

**City of Grantville
City Council Meeting
MINUTES
September 23, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.
Glanton Municipal Complex
123 Lagrange Street, Grantville, GA**

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Mayor Doug Jewell at 6:30 p.m.

Present: Mayor Doug Jewell, Councilmembers Alan Wacaser, Mark King, Ruby Hines, and Jim Sells. City Manager Al Grieshaber Jr., City Attorney Mark Mitchell, and City Clerk, Robi Higgins.

Invocation: Mr. Mowery **Pledge of Allegiance:** Mayor Doug Jewell

Approval of Agenda: Sells made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of Consideration/Approval of the application for the Grantville Fall Festival.
Seconded by Wacaser: 4-0

**Approval of Minutes: August 26 ,2019 City Council Meeting
September 9, 2019 Council Work Session**
Approved King/Wacaser: 4-0

Discussion/Approval of the contract with Preservation South, LLC for the Interior Design Services for the Interior Restoration of the Passenger Depot Building. Approved Hines/King: 3-1 Sells opposed.

Discussion /Approval of the contract with Atlanta Paving and Concrete Construction Inc. for Pitts Circle and Hawkins Street Reconstruction. Approved Hines/King: 3-2 Sells/Wacaser opposed.

Discussion/Determination of an Ad-Hoc Budget Committee – 3 Council Members and 5 residents. Tabled until the October 14th Work Session: 4-0

Discussion/Determination on Youth Council. Approved Hines/Wacaser: 3-1 Sells abstained

Discussion/Determination on Citizen Application to Commissions/Boards
Approved Mr. Donnie Clark to serve on the Historic Preservation and Planning/Zoning Commissions Hines/King: 3-1 Sells abstained.

Second Reading: Ordinance Number 2019-05: Pickup and Disposal of Animal Waste
Wacaser/King: 4-0

Second Reading: Ordinance Number 2019-07: Parking on Grass Motion by Sells. Motion died for lack of a second.

Second Reading: Ordinance Number 2019-08: Ordinance to Adopt the Fiscal Year 2020 Budget for the City of Grantville. Approved Wacaser/King: 3-1 Sells opposed.

Second Reading: Ordinance Number 2019-09: Ordinance Granting a Franchise to Coweta-Fayette EMC. Approved Wacaser/King: 4-0

Second Reading: Ordinance Number 2019-10: Ordinance Providing an Updated Distributed Generation Rider. Approved Sells/King: 4-0

Second Reading: Ordinance Number 2019-11: Ordinance Requiring Mandatory Connection to City of Grantville Utilities. Approved Hines/King: 3-1 Wacaser opposed

Approved application for the Grantville Fall Festival. Sells/King: 4-0

Meeting recessed for 5 minute break at 7:55 p.m. and reconvened at 8 p.m.

Discussion/Approval to Reject the Response/Bid from D.O.R.D.C. LLC to the RFP to Repair and Resurface a Basketball Court (117 Meriwether Street) with Heavy Duty Stanchions, Backboards and Nets and to Re-Advertise

Discussion/Approval to Reject the Response/Bid from D.O.R.D.C. LLC to the RFP to Repair and Resurface a Basketball Court (Grantville Park Complex) and to Re-Advertise

Discussion/Approval to Re-Advertise the Request for Proposals/Bids for Fencing of a Basketball Court at 117 Meriwether Street

The above three items were considered together by the Mayor and Council. A motion was made to turn these items over to Public Works Department to see what they can do. Sells/Wacaser: 3-1 Hines opposed.

Discussion/Decision on Purchase of SCADA for 5 Lift Stations: approximate cost \$17,253.00 (funds are available in the 2013-2018 SPLOST Utilities). Approved Sells/Wacaser: 4-0

Discussion/Decision on Purchase of a Complete Tractor Package for the Public Works and Utilities Departments: approximate cost \$47,334.59 (funds are available in the 2013-2018 SPLOST Utilities). Approved Sells/King: 4-0

Discussion/Decision on Purchase of a 2020 Ford F-250 for the Public Works and Utilities Departments: approximate cost \$39,494.90 (funds are available in the 2013-2018 SPLOST Utilities). Approved Sells/King: 4-0

Discussion/Decision on Purchase of a Used Ford Pickup Truck from Marietta Truck Sales: approximate cost \$18,500.00 (funds are available and budgeted in the various utility funds). No Motion. Not Approved.

Discussion/Decision on Resolution Number 2019-23 Adopting an Updated Capital Improvement Plan for Calendar Years 2019 – 2024. Approved Hines/King: 4-0

Discussion/Decision on Purchase of a 2020 Dodge Charger Pursuit vehicle for the Grantville Police Department: approximate cost \$32,408.00 (funds are available and budgeted in the General Fund). Approved Hines/King: 3-1 Sells opposed.

Discussion/Determination of the Ethic Complaint filed by Marion Cieslik against Selma Coty. Motion to dismiss complaint as not valid. King/Hines: 4-0

Discussion/Nomination of Residents to Serve as Ethics Board Members (Pool of Ten Volunteers). Motion to table until next Work Session Council Meeting Sells/King: 4-0

Citizens Comments: none

City Council Comments

Councilmember Alan Wacaser:

Yes, I have a question for the City Attorney. Mark, in the last meeting since you just had the report had the report from the attorneys about the Wall Project. Did you deem the thing, The question was asked in the Work Session... Was it a City project or a Trust Project, in your opinion? I think they have an opinion in the report. Did you read it? What was your opinion?

City Attorney: I did. I have looked at the report. I don't, I mean... They've got their opinion and I think as the, as the report indicates, there may be no way to get an answer to the question short of a court deciding that. I think that's essentially what they found and I think their recommendation was that the cost of that may not make much financial sense. But ultimately, that's probably the only way to get a definitive answer to that question.

Wacaser: That's not how I read it. That's all.

Councilmember Mark King:

Thank you all for staying tonight. I believe we got quite a few items addressed and resolved. Y'all drive safe. Try to stay cool. It's going to get hot again. But we'll get through it.

Councilmember Ruby Hines:

Thank you Mr. Mayor. Thank you all so much for being a part of our council meeting, or your council meeting. It's always good to see everyone. I hope that when we meet in October that we will be able to have 5 or 6 residents who will serve on this budget committee. As I fore stated some time ago, this was a recommendation from the GMA Convention in Savannah. There is a City that has 7 citizens that serve on the Budget Committee and 3 Council members. So I hope that we can bring a closure to the Budget Committee by submitting names when we meet in October. I would like to thank everyone who contributed financially to our Grantville Kiwanis Club ST. Jude Walk-a-thon on Saturday, September 14th. It was very successful and with your gifts, we were blessed to raise over \$2300 dollars. We are

grateful to Chief Whitlock and his officer for escorting our walkers in a protective manner as we walked two and one half miles for our precious children and families at St. Jude Research Hospital.

Again, thank you Mayor Jewell, City Manager Al Grieshaber, Mr. Sells and Mr. Wacaser and all who supported our Walk-a-thon. We are going to walk again next year. So, we hope you will join us in our walk and please give us some more money for our precious children. Thank you so much and I hope you all have sweet sleep tonight.

Councilmember Jim Sells:

I guess my life is becoming worrying about City spending. It needs to be the top priority here. Again, over spent the budget \$600 thousand plus. The budget doesn't mean much if you can't back it up with revenues. So, what happens when you over spend the budget, you increase property taxes, which were 400 percent higher than 2014. We're going to be increasing water and sewer rates and we're also at the same time, taking money from reserve funds that we need for infrastructure repairs. We're just heading down the wrong path. We've increased our budget now \$600 thousand. This money has to come from citizens. We've dramatically increased the price of business licenses and fees we charge and we spend money up here like it's no problem. I want to paraphrase a quote somebody made in the 1980's. He said that politicians don't care much how much money they spend, because it's not their money. That was Donald Trump in the mid 80's. In my opinion, it's not malice, but it's not being looked at as a proper fiscal responsibility that you have to do in any business. You have to live within your means. We're not doing that. I hope that one day that changes. Otherwise, ultimately we're going to be borrowing money to pay bills and running people off because utilities and property taxes are too high. We don't want to do that but that's my fear. It's where we are headed.

Mayor Doug Jewell:

I'd just like to thank everybody for coming out and staying with us. I do agree with Mr. Sells. The budget, in my opinion, we need to look at ways to reduce that rather than going up, up, up. I don't have a solution right now. But, I think if we all got together, we might be able to come up with a different plan. I would recommend that. Again, like I said, like Mr. Sells said, a budget is just a projection. Just because you put \$100 in there, doesn't mean you have to spend that \$100 dollars. I brought this up last year with the vehicles. When they mentioned all the vehicles in there, I said, you know, just because they're in there, doesn't mean you have to buy them and then, as it turns out, that's the response every time...well, they're in the budget. Well, let's take them out of the budget. Let's don't budget them. Then, if and when they need it, we can do it. I don't totally agree with the 4 year replacement. But that's what they're doing. I was watching a program the other night where Gary, Indiana that mayor was in a police car that was 8 years old, still in service. That's all I have. Again, thank you for coming out.

City Manager Al Grieshaber Jr.: No comment

City Attorney Mark Mitchell: No comment

Motion to Adjourn at 8:42 p.m. by Hines/King: 4-0.