

The City Council of the City of Harlem, Georgia met for their monthly Work Session on Thursday, March 21, 2024, at the Public Safety Building at 7:00 p.m. with Mayor Roxanne Whitaker presiding.

Present: COUNCIL: Mayor Roxanne Whitaker, Councilmember Al Reeves, and Councilmember John Thigpen; STAFF: City Manager Debra Moore, City Clerk Leona Holley, and City Attorney Tom Watkins; ABSENT: Mayor Pro tem Gregg Stokes, and Councilmember Daniel Bellavance.

The Work Session was opened by Mayor Whitaker at 7:00 p.m.

The Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance was given and led by City Attorney Watkins.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Consider Beer & Wine License Application for Family Dollar: Community Development Director Robert Fields explained staff received an Alcohol License application for Beer and Wine (Retail Package Dealer off-premises consumption only) for the Family Dollar Store, located at 250 W. Milledgeville Road. The applicant has completed all the required paperwork, background check and fingerprinting; everything has come back clear. The applicant has applied with the Georgia Department of Revenue for their state license as well. Mayor Whitaker commented that she has received phone calls from residence with concerns about the privacy fence not going all the way across the back of the Family Dollar store property, and concerns of people drinking in the parking lot if this is approved. Mayor Whitaker stated the residence has asked if the city would consider requiring the store to place a privacy fence behind the store. City Manager Moore explained the license is for a retail package dealer with off-premises consumption only. Mr. Fields stated a representative with the Family Dollar Store will be at the Regular Council meeting on Monday, March 25th to answer questions that Council might have.

Consider an IGA with Columbia County for the Delivery of the “Clary Cut Road – Old Union Road Alignment with Roundabout on 221” – Approved Band 3 TIA 2 Project: City Manager Moore explained this is an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the City of Harlem and Columbia County for the delivery of the “Clary Cut Road-Old Union Road Alignment with Roundabout on 221” and the “Intersection Improvements at Old Union Road and N. Fairview Drive with Appling Harlem Road” capital project located in the city limits of Harlem. There are safety concerns regarding the intersection of Old Union Road and N. Fairview Drive with the Appling Harlem Road intersection. For the project to be delivered a requirement is to have LPA (Local Public Agency) and LAP (Local Administered Project) certified personnel, the City of Harlem does not have certified personnel; Columbia County has certified personnel, and they will deliver the project for the city. Mayor Whitaker has concerns about the two roundabouts on the plan for the project; City Manager Moore stated this is for the consideration of the IGA Agreement for Columbia County to deliver the project. City Manager Moore stated after discussion with Columbia County Commissioner Alison Couch today, Commissioner Couch is going to follow up with the concerns and will be at the Council meeting on Monday, March 25th to report information and to answer questions.

NEW BUSINESS (cont'd):

Consider Proclamation for the Recognition of the Month of April 2024 as Harlem Safe Digging Month:

Thousands of times each year, the underground infrastructure in Georgia is damaged by those who do not have underground lines located prior to digging resulting in service interruption, environmental damage, and threat to public safety. In 2005, the Federal Communications Commission designated 811 to provide contractors and homeowners a simple number to contact utility operators to request the location of underground lines at the intended dig site and the Augusta-Richmond-Columbia County Utility Coordinating Committee, a stakeholder-driven organization dedicated to the prevention of damage to underground utilities in Georgia, promotes the National 811 Notification System and Georgia 811 in an effort to reduce these damages and damage prevention is a shared responsibility; by using safe digging practices, the contractors and homeowners of Harlem can save time, money and help keep our infrastructure safe and connected. The City of Harlem encourages contractors and homeowners throughout Harlem to always contact 811 before digging. The Proclamation will recognize the Month of April 2024 as Harlem Safe Digging Month.

Consider Proclamation – Arbor Day April 26, 2024 in the City of Harlem: Arbor Day is observed throughout the nation and the world, the City of Harlem will recognize Friday, April 26, 2024, as Arbor Day in the city with a Proclamation. The City of Harlem urges all citizens to celebrate Arbor Day and to support efforts to protect our trees and woodlands and to plant trees to gladden the heart and promote the well-being of this and future generations. A tree will be planted on April 26th for Arbor Day; a place and time will be announced closer to the date.

Consider Resolution 2024-04 A Resolution Recognizing April 21 – 27, 2024 as Georgia Cities Week:

Resolution 2024-04 is a resolution recognizing the week of April 21-27, 2024, as Georgia Cities Week. The City of Harlem encourages all citizens, city government officials and employees to recognize this week and to encourage civic involvement in shaping and influencing the government. Mayor Whitaker commented Librarian Amanda Ham is promoting Georgia Cities Week with a Storybook Walk featuring the book *Georgia Caroline Visits City Hall*.

Consider Resolution 2024-05 A Resolution to Approve FYE 12/31/2023 Interdepartmental Budget Amendments & Additional Amendments for the Park and Public Works Building Projects:

Resolution 2024-05 is for the approval of the General Fund Interdepartmental Line-Item Budget Amendments for year ending December 31, 2023. This covers the purchase of the North Harlem Elementary School property for the park and the replacement of a vehicle, which was covered by insurance. The amendment will result in an increase in the Revenues and Expenses in the amount of \$539,025.00 for a total overall operating budget for year ending December 31, 2023, in the amount of \$4,150,245.00.

Consider Garbage Contract Extension Proposal with Coastal Waste & Recycling: City Manager Moore explained the garbage contract extension was discussed at the Quarterly Council Work Session. City Manager Moore stated District Manager Jay Howe of Coastal Waste & Recycling is present tonight for any questions. City Manager Moore reported Coastal Waste & Recycling provided two proposals for the collection of the City's solid waste, bulk, and recycling. Councilmember Thigpen questioned how recycling will be handled; City Manager Moore stated there are two proposals from Coastal Waste & Recycling. The

NEW BUSINESS (cont'd):

Consider Garbage Contract Extension Proposal with Coastal Waste & Recycling (cont'd): first proposal there will be no change in current service days or collection equipment; there will be an increase in the price per home per month. The second proposal is proposing to stop curbside recycling and bulk waste pick-up; A 30 yard roll off dumpster will be placed at a location in the city limits where the residents would drop off their recycling and bulk waste. Mayor Whitaker is concerned that with a central location with roll-offs there could be people that do not live in the city limits dropping off their recycling and bulk waste. Councilmember Reeves asked if the city has requested bids from other waste disposal companies; City Manager Moore replied staff is waiting for direction from council on how to proceed; the city is still under contract with Coastal Waste. Once there is an official direction from the council then staff will proceed. City Manager Moore commented council will vote at the Regular Council Meeting, Monday night on whether to accept one of the proposals from Coastal Waste or do something different. There was some discussion on the automated side arm and rear loaded trucks being used. District Manager Howe commented that there is currently one truck on Wednesday that uses the automated side arm truck to service recycling and a third of the waste disposal.

Consider Resolution 2024-06 A Resolution to Approve FYE 12/31/2023 Interdepartmental Budget Amendments of the ARP-SLFRF Fund: Resolution 2024-06 is for the approval of the ARP-SLFRF Fund Interdepartmental Line-Item Budget Amendments. Council adopted the ARP-SLFRF Fund Budget for the year ending December 31, 2023. The amendments will result in no increase in the total overall budget for the year ending December 31, 2023. City Manager Moore explained we are looking at upgrading the Business License, Permitting software, and looking at items for the Museum. There are a couple drainage projects that have not been completed for location at Verdery Street and another Drainage project at W. Trippe Street and N. Hatcher Street.

Reports: Mayor Whitaker commented the Police Departments monthly report numbers not balancing. City Manager Moore reached out to Chief Rob Lewis with the concerns of his monthly report numbers not balancing. She asked him to explain if there is something else in the numbers that are not showing on the report, or he will need to provide a corrected report; Chief Lewis has not responded.

Other: Mayor Whitaker reported there will be a meeting with the representatives from Johnson, Laschober & Associates (JLA), Mayor Pro tem Gregg Stokes, City Manager Moore, Public Works Director Octavious Beard, Harlem High School Softball Coach Mike Leverett, and herself to discuss the Harlem City Park ideas tomorrow, March 22nd at City Hall.

Executive Session: N/A

With there being nothing further for discussion, Councilmember Thigpen made the motion to adjourn the meeting; 2nd by Councilmember Reeves. The motion carried with Councilmembers Reeves and Thigpen. The meeting was adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Leona H. Holley, City Clerk