

CITY OF STAPLETON  
COUNCIL MEETING  
March 14, 2024

Lisa M. Cranford, Mayor  
Cheryl Moore, City Clerk  
Chris Dube, City Attorney  
Martha Ann Usry  
Lewis Berry  
Gail Berry  
Larry Holley  
Tom Wells  
Carol Smith

Council Present:  
Phillip Beckworth  
Christopher Whipple  
Janis Holley  
John Legander, III

Council Absent:  
Jason Irby

Mayor Lisa Cranford called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and rendered the invocation.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Mayor Cranford called for a motion to approve the minutes of the February 8, 2024, regular meeting. Motion made by Janis Holley, second by Phillip Beckworth, to approve the minutes of the meeting. Everyone voted in favor of the motion.

**OPENING OF BIDS:**

The City received three bids for a police seized vehicle; a 2007 Cadillac STS. The Mayor opened all the bids. Jerry Turner turned in a bid of \$1,226.95. Jerry Jordan turned in a bid of \$2,000.00, and Travis Hoover turned in a bid of \$500.00. A motion was made by John Legander, second by Janis Holley, to accept Mr. Jordan's bid of \$2,000.00. All voted in favor.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT GRANT APPLICATIONS:**

Mayor Cranford presented, and requested approval for, the Fire Department to move forward with two new grant applications. The first was the Assistance to Firefighters Grant through FEMA in the amount of \$76,565.00 for eleven new Airpacks with face masks. This grant has a 5 per cent match of \$3,828.25. The second grant, also through FEMA, will be for an emergency generator. A motion was made by Janis Holley, second by John Legander, giving approval for the Fire Department to move forward with these grant applications. All voted in favor.

**PUMP QUOTE:**

Larry Holley presented a quote from Macon Supply for a new dewatering pump in the amount of \$1947.73. The pump the City currently has is failing. This pump will be lighter and powered by the vehicle's battery. The current pump is heavy, gas powered and not easily moved. The pumps are used to draw water out of meter boxes or pull water out of holes, making it easier to repair leaks. A motion was made by John Legander, with a second by Chris Whipple, to approve the purchase of the new dewatering pump. Everyone voted in favor of the motion.

#### WASTE MANAGEMENT WASTE INCREASE:

Waste Management, the City's current sanitation vendor, will be implementing a 5.2 per cent rate increase effective March 1, which they can do annually per their contract. The city will have to implement a small rate increase as well in adjustment. The City is currently charging \$17 a month for Sanitation with a fee of \$9.12 per extra can. Rates will need to go up to \$17.89, with a fee of \$9.60 per extra can. A motion was made by Janis Holley, seconded by Phillip Beckworth to approve the rate increase. All voted in favor of the motion.

#### WATER RATE INCREASE:

In addition to an increase in Sanitation, the Water Rate will also need to be increased as costs continue to rise. The current Base Rate is \$15 and Usage per 1000 gallons is \$3.75. Council was presented with four options to consider:

- Option # 1.    New Base Rate - \$16.00  
                  New Usage per 1000 gallons \$4.25
- Option # 2    New Base Rate - \$16.00  
                  New Usage per 1000 gallons \$4.35
- Option # 3    New Base Rate 17.00  
                  New Usage per 1000 gallons 4.25
- Option # 4    New Base Rate 17.00  
                  New Usage per 1000 gallons \$4.35

After discussion, a motion was made by Chris Whipple with a second by John Legander to go with Option # 3. All voted in favor.

#### TURNIPSEED INVOICE:

The City received an invoice from Turnipseed Engineers in the amount of \$4,109.27 for services from November 20, 2023 to December 22, 2023 for the School Street Well project. This invoice was for computer drafting, project meetings, design, working with EPD for permitting and surveying. After discussion, a motion was made by Chris Whipple, with a second by Phillip Beckworth. All voted in favor

#### NOTICE OF VIOLATION – SCHOOL STREET WELL:

The City received a Violation Notice from Georgia EPD due to a water sample not being drawn from the School Street Well when it went back online. Letters were sent out to residents making them aware of the violation.

MARTHA ANN USRY:

Ms. Usry had several questions and comments concerning Turnipseed and the School Street well project. She was concerned about the cost and completion of the filter backwash project.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion made by Janis Holley, seconded by John Legander, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried by unanimous vote and the meeting adjourned in order at 6:55 p.m.

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Cheryl Moore, City Clerk

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