



MINUTES Work Session January 28, 2025



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

Elected Officials Present

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

City Staff Present

Water Superintendent, Tim Robison
 Assistant City Clerk, Wendy Morris
 Interim Chief, Keith Creel

The Mayor and City Council met for a Work Session on January 28, 2025. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Amy Williford at 6:05pm.

- I. **Invocation was led by Councilmember Arnell, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilmember Gamble.**
- II. **Citizen Comments & Discussion on Agenda Items:**
- III. **Business Session:**

Mayor Williford:

- Purchase of (2) Flock Cameras to be installed on Hwy 5 @ City Limit sign. Installation \$7,300.00 + 1 year contract \$6,000. **Interim Chief Creel** explained to the council that the additional flock cameras will alert the Whitesburg Police Department of expired tags, suspended license, no insurance, missing persons, etc. He also stated that in the last 2 years the existing flock cameras have helped the police department locate 3 missing people. This month the existing flock cameras have alerted the officers, and 38 citations have been written off of these alerts. Interim Chief Creel stated that he would like to eventually have 5 cameras located at all 5 entrances of the city. If the city were to purchase 5 cameras the estimated cost would be \$15,000 for installation and \$15,000 for a 1-year contract, but the cameras would pay for themselves.
- Ballistic Vest for SRO Officer Tongate: Estimated cost for the vest \$1,250.00 - \$1,500.00. **Interim Chief Creel** stated that SRO Officer Tongate will need to have a fitted Ballistic Vest. The adjustable ballistic vest does not fit her as it should.
- Push Bumper for 2020 Dodge Charger: Bumper cost \$1,900.00 plus labor to install. **Interim Chief Creel** stated this is Officer Purcell's patrol car and push bumpers on patrol cars are a necessity in case an officer hits a deer or wrecks, it will help save the patrol vehicle from extensive damage.
- Replacement Laptop for Officer Purcell's patrol vehicle. **Interim Chief Creel** stated that Officer Purcell's current laptop is extremely slow and due to it being slow it is not functional with the programs that he needs. Estimated cost of laptop \$400 for 12gb and \$420 for 16gb.
- Radio Batteries: Replacement of (3) batteries at \$160.00 each. Interim Chief Creel stated the current batteries will not hold a charge. He stated that 3 batteries would work for now to allow the officers on duty to have a radio and not have to charge the radio mid shift.
- Rental of Discglow Headphones for Whitesburg Elementary event on February 14, 2025, \$678.00. To be paid from Redspeed
- Reducing the speed limit on Wellington Mill: **Interim Chief Creel** stated with the new plant on Wellington Mill there is more tractor trailer traffic. With the current speed limit at 35mph it makes the road more dangerous. **Interim Chief Creel** would like to see the speed limit reduced to 20 or 25mph.
- Depot Street and South Five Notch traffic issues: **Interim Chief Creel** stated that Depot Street is not wide enough and needs to be changed to No Thru traffic. **Mayor Williford**

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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stated that she would get in touch with the homeowners on Depot Street and get their input. **Interim Chief Creel** stated that S Five Notch is being used by bigger trucks to avoid the roundabout. We need a speed limit sign on S Five Notch. The current speed limit is 20mph but there is no speed limit sign up. **Councilmember Gamble** suggested also putting up a sign: NO TRUCKS OVER 6 WHEELS.

Councilmember Whitley:

- **HB581** – **Councilmember Whitley** stated there is a lot to HB581. This bill does protect current homeowners from rising property assessments. HB581 will only allow assessments to go up based on the inflation rate, which is usually between 1-3%. With the assessments going up based on inflation it could possibly shift the burden to millage rate increases and other forms of taxation. HB581 will not protect new homeowners, business or rental properties. The Council has decided to hold 3 public hearings to have citizen input on HB581.

Councilmember Gamble:

- **Remodel of Recreation Building:** **Councilmember Gamble** went over the 3 estimates that the city has received on installing sheet rock and a drop ceiling in the lobby of the recreation center. **Mayor Williford** will get with the companies about adding insulation to the estimates.
Hunter Reichert \$20,900.00
Dominion Contracting \$37,649.85
Marietta Drywall \$20,930.00

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

None

Mayor / Council / City Staff Comments:

- **Councilmember Arnell:** Asked when the septic tank for New City Hall will be going in. **Mayor Williford** stated it should be this week; they were waiting on the ground to dry out.

The January 28, 2025, Mayor & Council Meeting ended at 7:57 pm.

Amy R. Williford, Mayor

ATTEST: Clerk