

CITY OF KEYSVILLE, GA

A City Where Everybody Is Somebody

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



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

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MINUTES
KEYSVILLE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Today's Date: MAY 8, 2023
Meeting Date: APRIL 10, 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, LaTora Lewis

Others Present: True Citizen Shellie, Jerry Couch, Herman Lee, James Neely, Mae-field Streetman, Rubye Rucker, Kenya Cranin, Chandler Cranin,

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

Prayer: Jerry Couch

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. Mayor Protem Sharon Neely seconded the motion to have the agenda approved as order of the day.

Mayor Wilkes: The agenda will stand as order of the day. Ask to have the minutes approved with necessary corrections if there are any.

Minutes:

Corrections:

Councilwoman Kathy Couch:

- Said that the heading for the city administrator should have been changed after the 24th of March. Said that Mr. Harden was not present in the last meeting he was absent.
- On the second page of the minutes, she suggested that the dates for the spring meeting should have been on the minutes.
- On page 3 the 7th bullet down where it says all council members favored (I) it should be AYE.
- Said that Danny Nicks should have been Danny Meeks.
- Page 5 where it says Council Woman Maggie Terrell motioned for a 3 reading it should be 3rd reading. Said the same page 7th bullet down where it says she was not shame it should be ashamed.
- Page 6. 8th bullet down it says letting people's, she thinks it should say letting people.

Councilwoman Maggie Terrell:

- Stated the procedure when someone makes a motion it is motioned and seconded by whoever.
- On page 3. Stated that Strawbridge is spelled Strowbridge, and the spelling is different on certain pages.
- On page 5. Stated that summary should have been summaries because she reads more than one financial account.

Mayor Pro-tem Sharon Neely:

- Stated under emergency personnel, the word she should be replaced with the name Georgia Power.
- Said the next bullet under that first sentence that was read the word tell should be replaced with the word asked.

Mayor Wilkes presented the Minutes for approval with the corrections as noted. **Council Woman Kathy Couch** motioned to have the minutes approved with necessary corrections noted. **Council Woman Maggie Terrell** seconded the motion to approve the minutes. **Mayor Linda Wilkes** stated the minutes will stand with necessary corrections as noted.

Committee Report

Environmental Water:

Councilman Harold Kight:

- Said that there was a hole in the gate up at the water plant and he repaired it.
- April 5th there was a water leak repaired at the city well.
- The water meter valve was replaced at 160 Old Waynesboro Road on April 6th.

Emergency and Personnel:

Mayor Protem Sharon Neely:

- The only report she had was the catching of the dogs. Said the dogs are still out raging the city.
- Stated that there is one other light out and she knows all the lights have been worked on. Thanked the city for having the lights repaired.
- Reported another light out at the treatment plant.

Building & Housing:

Councilwoman Kathy Couch:

- Said that she does not have a lot to report but she was trying to get the community workers out and was told to speak with a Linda Jones at the Accountability Court, states she does not return any of her phone calls.
- Inquired about the hole on the Strowbridge property, stated that she does not want anything to happen.

City Roads and Recreation:

Councilman Freddie Harden:

- Stated he put crush and run in the potholes on
- Old Waynesboro Road and Tyrone Brooks.
- 199 Old Waynesboro Road
- The driveway on 492 Martin Luther King Jr Road.
- On Tyrone Brooks Street and Martin Luther King Jr Road he put gravel in that road.
- Stated trash cans are needed at the park because kids leave trash over the weekend stated he picked it up.

Old Business

New City Business

Mayor Linda Wilkes:

- Said there were a few things she needed to go over. Mentioned that the budget was approved her pay was reduced to \$550.00. Stated she guess the reason for her pay to be reduced was because the 600.00 was not voted on. Stated that if her pay was not voted for neither was the council's pay. Stated when she got into office the councils were not getting paid. The City Administrator gave the council \$50.00. said that the council pay eventually went from \$50.00 to \$75 and to \$100.00. with 25 more for the Vice Mayor. Asked who made the motion to increase that and who voted on it.
- Stated then the council payment went from \$75 to \$100 who made the motion for that and who voted on it. The **mayor Protem** from \$100 to \$125.00. who voted on it.
- My point is, it was not voted on, stated the council did not vote on any of it.
- The **City Administrator** made the changes, none were voted on. So technically the council should be at \$50. But if this makes you all happy keep it.
- The **mayor** also stated that she did understand why the council decided to take away health insurance from the employees. Out of all the things that could have been cut, you cut health insurance and retirement.
- Stated there are three full time employees, everybody that works over 30 hours is considered full time and that's under federal law.
- Said the AFLACS Insurance was not being paid by the city, that the employees were paying out of their checks.
- It had Aflac's slash Health insurance which was \$3800.00 just in case the employees wanted insurance the city will pitch in and pay portion of it.
- The retirement, she does not understand why they can't have a retirement plan. Stated she is covered by the VA and the State of Georgia. If the decision was to hurt her, they failed. **Mayor Wilkes** stated their actions were hateful.
- Stated when she first got into the office, the city had one full time employee and he was getting three hundred dollars extra on his check for health insurance, she asked him to show proof of his insurance he stated he did not have health insurance. Three hundred dollars is enough to pay the full amount of a health insurance policy. The \$3800.00 was to pay a portion of the insurance if the employees elected to get health insurance.
- **Mayor Protem Sharon Neely** stated that we had this meeting, a third reading, we tried to get you over here so that we could get that full understanding, but you failed to show up, so we went upon what we felt was right.
- **Mayor Linda Wilkes** responded, "you can't go with your feelings, because this is not about your feelings."
- Number One, we had three readings about the budget, and not one time did the health insurance or retirement came up, well **Mr. Harden** did mention retirement one time and it was decided to keep it on there, not one time did anybody mention anything about health insurance.

- **Mayor protem Sharon Neely** stated that we could have aired that out if you would have come to the last meeting. **Mayor Linda Wilkes** stated no we couldn't, and that the council should have asked before they made a decision like that. **Mayor Protem Sharon Neely** mentioned that the council could not get in touch with the mayor because she did not answer.
- **Mayor Linda Wilkes** said that she refused to come because we have had too many meetings on this budget. Mayor Protem Sharon Neely said that's why the final decision was made upon the council.
- **Mayor Linda Wilkes** stated the decision was made because of your heart. **Mayor Linda Wilkes** stated they went over the budget one time, the second time the budget was approved, and the third one, my salary, and then you all wanted to come back for a fourth, fifth and a sixth.
- **Mayor Linda Wilkes** stated the council came because of her salary. **Councilwoman Maggie Terrell** stated that they came back because if it was not voted on, they were having readings and reviews, the last time on the third budget is when the council voted. They were having reviews and just like the mayor protem said if you would have come over to explain what was going on the situation would have been aired out.
- **Mayor Linda Wilkes** stated, if it was a question, why didn't you ask the first time, or the second time, why didn't you ask then, if it was a problem. When you kept coming back stating the reason it wasn't approved was because of my salary. I did not need to get in the conversation discussing my salary over and over, so that's why I chose not to come.

Other City Business

Water Clerk LaTora Lewis

- Read the agenda for the Georgia Cities Week from April 23,2023 -April 29,2023
- Councilman Harold Kight has a water key.

Finance:

Councilwoman Maggie Terrell

- Queensboro Bank statements March 2023
- Wellsfargo Bank statements March 2023

Citizens Complaint/Concerns

New Business:

Kenya Cronin- Business Proposal

- **Stated that she was looking to open a wedding venue on her family property behind Mount Tabor Baptist Church**
- **What she meant by wedding meaning.**
 - **Event Space a place for gatherings**
 - **Family Reunions**
 - **Wedding Chapel Indoor and Outdoor Space**
 - **Barn Dominion**

- **Cottages- bridal Suite and groomsman bunk house**
 - **Pond for fishing**
- **Mrs. Cronin** mentioned that she had experience in customer service and stated that she also had a good creative and smart team behind her and that was the reason of her coming before the council to see what they think of having a new business in the City of Keysville, said she thinks it will bring a lot of jobs, and more community gatherings, different tourist from out of town, church events.
- Said that she thinks the wedding venue will be a good asset to the Keysville Community.
- **Shellie from the True Citizen** asked when she thought the business would be ready for the public.
- **Mrs. Cronin** answered for the time being there is nothing but tall grass, dirt, and trees, her next step was to get land surveyors out to survey the land.
- Stated that eventually she will ask the city about getting water and power connection the property. Stated she think that it would take at least a year to build.
- The main thing that she wants to start off with is outdoor ceremony space, indoor ceremony space, and barn for receptions, hoping to expand by bringing in some cottages.
- Mentioned that she hopes to get the process started by winter 2024 by getting information on what needs to be done with the property to get the business started.
- **Mr. James Neely** was concerned about the zoning for the business and also asked about the big oil tank that was located on the property.
- **Councilman Freddie Harden** mentioned the oil tank was sitting on the property since 2008 when he was part of the city council back then and the company name was J&K oil recycle back then the area was zoned as commercial.
- **Councilwoman Kathy Couch** asked was Mrs. Cronin initially having a club on her property.
- **Mrs. Cronin** responded No to **Councilwoman Kathy Couch** question and said that the business would be more upscale.
- **Mrs. Cronin** asked the council if there was anything else they would like her to address in her business proposal.

The Council thanked Mrs. Cronin and Mayor Protem Neely asked for a written proposal.

Finished Business:

Unfinished Business:

Announcements/Comments from the floor:

Mayor Linda Wilkes asked for the motion to have the meeting Adjourned. **Councilwoman Kathy Couch** made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Council **Mayor Protem Neely** second the motion to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned.