

**CITY OF COMER REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**  
**January 09, 2012 6 PM**  
**MAYOR BLACKMON PRESIDING**

**PENDING APPROVAL**

**Council Members Present:** Laquita Bridges, Estelle Gilstrap, Brian Fortson, 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 December 5, 2011 Regular Council Meeting. Motion second by Council Member Fortson. Motion approved by unanimous vote of Council.
  
- 2. Mayor Pro-Tem:** Mayor Blackmon asked for a consensus of Council of who they thought should be Mayor Pro-Tem. Motion by Council Member Bridges for Council Member Yarbrough to be Mayor Pro-Tem. Motion second by Council Member Fortson. Council Member Gilstrap was in favor of motion. Council Member Yarbrough abstained.
  
- 3. Appointed City Officials:** Mayor Blackmon recommended keeping current appointed city officials on in current positions. Motion by Council Member Yarbrough to act on Mayor's recommendations. Motion second by Council Member Bridges. Motion approved by unanimous vote of Council.
  
- 4. Committee Assignments:** Mayor Blackmon assigned Council to Committees as follows:
  - Estelle Gilstrap—Streets and Sidewalks
  - Brian Fortson—Parks and Sanitation
  - Jimmy Yarbrough—Water and Sewage
  - Laquita Bridges—Police Department
  
- 5. Budget:** Mayor Blackmon addressed Council stated that in the November 2011 Council Meeting there was an approved motioned to tentatively accept the Budget through February 2012 in order for new comers to review and approve in February. Mayor Blackmon would like to schedule a budget workshop for January 23, 2012 at 6PM prior to approval at February meeting. Workshop scheduled.
  
- 6. Pay Raises:** Mayor Blackmon addressed Council stated that in the December 2011 Council Meeting, former Council Member Threlkeld made a motion for pay raises for City Clerk, and City Public Works department. Motion was tabled. Mayor Blackmon recommended that this continue to be tabled until after the budget workshop. Mayor Blackmon also recommended that if pay raises are approved that they be retroactive.
  
- 7. DOT Letter:** Mayor Blackmon addressed Council. On December 27<sup>th</sup>, the City received a letter from the Georgia Department of Transportation referencing the Hwy 72 widening project, and request plans. Carter & Sloope, Inc. has work on these plans and Mayor Blackmon request

of the Council permission to meet with Carter & Sloope, Inc. to see what information they have on the project. Motion by Council Member Bridges to allow Mayor Blackmon to meet with Carter & Sloope, Inc. Motion second by Council Member Fortson. Motion approved by unanimous vote of Council. Council Member Gilstrap questioned why the relationship between the City and Carter & Sloope, Inc. was dissolved. Council Member Yarbrough addressed. Mayor Blackmon stated that the City does not have to have firm; the City can use whomever on an as needed basis. Mayor Blackmon also stated he would research and discuss and issues Carter & Sloope, Inc. may have.

## **8. Department Reports:**

### **a. Police Department reported by Chief Zellner:**

- i. For the Month of December: 6 Arrests; 33 Citations; 20 Incident Reports; 3 Accident Reports; 127 Calls
- ii. Radar trailer out around school

### **b. Public Works reported by Willis Gabriel:**

- i. City has had three water leaks due to the age of the lines. Lines were installed in the late 40's.
- ii. City had two residential sewer lines that needed to be unblocked. These lines were installed in 1969.
- iii. Well #4 has a good bit of iron (red water). This can be super-chlorinated, but redness will come back and EPD has regulations on this method of treatment. Can be addressed with filters.
- iv. Well # 2 has dropped off some causing more need on well # 4. Mr. Gabriel stated that if the City rehabs Well # 2, it will take some of the pressure off well # 4.
- v. Council Member Fortson would like to see the cost difference of filter vs. rehab. Mr. Gabriel stated that he would have those numbers for the next meeting.
- vi. Council Member Yarbrough stated that the City always needs to be looking for a place to have another well. Council Member Yarbrough would also like to see a long term game plan.

### **c. Building & Zoning reported by Missy Queen:**

- i. Permit purchased today for work on Cemetery Circle

### **d. Fire Department reported by Jimmy Yarbrough:**

- i. Nothing to report at this time.

### **e. City Hall reported by Missy Queen:**

- i. Newly Elected Officials Training: Registration forms & payments have been made for upcoming training in February for Mayor Blackmon, Council Members Yarbrough, Fortson, and Gilstrap.
- ii. Class Calendar Schedule:
  1. February 6-7—City Clerk Classes at UGA. Motion by Council Member Yarbrough to approve registration and attendance for Mrs. Queen. Motion second by Council Member Bridges. Motion approved by unanimous vote of Council.
  2. May 5-9—GEOA in Savannah
  3. June 2-6—VRAG in Savannah
  4. November 9—Court Clerk Classes at UGA

Mrs. Queen noted that both GEOA and VRAG conflict with Council Meetings; however, Katie Crane will be available to cover.

- iii. Mayor Blackmon addressed Council stating that he and Mrs. Queen have discussed finding accounting classes for Mrs. Queen to take. Council Member Yarbrough directed Mrs. Queen to look for classes that she needed and bring back before Council.

**9. RDC Orientation:** Council Member Gilstrap informed Mayor and Council that she will be accepting the invitation from the RDC for the Newly Elected Officials Orientation on January 26<sup>th</sup>.

**10. Welcome.** Council Member Yarbrough publically welcomed new Mayor Jody Blackmon, and new Council Member Brian Fortson and Estelle Gilstrap.

**11. Recognition:** Council Member Gilstrap publically recognized Council Member Fortson in his recent heroic actions. Council Member Fortson was on scene to help a victim in a burning vehicle on Hwy 22.

**12. Executive Session:** Motion by Council Member Yarbrough to go out of regular session and into executive session to discuss possible litigations. Motion second by Council Member Bridges. Motion approved by unanimous vote of Council.

After discussion of litigations, motion by Council Member Bridges to go out of executive session and back into regular session. Motion second by Council Member Yarbrough. Motion approved by unanimous vote of Council.

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

\_\_\_\_\_ Jody Blackmon, Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_ Missy Queen, City Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_ Date Approved