



MINUTES

Mayor & Council Meeting

April 3, 2025 • 6:00 PM



ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Mayor, Amy Williford
Councilmember, Lucy Gamble
Councilmember, Donna Whitley
Councilmember, Kim Arnell

CITY STAFF:

Clerk, April Fordham
Water Superintendent, Tim Robison
Police Chief, Keith Creel

The Mayor and City Council met for a regular meeting on April 3, 2025. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Amy Williford at 6:07pm, stating we had a quorum and requesting everyone to silence all electronic devices.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

1. Council Meeting March 10, 2025
2. Work Session April 1, 2025

Motion by Councilmember Whitley to approve all minutes as written **Second by** Councilmember Gamble; **Motion approved** with no objections.

CITIZEN COMMENTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS/ISSUES

- 2025 Child Abuse Prevention Month Proclamation
Allen Babcock and Desiree Kendricks presented a statement from the West Georgia Child Advocacy Center about their mission and the services they offer.

BUSINESS SESSION:

- 1- **Councilmember Whitley:** Push Bumpers for the patrol cars is tabled until a decision is made about what will be done with the Chargers the police department currently owns.

Councilmember Whitley made a **motion to approve** a \$15 increase to all fines not set by the state to cover the fee increase by Courtware **Second by** Councilmember Arnell; **Motion approved** with no objections.

Councilmember Whitley spoke with Chris Bell about the changes we are requesting. He drew up new plans that include eliminating the back hallway, which will increase the council/ courtroom to 33' x 33'; enclosing half of the sallyport for storage and still allowing access to the mechanical room; adding a roll-up door to the sallyport; adjusting size of data room and housekeeping room. There should not be any additional charge for redrawing the plans or the changes being made. **Motion by** Councilmember Whitley to approve these changes and allow Chris Bell to complete Phase 2 of the building of city hall for a cost of \$164,186 from 2021 SPLOST; **Second by** Councilmember Arnell; **Motion approved** with no objections

- 2- **Councilmember Gamble** presented the proposal from Juan Nieves for the lease of the ballfields and gym for Bases Loaded

Councilmember Whitley spoke with our insurance representative about an employee workout room, and it would be covered under our regular policy. The playgrounds are covered by our blanket policy. Our insurance would not cover the lease of the fields or gym to another organization. They would need to provide their own insurance.

Councilmember Arnell: The gym floor needs to be redone before we can allow anyone to use it. He also mentioned the potential conflict with the lease of the gym and rentals of the lobby. There is no separate entrance to the gym or restrooms so the teams would be



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interrupting events being held in the lobby. Mayor Williford and Councilmember Whitley agreed with the concern about the flows being unsafe in their current condition. Councilmember Whitley brought up previous statements that the cost of lighting for the gym is expensive. Councilmember Arnell suggested LED lights for the gym, but he is unsure what the cost of those lights would be. He also expressed concern that the lease of the facilities was not supposed to cost the City anything but that does not seem to be the case.

The proposal suggests Bases Loaded using City equipment to do work on the fields and maintain the grass. Mayor Williford does not think we should allow them to use the City's equipment.

Councilmember Gamble: We would just have to be careful with scheduling conflicting events.

Clerk Fordham stated that Bases Loaded currently has both fields reserved 5 days a week until May. He is not using the fields all of the days he has reserved but they cannot be rented by other teams because he has them reserved. Councilmember Gamble said that he will need to pay for all of the dates he has reserved even if he is not using the fields since that prevents others from renting them.

Councilmember Arnell said that based on the previous cost of the lights for the ballfields the repairs would be \$3100 for the 25 lights on the lower field. Superintendent Robison said many of the light poles would also need to be replaced.

Mayor Williford said we would need estimates for the work that Bases Loaded is asking for before we can make a decision about the lease.

Approval of the proposed lease is tabled until research into the cost of repairs can be done.

Councilmember Gamble expressed concern that the improvement of the recreation facilities has been discussed several times, but they keep getting pushed back.

Councilmember Whitley said that we have had to prioritize the building of City Hall and other projects.

- 3- **Councilmember Arnell** made a **motion that we accept** the quote from Cintas for providing uniforms for the water department. The cost would be \$23.46/ week/ employee and includes enough uniforms for a 6-day workweek and includes Cintas cleaning and making repairs to uniforms as necessary. **Second by** Councilmember Whitley; **Motion approved** with no objections.

Councilmember Arnell would like to table the water tank inspections until he is able to get a third quote.

Councilmember Arnell made a motion to purchase the same water tank that was offered by Brown's Pools on Amazon for \$599.99 plus tax, up to \$625. **Second by** Councilmember Whitley; **Motion approved** with no objections.

Mayor and Council Announcements

Councilmember Whitley introduced the new assistant city clerk, Carmen Dollar. She will begin April 14.

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Motion to adjourn the meeting by Councilmember Gamble; Second by Councilmember Arnell; Motion approved with no objections.

The April 3, 2025, Mayor & Council Meeting ended at 6:53 pm.

Amy Williford, Mayor

ATTEST: Clerk
