

7:30 PM

Lake Park City Council Meeting

April 10, 2012

This regularly scheduled meeting of the Lake Park City Council was called to order on April 10, 2012.

New Council members Shauneen Moss and David Whitfield were sworn into office by Municipal Court Judge Carl Rogers.

Those now present were Mayor Futch, Mayor Pro-Tem Sherrill, Council Members Moss, Whitfield and Lane (via telephone conference).

Welcome by Mayor Futch followed by flag salute and prayer.

Member Whitfield moved to have minutes of February 7, 2012 read. Second by Lane. Motion and minutes approved. Member Whitfield moved to waive reading and approve the March 15, 2012 work session minutes. Second by Moss. Motion approved. Member Moss moved to waive reading and approve April 9, 2012 work session minutes. Second by Whitfield. Motion approved. After discussion and positive comments on new format and detailed information for both the February and March, 2012, City financial reports, Member Moss moved to approve the Financial Statements with addition of expired Cemetery CD record. Second by Whitfield. Motion approved.

Council member Lane voting in absence via telephone conference was then discussed. Attorney Plumb stated that Georgia law would allow. Per attorney Plumb's recommendation, council agreed to allow member Lane to participate in meeting via telephone conference.

Representatives from FHR&S and Nexstep Technology were present to inform the council of both their findings and recommendations on the Internal Control Reports and Technology Audit. Mrs. Emily Browning with FHR&S gave the council an overview of the Internal Control Report and then received questions from the council. Council members questioned and expressed concerns over the accountability of city funds, non-payment of an employee's Medicare contributions for 25 years, SPLOST funds misuse, \$ 18,375.78 certificate of deposit funds unaccounted for, uncollected property taxes, FEMA Grant funds, Fire Department checking account closure, accrued vacation policies and Internal Revenue Service penalties and interest on non-payment of Medicare contributions. Mrs. Browning recommended that the city change accounting software and that an investigation be performed on financial matters. Mr. Richard Baker with Nexstep Technology then gave the council an overview of the Technology Audit and received questions from the council. Council members questioned him on various subjects including; Internet usage, domain ownership, firewall protection, computer networking, password protection, virus protection and accounting software and hardware recommendations. Mr. Baker recommended that council change their city accounting software and purchase additional supporting computer hardware.

New accounting software to replace the current RDA software was discussed by council. Vendor quotes were discussed by council and Member Moss moved to accept quote from South Georgia Regional Commission for providing computer system applications (general ledger, payroll, utility billing, accounts payable, daily payments and tax billing/payments) with a ~~\$-17,500~~ ^{\$15,000} max cap for installation, training and conversion costs with monthly support costs not to exceed ~~\$-400~~ ^{\$50.00}. Second by Whitfield. Members Moss and Whitfield voted in favor, member Lane abstained (conflict of interest) and Mayor Pro-Tem Sherrill requested not to vote (no vote). Attorney Plumb judged Mayor Pro-Tem Sherrill's actions to be an abstention. 2/2 Tie. Mayor Futch voted in favor of new software. Motion approved.

New computer hardware to be funded from SPLOST VI fund was discussed by council. Member Moss moved to accept quote from South Georgia Regional Commission for new computers, installation and associated costs not to exceed \$~~9,500.00~~^{1,000.00}. Second by Whitfield. Member Lane abstained (conflict of interest) and Mayor Pro-Tem Sherrill requested not to vote (no vote). Attorney Plumb judged Mayor Pro-Tem Sherrill's actions to be an abstention. 2/2 Tie. Mayor Futch voted in favor of new hardware. Motion approved.

Recent pension fund applications from both Bert Rutland and Ann Peterson were discussed. Mayor Futch questioned Bert Rutland's pension fund documents where dates of employment had been altered and initiated by Rutland. Rutland's past five year payroll records showed Rutland being paid for up to 72 hours weekly and averaging over 51 hours per week. Attorney Plumb stated that he had authorized changes and approved Rutland's documents. Mayor Futch reported that in February, Rutland started receiving pension payments of \$ 2,586.49 per month or \$ 31,037.88 per year. Ann Peterson's pension application forms were then discussed. Mayor Futch reported that after pensions for both Rutland and Mrs. Peterson begin, the City will be paying out over \$ 64,000 per year in benefits to former employees. Member Whitfield requested that Mayor Futch sign off on Peterson pension fund documents. Mayor Futch declined. Mayor Pro-Tem Sherrill agreed to sign papers. Member Whitfield moved to approve Rutland & Peterson pension requests. Second by Moss. Motion approved.

The first reading of the pension fund renewal documents were explained and presented by Attorney Plumb. This first reading was on April 10, 2012 and the second reading is scheduled for April 24, 2012. Motions to approve or disapprove, subject to revision, were tabled until the April 24, 2012 meeting.

Cemetery, Civic Center and Project Reports agenda issues were tabled until the April 24, 2012 meeting.

Chief Tim Baker gave a report on his recent mandatory chiefs training. Chief Baker also requested to hire Derrick McLeod as a part time police officer. Member Whitfield moved to table his request until the April 24, 2012 meeting. Second by Mayor Pro-Tem Sherrill. Motion approved.

Public Works department equipment acquisitions were discussed. Mayor Pro-Tem Sherrill requested to obtain pricing from different vendors for right-of-way mowing and moved to table equipment requests until April 24, 2012 meeting. Member Whitfield second. Motion approved.

Renewals of two City Certificates of Deposits (CD's) and moving one from Bank of Ozarks to the First State Bank at best rate available were discussed. Mayor Pro-Tem Sherrill moved to move and renew. Second by Whitfield. Motion approved.

Opening of separate payroll account for city at First State Bank was discussed. Mayor Pro-Tem Sherrill moved to open account at FSB. Second by Whitfield. Motion approved.

Appointments of City Engineer and City Surveyor were tabled until April 24, 2012 meeting.

Vacancy to replace Mayor's January 3, 2012 appointment of David Whitfield to the City Ethics Committee was discussed. Mayor Futch appointed Tim Aultman to fill Whitfield's unexpired term.

Discussion of July 4th events were tabled until the April 24, 2012 meeting.

At the Mayor and Fire Chief Baker's request, Fire Department and fire truck options were presented to the council by citizen volunteer Bob Wilbers. Mr. Wilbers explained four different fire truck options to the council. Member Lane moved to approve "Option A" of trading the city's present (2) fire trucks back to the original supplier, Brindlee Mountain Fire Apparatus, in exchange for one used fire truck and total credit payment of the city's debt obligation up to \$ 192,226.86 (9 years @ \$21,358.54 per year). Member Moss second. Member Whitfield abstained and Mayor Pro-Tem Sherrill requested not to vote (no vote). Attorney Plumb judged Mayor Pro-Tem Sherrill's actions to be an abstention. 2/2 Tie. Mayor Futch voted in favor of "Option A". Motion approved.

Under citizens to be heard, Julie Schindler criticized council for allowing Member Lane to attend meeting and voting by telephone conference and also scheduling citizens to be heard towards the end of the meeting agenda. Mrs. Schindler recommended that in the future, Member Lane be broadcast at meetings via Skype. Mayor Futch thanked Mrs. Schindler for her comments. Citizen Ron Holley then complimented the Mayor and Council for the work they were doing.

Member Moss moved to go into "Executive Session" for personnel issues. Second by Whitfield. Motion approved.

Member Moss moved to hire Wendy Carter as the City Clerk at \$ 11.50 per hour (based on maximum 40 hour work week to include City Court and Council meetings) and a payment of \$150.00 per month for an insurance coverage contribution. Second by Whitfield. Motion approved.

Mayor Pro-Tem Sherrill moved to deny Judge Carl Roger's monthly pay request from \$ 120.00 to \$ 200.00 per month. Second by Whitfield. Motion approved.

Next City Council Meeting was set for 7:30 pm on April 24, 2012.

Meeting adjourned.

Approved For Futch Mayor Date 5-1-12

Attest Wendy Carter