

CITY OF KEYSVILLE, GA

A City Where Everybody Is Somebody

City Council
LINDA WILKES, MAYOR
Sharon Neely
Kathy Couch
Maggie Terrell
Harold Kight



City Administration
Sherell Russ, Interim Administrator
LaTora Lewis, Water Clerk

Freddie Harden

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MINUTES
KEYSVILLE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Today's Date: APRIL 10, 2023
Meeting Date: March 13, 2023
TIME: 7:00 PM
LOCATION: KEYSVILLE CITY HALL

Meeting called to order by: Mayor Linda Wilkes.

Councilmembers Present: Linda Wilkes, Kathy Couch, Sharon Neely, Maggie Terrell, Harold Kight, Freddie Harden

Employee: Sherell Russ

Others Present: Andrea Birt, James Neely, Bobbie Powell, Jerry Couch, Mary Davis

Mayor Wilkes: Welcomed all and thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Prayer: Jerry Couch

Absent:

Agenda: Mayor Wilkes asked for the motion to have the agenda approved. Council Woman Kathy motioned to have the agenda approved as order of the day. Council Woman Sharon Neely second the motion to have the agenda approved as order of the day.

Mayor Wilkes said the agenda will stand as order of the day.

Minutes:

Corrections:

Harold Kight

- Made a correction in the environmental water report.
- Stated that he did not say anything about a hose being off the pumps, he said the panels were laying on the ground beside the pumps.

Mayor Wilkes presented the Minutes for approval and corrections if there be any. Council Woman Kathy Couch motioned to have the minutes approved with necessary corrections noted. Council Woman Maggie Terrell second the motion to approve the minutes. Mayor Linda Wilkes stated the minutes will stand with necessary corrections noted.

Committee Reports

Mayor Linda Wilkes

Read a letter from the Oil of the Lord Ministries stating how they appreciate the city of Keysville for the rental use of the Charles Walker Building and that their monthly fee for January has been paid to the City of Keysville.

Spoke on GMA sponsoring Georgia Cities week for 2023 and that she would like for the city of Keysville and the city council to participate.

2023 annual convention will be held in Savannah Georgia June 23-27. If the council would like to participate, please let Ms. Russ know.

Then there is a District7 spring meeting 2023. Also, there is a 2-day training event they have 2-hour classes and three-hour classes. Said if anyone would like to go, please let Ms. Russ know before time.

Environmental Water:

Harold Kight-

- Said he sees that the whole was covered in front of Mr. Harden's house.
- Stated the panels was still laying on the ground.
- Stated that there was a chain around the gate at the water tower that was not locked.
- Mayor Linda Wilkes interfered and asked Ms. Russ if she knew anything about the panels and Ms. Russ replied that someone did go and start some work, but it was something about a bolt that's why the panels are not done.
- Ms. Russ stated that she will give the guy a call and see what was needed.
- Councilman Harold Kight stated that he had some tampered proof bolts the city could use them. There is special tool use to take the bolts off

Emergency and Personnel:

Sharon Neely:

- Mentioned that she was still on the light situation about Georgia Power. Stated she knows LaTora came to her and something about she talked to Georgia Power and said that there was nothing she could do about it, but there have got to be something we could do cause the city is paying for the lights that's out.
- stated she has been reporting for about 6 to 8 months, they are still paying the bill, so Georgia Power must come out and fix those lights.
- Said that she did tell LaTora to at least get the pole information to her so that she could call them herself. Said that she is going to have to have the pole information.
- Asked to make a motion to give councilman Harold Kight to have keys to the water Department so that he can be responsible for his part in the water.
- Right now, he's not touching anything, because he doesn't have the authority to those locks that need to be locked, he's looking at these things and taking pictures of it and right now the locks are still open. If he had the authority to go in and out of these places, she's like him she would have locked those locks.
- Stated Councilman Harold Kight is going around seeing these things but does not have the authority. Said that he is going to have to have some type of in way to get to his report and check things out.
- Councilwoman Kathy Couch second the motion for Councilman Harold Kight to have a set of keys to the water department. All council members favored I with no opposes.
- Said there was a couple of dogs still running around and that she thinks that they are being taking care of, so just give it a minute.

Councilman Harold Kight

- Stated that there was a motion made to have a fence put up the spray fields. That he was worried someone could get into the gate and run over the city sprayheads.

Building & Housing:

Council Woman Kathy Couch

- Stated the roads still look very good.
- Stated she spoke with Sherriff Alphonso Williams about what has happened whenever Judge Jerry Daniels house, then judge Cox took over and said when Danny Nicks retired says the ball just kind of dropped with us about the community workers cleaning up the city roads. So far, it's still looking very decent on our roads. People still just throw trash everywhere and don't know whats the problem. Said they cleaned up Martin Luther King Jr Road.
- Asked if the city owned the strowbridge property, said she brought the situation up before about the big hole on the Strawbridge property it use to be the septic tank, but she does not know if anything has been done or not.
- Said the siding is falling off the trailers on to the ground at the Strawbridge property.

- Mayor Linda Wilkes responded that she would get with Merv and see if he could send a crew out to the city to check the property.

City Roads and Recreation:

Mayor Linda Wilkes

Old Business

- Stated a citizen had concern about the bridge needing repairs and that Mayor Linda Wilkes stated that she would look into it.
- Trash continues to be along the side of the road. Will continue to monitor the situation.
- Mr. Neely had some suggestions on how to help with the cleanup.

New City Business

Mayor Linda Wilkes

- Showed the council the alcohol license for the new owners of the store to sell alcohol.
- Stated that she would get with Lawyer Doug Kidd about the approval of the license.
- Said she received a letter from the board of commissions said they did vote to go with a company called Wiley Environmental and they will provide curbside garbage collection throughout the county. Said the service will not be billed to the resident that it will go towards the property taxes of the residents. Cities does have the option to opt-out.
- Mayor Linda Wilkes asked the council to vote to accept the contract for the environmental city trash pick-up.
- Council Woman Kathy Couch made a motion to accept board of commissions roadside environmental trash pick-up in the City of Keysville. Council Woman Sharon Neely second the motion. Mayor Linda Wilkes asked of any opposes.
- Read letter pertaining to the bridge from GDOT stating that there was not anything critically wrong with the bridge. Stated the bridge had some cosmetic type of issue and that they did not have an estimate on when the bridge will be replaced at this time. Said that they will contact the city when the time comes to replace the bridge.
- Presented a termination Letter for Ronald O'Brien. Asked the council to have a motion to terminate Mr. O'Brien. Council Woman Kathy Couch made a motion to terminate Ronald O'Brien. Councilman Harold Kight second the motion. Said there will be a certified letter mailed to him by the City Administrator.

Other City Business

Mayor Linda Wilkes

- Presented the budget to the council and asked for everyone to read over it.

- Council Woman Maggie Terrell made a correction from the last page of the budget. Said that City Financial Summary should be Summaries because she reads more than one financial account.
- Council woman Maggie Terrell asked to make a motion to make the budget a 3 reading. Mayor Linda Wilkes asked her what the concern was.
- Council Woman Maggie Terrell stated the mayor makes six hundred dollars a month and that her salary needs to be cut.
- Mayor Linda Wilkes asked did she know what her job consist of for her to take a pay cut and all the meetings that she has to attend. Who do they think does these things. Mayor Linda Wilkes states that was an insult and that Mrs. Terrell should feel less of herself for settling for anything less than six hundred dollars.
- Mayor Linda Wilkes Stated that council woman Maggie Terrell should be ashamed for what she has said.
- Council Woman Maggie Terrell stated she was not shame for what she said.

Finance:

Council Woman Maggie Terrell

- Queensboro Bank statements March 2023
- Wellsfargo Bank statements March 2023
- Charles Walker rental Report – Concerned Citizens \$0

Citizens Complaint/Concerns

James Neely

- Thanked the city for the Black History month program.
- Asked about the Spring 2023 meeting asked was the meeting in savannah, asked what the time frame for the meeting was. Mayor Linda Wilkes stated a week.
- Mention the district 7 spring meeting aske was the location in Thomson. Mayor Linda Wilkes stated that the district 7 meeting was an open meeting and to attend get with city administrator Sherell Russ to sign up.
- Mr. Neely asked did the paperwork have to be in by the 17th of March.
- Asked about the alcohol license that the Mayor and City Council discussed.
- Said a three-stage approval Keysville, County, then the State for the city of Keysville to get with Lawyer Doug Kidd is to establish the policy. Mayor Linda Wilkes stated no it was to ordinate the resolution.
- Asked did the city have an ordinance for liquor sales in the city. Mayor Linda Wilkes answered we have a general ordinance, when old ordinance was made the law was changed, and now the city can sell alcohol.
- Asked will the citizens have a say so in what lawyer Doug Kidd opposes back to the City Council.
- Asked about the trash sanitation. Asked about the 2 bulk pick up in burke county and said depends on the location you may have people to throw furniture etc, outside the road if its to far away. Is there going to be a date or can you take it to the dump or are you going to have to pay. Stated where the picks ups are going to be located could be critical because of the size of Burke County. Mayor Linda Wilkes said in Richmond County they have special days where they go and do trash pickup.

Andrea Williams

- Thanked the city of Keysville and the city council for helping with the youth program.
- There was a concern about the Charles Walker Building stated she had a conversation with Council Woman Sharon Neely and stated Ms. Neely asked her would she be able to come to the council meeting.
- Andrea stated she could not understand why they could not go in that Friday the day before her event and set up decorations. Said she understands the part when somebody rents the building, they are not allowed to have the building for two days. Said her event started early and coming in at 7 in the morning trying to have everything together she just felt like she needed more time.
- Said for future references being able to get into the Charles Walker Building a day before the event would help. Mentioned there will be more events.
- Mayor Linda Wilkes answered she does not want anybody to be stressful. When we start letting peoples get into the Charles Walker building a day before it causes confusion to the customers that have paid because the city has turned down other paying customers from being able to enter the Charles Walker Building the day before their event starts. If anyone decides that they want to break into the Charles Walker Building and take everything or destroy the building that the city would be held accountable and to prevent the situation we only allow you to use Charles Walker Building Day of your event. Stated Mr. Neely started this. If she lets u get the building for two days, then you will have to pay for two days. If you go to any other recreation center u can only that day you paid for. If the city lets one person, do it then everybody else going to want to do it and blame the next person because the city let someone use the building the day before.

New Business:

Finished Business:

Unfinished Business:

Council Woman Sharon Neely

- Schedule a meeting to complete the 2023 Budget.

Announcements/Comments from the floor:

Mayor Linda Wilkes asked for the meeting to be Adjourned. Council Woman Kathy Couch made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Council Woman Sharon Neely second the motion to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned.