

CITY OF COMER REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
December 5, 2011 6 PM
MAYOR MCMICKLE PRESIDING

Council Members Present: Laquita Bridges, Kevin Booth, Howard Threlkeld, and Jimmy Yarbrough

City Attorney: Jim Roberts

City Clerk: Missy Queen

Police Chief: Brent Zellner

Public Works Superintendent: Willis Gabriel

Building Inspector/Zoning Administrator: Jim Baird (not present)

City Clerk Missy Queen called meeting to order.

- 1. Minutes:** Motion by Council Member Yarbrough to approve minutes from November 7, 2011 Regular Council Meeting. Motion Second by Council Member Booth. Motion approved by unanimous vote of Council.

 - 2. Parade:** Council Member Threlkeld mentioned there was no mention of the discussion of the float in last month's minutes. There was obvious miscommunication among Council which led to there being no float. Mayor McMickle stated that the parade discussions should start earlier in the year with more detail to have plenty preparation time to execute. Council Member Booth stated he thought the parade was smaller than years passed. Council Member Bridges complained that Missy Queen did not leave the Travel Museum open for the Woman's Club to bring refreshments. Mrs. Queen stated she was asked to be at the Travel Museum at 10:00 to let women in. Mrs. Queen was there from 9:45 to 11:15 and then locked up to be at another location to help with parade preparation. Mrs. Queen did not feel comfortable leaving the Travel Museum unattended and unlocked. Mayor McMickle agreed that it was not a good idea to leave the Travel Museum unlocked and unattended. Council Member Bridges stated the Woman's Club would not use the Travel Museum again.

 - 3. Department Reports:**
 - a. Police Department reported by Chief Zellner:**
 - i. For the month of November: 9 arrests; 27 citations; 21 incident reports; 3 accident reports; 128 calls for service.
 - ii. Weekend activities (Reindeer Run, Parade, and Christmas Tree Lighting) went well.
 - iii. This Friday, the 9th, Comer PD will be hosting the monthly Governor's Office of Highway Safety Task Force meeting. Meeting will be held in Travel Museum.
 - iv. Chief Zellner ask Council for permission to enroll department in POAG (Police Officer Association of Georgia). Zellner stated that this will only be for paid positions. POAG gives extra benefits and training to those enrolled. Motion by Council Member Threlkeld to enroll department and will be addressed annually for renewal. Motion second by Council Member Yarbrough. Motion approved by unanimous vote of Council.
 - b. Public Works reported by Willis Gabriel:**
 - i. Received replies from three engineering firms and there are still others interested. Motion by Council Member Threlkeld to table until January. Motion second by Council Member Booth. Motion approved by unanimous vote of Council.
 - ii. Have a 10 HP motor for aerator that needs to be rebuilt to have on hand for a back-up. Repairs will cost \$900. Motion by Council Member Booth to have motor rebuilt. Motion second by Council Member Threlkeld. Motion approved by unanimous vote of Council.
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- iii. Only received one bid for repairs to Learning Center. Motion by Council Member Booth to accept bid from Larry Gantt noting that only damaged ceiling tiles will be replaced instead of all. Motion second by Council Member Yarbrough. Motion approved by unanimous vote of Council. Water Fountain to be replaced was donated to City by Donnie “Bo” Strickland.
 - iv. Council Member Threlkeld stated that he has been asking for grass to be cut and limbs picked up at Learning Center for six months and would like to see this addressed.
- c. **Fire Department reported by Jimmy Yarbrough:**
- i. Nothing to report.
- d. **City Hall reported by Missy Queen:**
- i. City has received application from Comer BP for Beer and Wine License for 2012. Ad will run and will be voted next month.
- 4. Citizen’s Comment (Sue Carithers):** Ms. Sue Carithers stated that she heard many comments that it was a City parade, but there was no City involvement. There was no float with Mayor and Council. Mayor McMickle addressed Ms. Carithers stating that he was not there due to the same reason he decided not to run again for Mayor, his family. Mayor McMickle also stated that the City needs to be involved with the planning; that if the Woman’s Club is using tax payers money to fund the parade, then the City should be able to give input.
- 5. Citizen’s Comment (LS Echols):** Mr. L.S. Echols stated that he was proud to be in Comer. He has lived here for many years and has never been to a Council Meeting and wanted to be involved.
- 6. Citizen’s Comment (Bennie Gantt):** Mr. Bennie Gantt questioned why the article in the paper was written “like Madison Street is a gangster area”, there are speeders everywhere; Madison is not a bad street. Mayor McMickle stated that the City has no control of what the paper writes and that the City was not picking on Madison Street, speeding is a problem City wide.
- 7. Grass Cutting:** Council Member Booth stated that the triangle on Hwy 98 was cut and it should not have been. The City should not cut any private personal property. Mr. Gabriel stated it was only cut for the parade. Attorney Roberts suggested in the future contacting the land owner and requesting it be cut. Council Member Booth stated he was concerned for liability issues. Mayor McMickle stated that in the future, that if there is a lot in question, the Council should be addressed at a meeting with a reason of why it needs addressed, then a letter sent to land owner and pursue the issue in order of recently adopted public annoyance ordinance. City should only cut grass on approved property.
- 8. Thanks:** Council Member Yarbrough thanked Council Member Threlkeld, Council Member Booth, and Mayor McMickle for their time served on Council.
- 9. Executive Session:** Motion by Council Member Threlkeld to go out of regular session and into executive session to discuss personnel. Motion second by Council Member Booth. Motion approved by unanimous vote of Council.
- After discussion of personnel, motion by Council Member Threlkeld to go out of executive session and back into regular session. Motion second by Council Member Booth. Motion approved by unanimous vote of Council.
- 10. Salaries:** Motion by Council Member Threlkeld to give a 3.5% raise to Willis Gabriel, John Howard and Ruben Moore; and give increase Missy Queen’s salary to \$30,000 plus an extra week vacation to compensate her for extra time working. Motion second by Council Member

Booth. Council Member Bridges stated she would rather wait to look at finances. Motion tabled until January meeting.

11. Arnold Park Gates: Council Member Threlkeld stated that someone needs to make sure the park is unlocked seven days a week.

Motion by Council Member Threlkeld to adjourn. Motion second by Council Member Yarbrough. Motion approved by unanimous vote of Council.

_____ Jody Blackmon, Mayor

_____ Missy Queen, City Clerk

_____ Date Approved