voted to approve the application to rezone as multi-family residential. If it is not rezoned, Mr. Barrios will not be able to do anything with the property. As it stands, Mr. Barrios and the City would be held liable for injuries on the property because it is not up to code and the City allowed it to be that way. If it is rezoned, he can go ahead with having the area repaired and brought up to code for apartments. Councilmember Smolar stated that there is no multi-family residential zoning in the city so it cannot be rezoned as multi-family residential.

Kim Arnell said that people living in commercial buildings has been a problem for a long time. The property was divided and used illegally. He is concerned about the water quality from the

faulty septic tanks and run-off into the water table. This could be a way to shut down businesses that have people living in them.

Councilmember Smolar responded that single family properties require .75 acres and only one water line. They are currently in violation for splitting the water line to the separate apartments. Ms. Torri Yearta commented that this could give the City a couple of affordable housing options which it is currently lacking.

Kim Arnell asked if there are plans for the new apartments that we could look at that might help with the decision.

Planning Commission Representative Duana Williford said Mr. Barrios is not going to pay for plans if the property is not rezoned residential.

**TABLED:** Motion – Councilmember Smolar, Second – Councilmember Whitley to table the matter until it can be discussed with the City Attorney. Vote: 4-0.

## **VIII. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Torri Yearta stated that she is interested in the property at 61 Brannon Street. Her plan would be to tear down the existing trailers, clean up the property, install a bathhouse/laundry, and set up camp sites for contractors from Plant Wansley to use. The property is 1.57 acres.

Sierra Leone- She wants to know what is happening with the old car wash that was to become a liquor store. Councilmember Smolar advised that an alcohol license was never issued for the application, but the owner wants has expressed an interest in putting a different business at the location.

Sierra Leone- What will be done with the old Dollar General building?

Lucy Gamble- The building was offered to the city for purchase or rent but the city refused.

Sierra Leone- Stated that she is concerned that the current owners will rent to someone else who will not keep it up and allow it to become a slum area again.

Sierra Leone- Can anyone petition to open a liquor store in the place that had previously been applied for? Can the same person reapply for another liquor store in the same place?

William Smolar- If the building is ready, the city must consider the application because there can be two liquor licenses in the city.

Amy Williford- Anyone who meets the requirements can apply.

Chris Gilliland- Business to the current store went down when Coweta approved the sale of liquor, and the owner of the Beverage Bank is no longer considering opening another liquor store.

Imogene Frazier - Has the Depot applied for selling guns?

Chris Gilliland- The Federal government approved his license. The city has nothing to do with allowing him to sell firearms.

## **IX. MAYOR, COUNCIL, AND CITY STAFF COMMENTS**

Superintendent Gamble- Has spoken with geologists with the County. They will charge \$125.00 per hour for checking for new well sites. They will be looking to possibly put one on the north side of town.

Tonya Spinks- Has the city applied for grants for the water? Three Rivers writes grants for free as part of their services.

Councilmember Smolar- The median income for the City is too high to qualify for grants. We could petition to the post office for the City to have its own zip code which would give a more accurate median income.

Sierra Leone- Are there other grants the city could apply for? All grants do not have the same requirements.

Conversation continued, mostly between Councilmember Smolar and Sierra Leone about the possibility of applying for grants and that there are none we qualify for due to the median income.)

Councilmember Smolar made a motion to adjourn, stating that it's like talking to a rock.

Robert- The drainage pipe on Kelly Street needs expensive work done on it. The resident at 35 Kelly Street is complaining of the backup from the current pipes. White Oak Street also needs larger pipes. Water Superintendent stated that the cost for the project will be \$80,000 - \$90,000.

Amy Williford- Get quotes

Chris Gilliland gave numbers of citations written and warnings given for July.

There is still a patrol position open, but he has hired an SRO for Whitesburg Elementary School- Danny Salazar. The School staff members have met him and are excited to have him for the new year.

Sierra Leone- Stated she was disappointed at the way she was treated by Mr. Smolar.

Councilmember Whitley apologized, stating that she did not agree with the way she had been treated.

Councilmember Whitley suggested bringing back the yard beautification awards. That was a fun way to encourage people to keep up their yards and make the City a place to be proud of.

Councilmember Whitley said she spoke to Wanice, the new water clerk, and that there needs to be some clarification of who performs which duties in the office.

Lucy Gamble- There seems to be a problem with animals defecating in public places and it not being picked up. Citizens should be mindful and considerate when walking pets.

Ms. Gamble also asked how often we have court.

Chris Gilliland stated that we hold court twice a month because the numbers had been so high, and the judge wants to keep a reasonable number on each docket.

Lucy Gamble said the ribbon cutting at the Dollar General Market went well. Thanks to Sierra Leone for doing the work to get the Dollar General Market here.

Chris Lewis- He has spoken with the chief about using a Fleet card for police cars instead of making the 20-mile round trip for fuel, which is about 30 minutes per trip. We are currently running one trip per shift to the county for fuel. Robert Gamble and Tim Robison use the BP in town.

## **X. ADJOURNMENT**

Chris Lewis made a motion to adjourn. Donny Whitley seconded the motion. All in favor.  
Adjourned at 6:54.

---

Amy R. Williford, Mayor

---

ATTEST: Clerk

