

Dublin City Hall
October 17, 2024

The regular meeting of the Mayor and Council was held at Dublin City Hall, on Thursday, October 17, 2024 at 5:30 P.M.

Mayor Joshua Kight called the meeting to order. Council members Bill Brown, Bennie Jones, Tess Godfrey, Sara Kolbie, Paul Griggs, and Rich Mascaro were present. Councilman Chris Smith and City Manager Josh Powell were absent. The invocation was given by Chatman, son of Verlinda Chatman, followed by the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Antonio Lanier, Code Enforcement Officer, was recognized as Employee of the Third Quarter of 2024. Congratulations, Antonio!

Service Pins were presented to the following for their dedicated service for the following years:

10 Years of Service:

Owen Bracewell - Fire Department

Jeffrey Foskey - Fire Department

Chris Stanley - Planning and Development (Chris wasn't able to attend the meeting, but we will make sure he gets his pin).

Antonio Lanier - Planning and Development

30 Years of Service:

Brad Grimes - Gas Department

Verlinda Chatman - Human Resources

APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 19, 2024 COUNCIL MEETING

A motion was made by Councilman Griggs and seconded by Councilwoman Godfrey to approve the minutes. The motion carried 6/0.

APPROVAL OF BILLS OVER \$15,000

A motion was made by Councilwoman Kolbie and was seconded by Councilman Mascaro to approve the following bills. The motion carried 6/0.

CHECK#	DATE	PAYMENT TO	PURCHASE	AMOUNT
41702	9/13/24	C.E. Garbutt Construction Co.	Shamrock Fire Station Renovation	28,785.38
41698	9/13/24	Beck Auto Sales Inc.	2024 F550 Dump Truck-Street Division	71,894.00
41737	9/13/24	RPI Underground, Inc.	Dublin Industrial Sewer Improvements	638,240.01
LifeHealthSept	9/13/24	GMEBS-Life & Health Insurance	Health Insurance	224,446.24
41705	9/13/24	Consolidated Pipe & Supply Co.	Restock Supplies	41,904.94
41738	9/13/24	Ryland Oil Company	Restock Fuel	24,094.45
41751	9/16/24	City of Dublin	Utilities	15,995.48
DFT0002398	9/17/24	Department of Revenue	Payroll Payables	22,839.85
DFT0002397	9/17/24	Internal Revenue Service	Payroll Payables	138,664.74
41826	9/19/24	Ryland Oil Company	Restock Fuel	20,991.86

41761	9/19/24	ABS, Inc.	Program for Trickling Filter	28,500.00
41818	9/19/24	Paul S. Akins Company, Inc.	Renovation for Sant. and Water Facilities	56,658.35
41786	9/19/24	Cornerstone H2O LLC	Septage Receiving Station	16,770.00
41825	9/19/24	RPI Underground, Inc.	Dublin Industrial Sewer Improvements	725,544.41
41840	9/19/24	Teen Challenge Southeast Region	Detail Work	15,000.00
41811	9/19/24	Mid-State Striping Inc.	Traffic Calming Materials	27,850.00
41778	9/19/24	C. E. Garbutt Construction Co.	City Hall Interior Upgrades	55,432.13
41779	9/19/24	Christian Engineering, LLC	Topographic Survey	15,792.00
MGAGAug	9/21/24	Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia	Gas Purchase	622,505.97

APPROVAL OF PURCHASES OVER \$15,000

There was one purchases for council consideration.

Storm Drain Repair in Earlwood Subdivision - Two separate storm drain failures were called to our attention in the Earlwood Subdivision. The outfalls of two street storm drains that are into the pond have deteriorated beyond repair and need replacement. The soil around both of these pipes has washed away. These pipes are within an existing city easement. Staff received two proposals and asked for a timeline along with price. Based on what was received, staff's recommendation T Lake Environmental be approved to complete the job for \$27,565.95. This is not a budgeted item and will be paid from Tia Discretionary Funds - Account Number 235-4250-541425 ("Earlwood Drainage Project"). Councilman Griggs made a motion to approve the purchase and seconded by Councilwoman Kolbie. The motion carried 6/0 to approve.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON APPROVAL OF GAP GRANT TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The City of Dublin Police Department has been approved to continue the Georgia Gang Activity Prosecution Grant Program. We've also been approved for additional funding for five OptiPlex computers and 6 toughbooks to purchase for our gang officers to use in their investigations. The primary purpose of the grant covers the cost of the formulytics software which officers upload information regarding our local gang activities and then also have access to every other participant entity's gang member activity. This is an effort by the Georgia Department of Homeland Security to ensure that our law enforcement's efforts on gangs is supported by the information gained by other agencies. The city's cost for participation is \$18,000, but we are the host of our district, so the total for formulytics is \$30,970 and then \$8,200 for the computers and \$15,750 for the laptops. Councilman Brown made a motion to approve the terms and conditions and seconded by Councilman Jones. The motion carried 6/0 to approve.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON RESOLUTION #24-42 APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE LAURENS COUNTY JOINT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

City Treasurer Daniels read resolution #24-42 to approve and adopt the Laurens County Joint Comprehensive Plan Vision 2050: Laurens County's blueprint for a vibrant community, as the City's official local comprehensive plan under the Georgia Planning Act of 1989. The Georgia Planning Act requires that municipal and county governments maintain comprehensive plans that help shape future growth. The City of Dublin, along with Laurens County and its

other municipalities, and the Heart of Georgia Altamaha regional Commission began the work of updating the plan in February 2024 and has held several stakeholder and public input sessions along the way. The plan is in compliance with the Georgia Planning Act and staff's recommendation was to approve and adopt the plan. Councilman Brown made a motion to approve the resolution and seconded by Councilman Griggs. The motion carried 6/0 to approve.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON RESOLUTION #24-43 ADOPTING THE FINAL TAX MILLAGE

City Treasurer Daniels read resolution #24-43 to direct and approve the assessment, levy, and collection of the 2024 City of Dublin Final Tax Millage for the operation and maintenance of the City of Dublin. The total net digest for Tax Year 2024 increased from \$570,973,801 to \$769,806,098. The bulk of the increase is due to reassessed values of property throughout the city. Our rollback rate is 4.6 Mills and represents a net levy of \$3,541,108, which is just over \$300,000 what we budgeted to receive. The amount above budget represents the increase in taxable property from true growth in taxable property, not inflationary growth. This has been advertised in the newspaper along with a press release from the mayor explaining the tax levy. It is a requirement that the Council adopt an ordinance directing city staff to levy and collect the tax. The budgeted amounts we anticipated to receive can be found in the financial reports shown on revenue accounts 100-311100 (Real Property - current) and 100-311300 (Personal Property - Current). Councilman Mascaro made a motion to approve and seconded by Councilman Griggs. The motion carried 5/1 with Councilman Bennie Jones in opposition.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON RESOLUTION #24-44 TO APPROVE AND ACCEPT A 2024 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) AWARD

City Treasurer Daniels read resolution #24-44 to accept and approve a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) from the Georgia Department of Community Affairs for the street, flood, drainage, and sidewalk improvements on West Mary Street. The City of Dublin was awarded a 2024 Community Development Block Grant through the Georgia Department of Community Affairs for the street, drainage, and sidewalk improvements to West Mary Street from N. Church Street to N. Jefferson Street. The award amount is \$939,537 and the match (which is comprised of in-kind work and cash) is \$152,802. The Total project cost is \$1,092,339. The work on the project is expected to be completed in 2026. Staff's recommendation was for council to accept the Grant award through the resolution. Councilman Jones made a motion to approve the resolution and seconded by Councilman Brown. The motion carried 6/0 to approve.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON RESOLUTION #24-45 TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO APPROVE AN AGREEMENT FOR EMERGENCY DISASTER RECOVERY & FEMA PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

City Treasurer Daniels read resolution #24-45 to authorize the City Manager to negotiate a contract for Emergency Disaster Recovery & FEMA Public Assistance with Goodwyn, Mills, & Cawood LLC. There are a number of FEMA funding and reimbursement opportunities that will be available to us for initial emergency response, labor and equipment costs in debris removal and

collection; repairs to city property; and hazard mitigation efforts. Goodwyn Mills and Cawood, LLC has a disaster recovery division that provides consultant services to ensure that we properly document all costs associated with our response to the storm, that we submit the appropriate documentation for all possible reimbursement, and that we also submit for any hazard mitigation funding that may be available to us. They will bill us by the hour and we can initially enter into a 90-day emergency contract with them, but have to advertise and open up for these services from other companies to comply with public bidding requirements. The cost of these services is reimbursable by FEMA. EMA Director, Bill Laird, has strongly recommended we enlist their help as his expertise on all of the possible funding through FEMA is limited. The resolution will authorize the emergency contract as well as authorize the city manager to approve the engagement of a company selected on a longer-term basis once we bid out these services. This will be paid out of Account #100-3920-521200 (Emergency Management-Professional Services) and was not budgeted, but reimbursement will be applied for through FEMA. Councilman Griggs made a motion to approve and seconded by Councilman Brown. The motion carried 6/0 to approve.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON RESOLUTION #24-46 TO AWARD A BID TO SIKES BROTHERS, INC. FOR THE 2024 RESURFACING PROJECT

City Treasurer Daniels read resolution #24-46 to award a bid to Sikes Brothers, Inc. for the 2024 Resurfacing Project. Three bids were received for the 2024 Resurfacing Project and the low bid was submitted by Sikes Brothers which has performed this annual project multiple times in the past successfully. Staff's recommendation was for Council to award to the low bidder, Sikes Brothers, in the amount of \$795,773.75 for the resurfacing of the following streets:

Firetower Road
Blaine Street
Indiana Street
Oconee Street
Schley Street
Westview Drive
Sunny Lane
West Street
Linwood Avenue
Brookdale Drive
Marie Drive
Stovall Drive
North Elm Street
Ella Street
Kennedy Street
Woodland Street
Barton Drive
Jarondon Drive
Academy Avenue
Lily Street

We have \$627,260.34 in LMIG and local match funds available and the remaining shortfall will be paid from TIA Discretionary Funds (\$168,513.41). This will be paid from Accounts: 100-4221-541200 General Fund - LMIG Projects) and 235-4221-541200 (TIA Discretionary LMIG Street Resurfacing Projects). Councilman Griggs made a motion to approve the resolution and seconded by Councilwoman Kolbie. The motion carried 6/0 for approval.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON RESOLUTION #24-47 TO AUTHORIZE THE HEALTH AND SUPPLEMENTAL BENEFITS PACKAGE FOR THE 2025 PLAN YEAR.

City Treasurer Daniels to authorize the City Manager to secure health and supplemental insurance benefits for the 2025 plan year for the City of Dublin. Staff has been working on ways to control our costs, especially for personnel costs, and in doing that, we have been looking at our benefits package for health and supplemental insurance for employees. Not wanting to sacrifice the level of service or coverage, we essentially have three options for the health and supplemental insurance benefits package for this upcoming year. 1) Renew with GMA at a substantial increase over last year (Fully funded); 2) Move to CIGNA for a modest increase over last year (Fully funded); or 3) Move to a self-funded model with a stop-loss coverage with the same level of coverage for employees as with the fully-funded models. A basic and very high-level breakdown of the costs for our options are below. Councilman Griggs made a motion to approve a self-funded insurance plan and seconded by Councilman Mascaro. The motion carried 6/0 to approve.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON RESOLUTION #24-48 TO APPROVE AN AMENDMENT TO THE AGREEMENT WITH GARBUTT CONSTRUCTION FOR THE OCONEE GYM PROJECT TO ESTABLISH A GUARANTEED MAXIMUM PRICE FOR THE PROJECT.

City Treasurer Daniels read resolution #24-48 to approve an amendment to the contract with Garbutt Construction Company to establish a Guaranteed Maximum Price for the Oconee Gym Project. Garbutt has gathered final pricing for the Oconee Gym renovation project and has a guaranteed maximum price of \$2,998,523 for the project. This includes the telescoping bleachers, additional goals, and other adjustments to the weight room and locker rooms that were requested by the council. The resolution in your materials will approve the amendment to our contract with Garbutt to adopt the guaranteed maximum price, and any cost overages within the scope of the work above this price will be the burden of Garbutt, should any arise. If we change the scope of the project, we would be responsible for any increase in costs associated with those changes. The resolution also authorizes the City Manager to make further modifications to the agreement, should they become needed, without further action from the council. The GMP summary document includes an estimated timeline for the project and they are currently projecting a completion date of August of 2025. The full GMP document shows an itemized listing of all of the bids that were received for the work and what is included within each broad category on the summary. Councilman Griggs made a motion to approve the resolution and seconded by Councilman Brown. The motion carried 6/0 for approval.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

George Hollingsworth asked that the final blueprints of the Oconee Gym Renovation be released to the advisory committee and the citizens.

Rae Bloodworth inquired about voting day at Stubbs Gym.

Brandon Worthy spoke and presented council with invoices and pictures of Lawrence Street.

Wanda Woodard thanked everyone for what they did during the storm clean up. Also spoke about Elm Street and the transportation on it.

Jacqueline Wright thanked the council and city workers for pulling together during Hurricane Helena.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

City Attorney Gordon had no comments.

City Clerk Browning had no comments.

Councilman Mascaro had no comments.

Councilman Griggs thanked everyone for coming.

Councilwoman Kolbie congratulated the employees that receive service awards for the many long years of dedicated work to our city. Also thanked the staff for their hard work during the storm. Thanked the citizens for being present and being involved.

Councilman Godfrey thanked everyone for coming. Thanked Anthony Chatman for his prayer. Also thanked the city employees for all they done to clean up the city after the storm.

Councilman Brown thanked everyone for coming. Appreciate our employees and the dedication they have shown during this time.

Councilman Jones congratulated the employees that received service awards and thanked them. He commends the citizens for being a unified city during the storm helping each other and he hopes to see that going forward. We all have difference of options but let's come together. Spoke on the rollback of the millage rate and employees going above and beyond. Speaks for Ward 1 and 2 that have curb and gutter in the ward, we can't fix, if the millage rate continues to go down. The citizens need to be the school board meeting and let them tell their story. Grants are not free money; the city has to put up money.

Mayor Kight the city has over \$24 million in revenues, even at the 4.6 mills roll back rate the city will have over \$300,000 more in tax revenues then what was budgeted. Very proud of council voting 5/1 to rollback. Wished Blake Daniels a Happy Birthday.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Kight adjourned the meeting at 6:24 P.M.


Joshua E. Kight, Mayor

ATTEST:


Heather M. Browning, City Clerk

