

Present: COUNCIL: Mayor Robert W. Culpepper, Mayor Pro tem John Thigpen, Councilmember Daniel Bellavance, Councilmember Jennifer Bennett and Councilmember Gregg Stokes; COUNCIL STAFF: City Manager Jason M. Rizner, City Clerk Debra E. Moore and City Attorney Barry Fleming; CITY STAFF: Police Chief Chuck Meadows, Public Works Director Robert Fields, Fire Chief Tripp Lonergan and Community Development Director David Jenkins.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Culpepper at 6:30 p.m.

Mayor Culpepper recognized City Attorney Fleming for his receipt of the Georgia Cities Champion award for his legislative work for City's. He received this during the awards luncheon at the GMA Convention today.

The Invocation was given by City Attorney Fleming.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Culpepper.

Presentation – Refinancing Update – Andrew Tritt: Mr. Tritt presented to Council information for the refinancing of the current BB&T loan for the Public Safety Building project. Currently we are making payments of \$240,000.00 per year at an interest rate of 4.71% and it will be paid out in 2032. We are looking at lowering the rate and to fit the payoff in the next SPLOST (2023-2029). The payout would happen in 2029 with an interest rate below 3%. We would be paying \$10,000.00 more a year, but would save about \$418,000.00 in interest. The fees and expenses are wrapped in the deal. Based on the terms with the current financing, we could not do prior to August 2, 2016. We would refinance the entire note after the August payment.

Councilmember Bennett questioned if there were any issues with early payout; there were not. Mayor Culpepper commented that they were currently shopping with various agencies. The rate will be good to the end; there is no reset. They have worked with the County on projections for the SPLOST proceeds; they are coming in conservatively. They are down to two sources; there were others, but they backed out.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Other: There was none at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution – Comprehensive Plan Adoption: The “Plan” covers the years 2016-2026. It has been reviewed and approved by the Department of Community Affairs. Council will need to approve the Resolution for the adoption of the Comprehensive Plan.

Mayor Culpepper recognized Franklin Jennings. Mayor Culpepper presented to Mr. Jennings a copy of the 2016-2026 Comprehensive Plan. The “Plan” is being dedicated to Mr. Jennings in recognition of his years of service on the Planning & Zoning Commission (2002-2014).

NEW BUSINESS (cont'd):

Proposed Millage Rate: City Manager Rizner explained about the upcoming decline in LOST proceeds in 2017-2018. We have advertising requirements and in order to proceed, we are looking for direction from Council as to what they would like to do. Currently the millage rate is at 8.35. There has been some discussion about a one mill increase; this will produce roughly \$50,000-\$60,000 in revenue based on our current digest. Council will need to vote to instruct staff to advertise a particular millage rate; it will be formally set next month. Comments from Council included needing to plan what to do; replenishing reserves for the radio purchase, the increase in the capital projects done this year, etc. Mayor Pro tem Thigpen is recommending the one mill increase.

Senior Center Meals Contract: Meals are currently being provided by the Columbia County Detention Center and are paid for by the City; donations from the Seniors offset a portion of that cost. Staff has reported though the quality is better, there is reluctance in having to make donations for meals that they previously received at no cost. Staff is proposing that we return to the Regional Commission/Area Agency on Aging meals program. The meals would be paid for almost entirely by a grant; the City's portion would be \$.43 per meal compared to the \$2.75 per meal we are currently paying. Staff will ask for a contribution of \$.50 per meal from the seniors; however, they will be eligible for the meals without payment. This would start on October 1, 2016. Council will need to approve the attached Resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign the contract.

Resolution – Ulverston Twinning: The International “Sons of the Desert” convention is being held in Ulverston, England this year. Officials and Laurel and Hardy enthusiasts inquired about Harlem and Ulverston becoming “twinned”. The Resolution recognizes the bond that Harlem and Ulverston share and they will be considered “twinned” after a special ceremony at the convention. Harlem will participate via skype and there will be residents from Harlem on hand at the Convention. Council will need to approve the Resolution.

Fleet Services Intergovernmental Agreement: The updated agreement reflects what services that the County does provide to the City. Several items were removed due to them not providing those services to us. There was an update to the service hours, changes to some of the fees and the terms were changed so that the agreement will remain in effect until terminated by either party with a 30-day written notice instead of expiring on a particular date. Council will need to approve the agreement.

Surplus Vehicles: The following vehicle and equipment is being requested to be declared surplus:

- Chevy 1500 Pickup Truck (Police Department)
- Ford 555 Backhoe (Public Works-Streets & Drains)

The vehicle and equipment will be listed for auction on GOV Deals. The Chevy 1500 was received thru the 1033 Program and has several issues. The backhoe is experiencing problems as well. Council will need to approve the items as surplus property.

Ordinance – First Reading:

- **Soil Erosion, Sedimentation and Pollution Control:** This Ordinance replaces the existing soil erosion, sedimentation and pollution ordinance. Chapter 151 is being deleted in its entirety and being replaced. We are the Local Issuing Authority (LIA) for permits related to these matters.

NEW BUSINESS (cont'd):

Ordinance – First Reading:

- **Soil Erosion, Sedimentation and Pollution Control:** The ordinance is from a model provided by EPD who oversees these functions. Whenever the state statutes governing these areas are changed, we are required to update our ordinance within twelve months. Council will need to approve the first reading of said ordinance.

Other: There was none at this time.

As there were no further items for discussion, Mayor Pro tem Thigpen made the motion to adjourn the meeting and to reconvene after a five minute break for the Regular meeting; 2nd by Councilmember Stokes. Motion carried with Councilmembers Bellavance, Bennett, Stokes and Thigpen voting in the affirmative. The meeting closed at 7:05 p.m.

Debra E. Moore
City Clerk

The City Council of the City of Harlem, Georgia met for their Regular meeting on Monday, June 27, 2016 at the Public Safety Building following the Work Session that started at 6:30 p.m. with Mayor Robert W. Culpepper presiding.

Present: COUNCIL: Mayor Robert W. Culpepper, Mayor Pro tem John Thigpen, Councilmember Daniel Bellavance, Councilmember Jennifer Bennett and Councilmember Gregg Stokes; COUNCIL STAFF: City Manager Jason M. Rizner, City Clerk Debra E. Moore and City Attorney Barry Fleming; CITY STAFF: Police Chief Chuck Meadows, Public Works Director Robert Fields, Fire Chief Tripp Lonergan and Community Development Director David Jenkins.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Culpepper at 7:13 p.m.

Approve the Agenda: Mayor Pro tem Thigpen made the motion to approve the Agenda as written; 2nd by Councilmember Bennett. Motion carried with Councilmembers Bellavance, Bennett, Stokes and Thigpen voting in the affirmative.

Approval of the Minutes: Councilmember Bellavance made the motion to approve the minutes for the month of May 2016 as written; 2nd by Councilmember Stokes. Motion carried with Councilmembers Bellavance, Bennett, Stokes and Thigpen voting in the affirmative.

Public Comment: Raymond Washington; 432 Lone Oak Road Ext.; Grovetown, GA 30813: Mr. Washington spoke in reference to his trailer park and the easement at Leonard Drive.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Other: There was none at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution – Comprehensive Plan Adoption: Mayor Pro tem Thigpen made the motion to approve the Resolution adopting the comprehensive Plan for the City of Harlem for 2016-2026; 2nd by Councilmember Stokes. Motion carried with Councilmembers Bellavance, Bennett, Stokes and Thigpen voting in the affirmative.

Proposed Millage Rate: A motion was made by Mayor Pro tem Thigpen authorizing the advertisement of a proposed millage rate of 9.35 mils for the 2016 Property Taxes; 2nd by Councilmember Bennett. Discussion: Due to an increase in the assessments (which increases the percentage of tax revenue) we are required to advertise and hold three hearings and must advertise the proposed rate along with the hearings. Motion carried with Councilmembers Bellavance, Bennett, Stokes and Thigpen voting in the affirmative.

NEW BUSINESS (cont'd):

Senior Center Meals Contract: Councilmember Stokes made the motion to approve the Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute the contract for nutrition services thru the CSRA Regional Commission and the Area Agency on Aging; 2nd by Councilmember Bellavance. Motion carried with Councilmembers Bellavance, Bennett, Stokes and Thigpen in the affirmative.

Resolution – Ulverston Twinning: Mayor Pro tem Thigpen made the motion to approve the Resolution declaring that Harlem and Ulverston shall be “twinned”; 2nd by Councilmember Bellavance. Motion carried with Councilmembers Bellavance, Bennett, Stokes and Thigpen voting in the affirmative.

Fleet Services Intergovernmental Agreement: Councilmember Stokes made the motion to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement with Columbia County for Fleet Services; 2nd by Mayor Pro tem Thigpen. Motion carried with Councilmembers Bellavance, Bennett, Stokes and Thigpen voting in the affirmative.

Surplus Vehicles: Councilmember Stokes made the motion to declare the following vehicle and equipment as surplus and to place them on GOV Deals for auction:

- Chevy 1500 Pickup Truck
- Ford 555 Backhoe

The motion was 2nd by Councilmember Bennett. Motion carried with Councilmember Bellavance, Bennett, Stokes and Thigpen voting in the affirmative.

Ordinance – First Reading:

- **Soil Erosion, Sedimentation and Pollution Control:** Mayor Pro tem Thigpen made the motion to approve the First Reading of the Ordinance deleting Chapter 151 Soil Erosion, Sedimentation and Pollution Control in its entirety and inserting a new Chapter 151 Soil Erosion, Sedimentation and Pollution Control as per state regulations; 2nd by Councilmember Bennett. Discussion: Any time changes are made in the state statutes governing these areas, we are required to update our ordinance within twelve months. EPD oversees these functions. Motion carried with Councilmembers Bellavance, Bennett, Stokes and Thigpen voting in the affirmative.

Other: There was none at this time.

Department Reports: The following departments gave reports for the month of May 2016:

Public Works Department	Robert Fields, Public Works Director
Police Department	Chuck Meadows, Police Chief
Fire Department	Tripp Lonergan, Fire Chief
Community Development	David Jenkins, Community Development Director
Administrative Department	Jason Rizner, City Manager

Public Works Director Fields is going to get with City Engineer John McClellan to review the information received from Thomson on the THM's. They are higher once gets to the end of the line; lower at plants.

NEW BUSINESS (cont'd):

Announcements:

July 4	City Offices Closed – Independence Day
July 5	Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting; 6:00 p.m.; Public Safety Building
July 12	HPC Called Meeting; 6:30 p.m.; Public Safety Building
July 13	Urban Redevelopment Agency Board Meeting; 9:30 a.m.; City Hall
July 16	Ulverston, England Twinning Ceremony; 4:00 p.m.; City Hall
July 18	Tax Hearing; 9:00 a.m.; Public Safety Building
July 18	Tax Hearing; 6:00 p.m.; Public Safety Building
July 25	Tax Hearing; 6:00 p.m.; Public Safety Building
July 25	Called Meeting; 6:15 p.m.; Public Safety Building
July 25	Work Session/Council Meeting; 6:30 p.m.; Public Safety Building

Executive Session: Mayor Pro tem Thigpen made the motion to go into Executive Session; 2nd by Councilman Stokes. Motion carried with Councilmembers Bellavance, Bennett, Stokes and Thigpen in the affirmative. The Regular meeting closed at 8:05 p.m.; Executive Session convened at 8:10 p.m.

Mayor Pro tem Thigpen made the motion to come out of Executive Session; 2nd by Councilmember Stokes. Motion carried with Councilmembers Bellavance, Bennett, Stokes, and Thigpen in the affirmative. Executive Session closed at 8:25 p.m. and the Regular meeting reconvened.

City Attorney Fleming reported that two legal items were discussed and no final action was taken.

Mayor Pro tem Thigpen made the motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the Affidavit affirming this report; 2nd by Councilmember Bennett. Motion carried with Councilmembers Bellavance, Bennett, Stokes and Thigpen voting in the affirmative.

As there was no further business before Council, Councilmember Bellavance made the motion to adjourn the meeting; 2nd by Mayor Pro tem Thigpen. Motion carried with Councilmembers Bellavance, Bennett, Stokes and Thigpen voting in the affirmative. The meeting closed at 8:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra E. Moore
City Clerk