

The regular meeting of the Mayor and Council was held at Dublin City Hall, on Thursday, August 1, 2024 at 5:30 P.M.

Mayor Joshua Kight called the meeting to order. Council members Bill Brown, Bennie Jones, Tess Godfrey, Sara Kolbie, Chris Smith, Paul Griggs, and Rich Mascaro were present. The invocation was given by Rev. Elgin Dixon followed by the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Artiffany Stanley, Member Services Consultant with the Georgia Municipal Association presented Mayor Joshua Kight and Council Members Tess Godfrey, Chris Smith and Rich Mascaro with Harold F. Holtz Municipal Training Institute Training Certificates

APPROVAL OF THE JULY 18, 2024 COUNCIL MEETING

A motion was made by Councilman Jones and seconded by Councilwoman Godfrey to approve the minutes. The motion carried 7/0.

APPROVAL OF BILLS OVER \$15,000

A motion was made by Councilman Smith and was seconded by Councilman Mascaro to approve the following bills. The motion carried 7/0.

CHECK#	DATE	PAYMENT TO	PURCHASE	AMOUNT
OneAmerica	7/11/24	One America	Life Insurance	15,975.02
LifeHealth	7/11/24	GMEBS-Life & Health	Health Insurance	234,442.20
41083	7/12/24	Dublin-Laurens Co. Recreation	Hotel/Motel Tax	39,347.24
41110	7/12/24	Laurens County Library	Appropriation	20,405.00
41099	7/12/24	Visit Dublin	Hotel/Motel Tax	39,347.24
41082	7/12/24	Dublin Board of Education	June 2024 Tax Collection	33,111.97
41089	7/12/24	L&L Utilities, Inc.	Fire Hydrant Replacement	267,624.00
41081	7/12/24	Downtown Development Authority	Hotel/Motel Tax	19,673.64
41104	7/12/24	Downtown Development Authority	Annual Disbursement	60,000.00
41090	7/12/24	Laurens County SWMA	Landfill Fees	42,114.59
41088	7/12/24	James Bates Brannan Groover LLP	Attorney Fees	22,002.00
41079	7/12/24	Deere & Company	Golf Course Equipment/Fairway Cuttler	183,280.84
41114	7/12/24	Thegis, LLC	GeothinQ Subscription	23,200.00
071724	7/17/24	Vulcan Construction Materials LLC	Jarondon Dr. Graded Aggregate Base	21,148.49
DFT0002266	7/19/24	Greenstate Title & Escrow, LLC	East Madison Street Purchase	551,852.34
MGAG	7/22/24	Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia	Gas Purchase	1,075,161.48
41172	7/22/24	T. Lake Environmental Design	Storm Water Restoration #1193/Farmer's Market	143,615.98
41159	7/22/24	B.H. Hall Ready Mixed Concrete	Shamrock Fire Station Backdoor Slab	16,000.00
41174	7/22/24	Xylem Water Solutions USA	Lift Station Pump Repair	29,720.37
41154	7/22/24	Ryland Oil Company	Restock Fuel	21,382.06
DFT0002282	7/23/24	Internal Revenue Service	Payroll Taxes	128,479.79
DFT0002281	7/23/24	Department of Revenue Service	Payroll Taxes	20,959.30

41194	7/24/24	Ryland Oil Company	Restock Fuel	23,400.55
41251	7/26/24	Truist Bank	Loan Payments	120,279.04
41198	7/26/24	Carter & Sloope Consulting Engineer	Industrial Sewer Construction	16,881.90
41232	7/26/24	Dublin-Laurens Land Bank	407-409 Roosevelt St.-220 Prine St	47,245.43
41213	7/26/24	Thomas & Hutton Engineering Co.	Engineering Services	76,010.66
			<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 3,292,661.13</b>

APPROVAL OF PURCHASES OVER \$15,000

There were two purchases for council consideration.

Glock Pistols - Police Department - The current stock of firearms has started having a greater need for repairs over the past two years and were originally purchased in 2015. Staff received three quotes to replace them and the recommendation was to purchase 65 Glock 45 Caliber 5th Generation 9mm handguns from AMCHAR. The purchase also includes a reflex sight, weapon light, and holster. The new holsters will also have a slot cut in the back for the AXON alert system to trigger once the firearm is removed from the holster. In addition, staff will be trading in 63 handguns with an estimated trade value of \$18,175. The total purchase with the trade allowance is \$51,744.15. Staff budgeted \$55,000 for this purchase. This purchase will be charged to Account #100-3223-542500

Fencing - Hilburn Park Pickleball Courts -Staff received three quotes and recommend awarding the job to Garrett Industries Fence Co., which was the low bid, in the amount of \$30,500. The work will start for the pickleball courts in the next two months. This was not specifically budgeted, but staff will be using money earmarked from ARPA funds for improvements to city parks. This will be paid out of Account #230-6225-541225 - Site Improvements - Hilburn Park.

Councilman Griggs made a motion to approve the purchases and seconded by Councilwoman Kolbie. The motion carried 7/0 for approval.

FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE #24-06 TO AMEND THE FY'24 BUDGET.

City Manager Powell read ordinance #24-06 to amend the FY'24 budget. The budget amendment's sole purpose is to ensure the city complies with state law, which applies only to the governmental funds (General, Special Revenue and T-SPLOST Capital Projects) and proprietary funds are included for management purposes only. This is not a final reflection of the financial performance for FY'24 as we continue to work through the year-end close process internally. The process of our FY'24 audit has just begun, and we will not have final numbers until the audit is released in early 2025. For this amendment, please remember revenues are budgeted by source and expenditures at the department level, the legal level of control. Expenditures may not exceed appropriations at the department level and budget revisions at this level are subject to final review by the council, which is the purpose of this amendment. The second reading and public hearing will be held at the August 15<sup>th</sup> council meeting.

Discussion and action on Board Appointments.

Council Appointed Edwin May to the City of Dublin and County of Laurens Development Authority. This appointment was to fill the seat currently being held by Keith Griffin. This term is for four years and will run from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2028. Councilman Jones made a motion to approve the appointment and seconded by Councilman Brown. The motion carried 7/0 for approval.

The council also appointed Jason Keyton to fill the unexpired term of Jerry Pitts, whose term will end on April 30, 2026 on the Downtown Dublin Development Authority (DDA) and also Rodney Brown to fill Clara Guyton's position on the DDA, whose term will run until April 30, 2027. Ms. Guyton's term had expired on 4/30/2023, but she has continued to serve until her replacement was appointed. The term remains the same for the appointed individual because of the staggering requirements of the DDA Board appointments. Councilwoman Kolbie made a motion to approve the appointments and seconded by Councilman Brown. The morion carried 7/0 for approval.

#### CITIZEN COMMENTS

Felicia Powell spoke with council about the Southside Community, when are their going to be change other than the Oconee Gym.

John Hall spoke with council about the property tax assessments also spoke about the Historic Museum Estate Sale.

Cliff Crews let the citizens know that there is still time to collect donated historic items from the Museum. The funds will go to the Laurens County Library.

Roy Hall spoke about traffic issues in Live Oak Way and requested a speed limit sign in the area. He also spoke on the property tax assessment.

Brandon Worthy spoke with council about 111-117 South Lawerence Street and drainage issues at the buildings.

John Blackshear 604 North Church Street, light at North Church Street, no cement and water comes down the road when it rains.

#### CITIZEN COMMENTS-STUBBS PARK

Mayor provided background information on Stubbs Gym. The question is what does the community need in the area-renovation of the current gym or by building construction a new facility. How is the gym currently being used. The estimated cost to renovate is likely to be \$200/square foot which would be around \$2,400,000. This price is based off another demolition project being conducted by Garbutt currently. Stubbs Gym will be open will the Oconee Gym is under renovation.

Councilman Smith stated that is unfair to the citizens to throw numbers out on what it would take to renovate. You can't compare the renovation of Stubbs Gym to the renovation of Oconee Gym.

Councilman Jones stated that was throwing our concepts that were given to the citizens to review. Concept A was keeping the gym and Concept B was tearing the gym down and building a pond.

Rev. Elgin Dixon spoke in favor of keeping Stubbs Gym. Should convert into a multifunction gym for cultural arts.

Sally Underwood spoke in favor of keeping Stubbs Gym and not building a pond. Also requested that when the gym is renovated it be handicap accessible.

Carolyn McCune spoke in favor of keeping the Stubbs Gym and renovating it so that it can be used for community events (baby showers and family gatherings). She spoke against the pond.

Jarvas Daniel (Youth) would like the Stubbs Gym to stay because putting at pond there would put himself and his siblings at risk.

Rhonda Cumpsty resident at Stubbs Park spoke with about looking at the use of the park. Kids are using the playground and the skatepark being used. Gym doesn't seem to be used as much but it is currently understaffed. Having trouble visioning what is would look like. Need signage in the area.

Clint Thomas northside of the railroad tracks is easy for kids in the area to get too. There is more purpose for that facility. It's been used by several events. The new gym at Southern Pines is going to be for travel ball. Would like to see the gym staff as Oconee Gym.

LaTonya Brown, Laurens County family Connection. Would love to see the gym renovated. After hours there is no one there to open the gym for them. There are things wrong in the gym because it hasn't been kept up in the past.

Rae Bloodworth presented Councilman Chris Smith with a list of signatures to keep the gym.

Tersea Holliday commend council for the work they have done. She is agreement for a change. Wished that this fight would be for other things going on in the city as well. Not about a building being torn down its about making an area better.

Kenny Walters with NAACP requesting more voting precinct not less. A lot people vote at Stubbs Gym.

Jacqueline Walker spoke with council coming together. Personally, don't see a problem with the pond. She would like to see a bike and walking trail and a splash pad.

Darrell Morris raised on the Southside. He spoke on his concern with gym access on the southside. Access to Oconee and Stubbs Parks.

Nicole Barnes and youth in the community spoke on how she uses the gym to serve and take kids off the street. Also spoke on not wanting the pond in the community.

Rebecca Dudley has worked with Family Connection. The gym does a lot of things, hang with friends, play basketball at Stubbs Gym. The gym keeps kids entertained. Tearing it down would be beyond the purpose that people have already made it. Centrally located.

George Hollingsworth spoke on the recreation that has been cut completely out at the Oconee Gym.

Brenda Chain, County Commissioner, several citizens have reached out to her and the consensus is that they do not want the Stubbs Gym torn down. They want it renovated and have access and not be policed as they go and come. She personally doesn't like the pond in the concept, because it's a liability in the area.

Heather Dudley resident at Stubbs Park. 1.9 miles is how far it is to the Oconee Gym. It's a long way from Stubbs to Oconee to walk. The people in the neighborhood don't drive, they walk. The gym is good for the community.

Elizabeth Dudley expressed her concerns about the homeless community in the city. The Stubbs Gym is a place for them to go.

Alred Wheeler does council relate and understand where the citizens are coming from and how tearing down the gym would affect the area.

Linda Gattis spoke of an experience at Stubbs Park, unsupervised children at the park. Spoke against the pond.

Julie Driger expressed her support to keep the Stubbs Gym and renovate. No what is right and keep the gym.

Barbara Martin, Kids Kingdom, agreed with the citizens to keep Stubbs Gym. Why were the issues of mold in the gym not being presented until now.

Anthony Smith spoke in favor of keeping Stubbs Gym and investing in staffing and programming.

Michael Moody spoke about programming and staffing in the facilities. Also spoke on the homeless popular in the community.

Chiquita Anderson spoke with council about the need to build something at home so that people don't travel. Spend money in Dublin not other places.

Ms. Thomas spoke about the gym being dedicated to her son Jordan Thomas and what it means personally to her but also the community. Do something for the kids.

Caroyln Walker expressed what Stubbs Park means to her. Renovate the gym and continue to encourage the children to get outside.

Brenda Smith, Director of Dublin Housing Authority, supports the renovation of Stubbs Gym. Need a plan of action for the safety of the children.

Jaqueline Walker spoke about using Oconee Gym and not being supervised. Against the pond concept in Stubbs Park put a swimming pool that they can use. Using the people's money for personally gain.

Mary Jo Bracewell spoke on how she uses Stubbs Gym; it needs to be renovated.

Sally Underwood when the Oconee Gym is remodeled, need to bring Mr. Smith back to the gym.

Kenny Walters asked for clarification on July 1<sup>st</sup> and the agreement with Dublin-Laurens Recreation Authority.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

City Attorney Gordon had no comments.

City Clerk Browning had no comments.

Councilman Mascaro thanked everyone for coming. All the citizens statements are compelling. Everything that the Mayor and Council have done goes with a lot of thought.

Councilman Smith thanked everyone for coming out. Amazing to come out and express opinion. Council has a discuss to make, the citizens want their GEM.

Councilman Griggs thanked everyone for coming and expressing their opinions.

Councilman Jones thanked everyone for coming. Congratulated fellow councilmembers on their awards. Stubbs was built on the back of Vinson Village. Elected 2016 and opened the gym daily without pay for two years. Come back on August 15<sup>th</sup> to hear council's discussion.

Councilwoman Godfrey thanked everyone for coming to speak on Stubbs Gym, wished that citizens would come out for other issues in the city.

Councilwoman Kolbie thanked everyone for coming. Parks have been one of the primary concerns over the past two and half years. This is improving our parks. Spoke on safety in the community.

City Manager Powell had no comments.

Mayor Kight thanked everyone for coming. Positive direction and a lot of energy in the town.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Kight adjourned the meeting at 7:45 P.M.

  
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Joshua E. Kight, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Heather M. Browning, City Clerk

