**CITY OF KINGSTON**

**30 West Main St., Kingston, GA 30145**

**COUNCIL MEETING – CITY HALL**

**September 11th, 2023 – 6:00 p.m.**

The meeting began at 6:00 p.m. In attendance were council members, Louise Young-Harris, Michael McFarland, Allen Cochran, Mayor Elbert Wise, Payton Silvers, Kelly Ensley, City Clerk (Absent), Timara Williams, Attorney Elliott Noll, Jacob Harston, Maintenance Supervisor, and Police Chief TJ Sosebee. There were nine (9) attendees.

The meeting began with Louise Young-Harris leading the invocation. Mayor Wise asked that all in attendance take a moment to reflect on the September 11th tragedy. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

**SIGN IN PERMISSION TO SPEAK.**

Jane Woodall requested the City install a meter at her new residence on Massengale Road.

Mayor Wise saw no issue with this request. City Clerk to get with Woodall about the matter.

Charles Pecchio informed the council that Kingston will be a pit stop for the annual bike race happening on Saturday, September 16th between the hours of 11:30am and 4pm. Also asked if the City Code from 2005 was still in effect. Chief Sosebee and Attorney Noll informed him that it was revised in 2022.

Fantasia Kaul offered to donate a play set to the City. Mayor Wise advised that residential play equipment is not rated for commercial use and gave suggestions on ways to have the equipment removed.

**APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Louise Young-Harris made a motion to approve previous minutes. Payton Silvers seconded the motion. Motion was carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Payton Silvers made a motion to approve agenda. Louise Young-Harris seconded the motion. Motion was carried unanimously.

**DDA UPDATE**

Charles Pecchio asked Council if they have any concerns over the new industrial plants that are being constructed near Kingston. It was discussed that there are concerns with the fire system, police efforts, and the schools in the area being overloaded from the influx of residence the plants will bring. Annexation was mentioned and deemed not beneficial at this time by Attorney Noll. Pecchio proposed that the DDA and Council have a special meeting to discuss ways to approach the owners of the plants to promote Kingston. This meeting is proposed to occur after the Council meeting on Oct. 2nd, 2023. This is to be determined.

**POLICE UPDATE**

Chief TJ Sosebee updated Council on a grant the police department has been approved for toward body cams. The price of the body cams has increased so this grant will be reevaluated. Chief Sosebee donated his personal Lidar radar to the City. Paperwork for the donation was submitted with the equipment. He acknowledged Judge Wheeler serving Kingston for 20 years. Proposed the City honor Judge Wheeler with a gift and gathering to thank him for his dedication.

**APPROVAL TO INCREASE WATER CUT OFF FEE**

Payton Silvers made a motion to approve raising the water shut off fee from $25 to $50. Louise Young-Harris seconded the motion. Motion was carried unanimously.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Mayor Wise thanked everyone for coming. Louise Young-Harris congratulated Kelly Ensley on receiving her City Clerk certificate after working hard on this accomplishment for 7 years. Young-Harris thanked Timara Williams for being in attendance to fill in for Ensley. Young-Harris announced her 5year anniversary being the senior pastorship.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 6:48 p.m. Payton Silvers made a motion to adjourn. Louise Young- Harris seconded the motion. Motion was carried unanimously.

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Mayor Elbert “Chuck” Wise, Jr. Timara Williams, Treasurer