

CITY OF KEYSVILLE, GA

A City Where Everybody Is Somebody

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



Sherell Russ, City Administrator
Latora Lewis, Water Clerk

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MINUTES
KEYSVILLE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Today's Date: August 14, 2023

Meeting Date: July 10, 2023

TIME: 7:00 PM

KEYSVILLE CITY HALL

Meeting called to order: Mayor Linda Wilkes.

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

Prayer: Jerry Couch

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

Employee: LaTora Lewis

Others Present: True Citizen Shellie, Jerry Couch, James Neely, MaeField Streetman, Marvin Scott, Kathy Brown, Willie Jake Walker, John Davis, Rubye Rucker

Absent:

Agenda: Mayor Wilkes: asked for the motion to have the agenda approved as order of the day. **Council**

Woman Kathy Couch: motioned to have the agenda approved as order of the day. **Council Woman**

Maggie Terrell: motioned to have the agenda amended by adding the resolution.

Council Woman Kathy Couch: seconded the motion to have the Resolution added to the agenda.

Mayor Wilkes: asked to have the agenda approved with the amendments added.

Council Woman Kathy Couch: made a motion to approve the agenda with the resolution added.

VM Sharon Neely: seconded the motion.

Mayor Linda Wilkes: stated the agenda will stand as order of the day with the amendments added.

Minutes: Mayor Wilkes asked for the approval of the minutes with necessary corrections if there are any.

Corrections Noted:

Councilman Freddie Harden:

- Stated where it says employees on the front page LaTora Lewis was not present. Ms. Russ showed up late.

Councilwoman Maggie Terrell

- Stated where it says others present **Kathy Brown** name was on it twice.

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

Committee Reports

Environmental Water:

Councilman Harold Kight

- Had a few leaks that was repaired on Martin Luther King JR Road, had leak on Rhodes Lee Road that was repaired July 6,2023, July 8 Saturday we had a wash out in front of Ms. Mattie Streetman house.
- There was a big hole in the road probably about three foot deep and we had a citizen to run into that whole and tare her car up. He suggested that she contact Burke County Police Department and get a report done and bring it forth to the city so that it may resolve in having her car fixed.
- Stated that he contacted Mr. Johns, and he showed up around 7:00 and the job did not get completed until midnight. **City Water clerk LaTora** responded by saying that her and the city administrator saw a leak on old Waynesboro Road as well but was not sure if it was a leak or the rain from the day prior to when the leak occurred. **Councilman Harold Kight** responded that if we stuck a yellow cone down in the road of the whole it would cover the whole cone. Stated that someone could have gotten hurt badly.
- Mentioned that they had a problem with getting the barricades from the shed, due to no one having a set of keys.
- Had a visitor come to the shop Mr. Wright and he wanted to know the acre on the sprayfields said that the Mayor and Ms. Russ contacted him about the use of his personal tractor to cut the sprayfields. Said that his first question to Mr. Wright was is he vaccinated for hepatitis? And the second thing is he asked for Mr. Wright to stray away cause if he was a friend, it would be a conflict of interest. **Mayor Linda Wilkes** asked who Mr. Wright friends was with. **Councilman Harold Kight** responded that he was

friends with Mr. Wright. Mayor Linda Wilkes said that she was not friends with Mr. Wright she knows him, but they are not friends, and her definition of a friend is different from Councilman Harold Kight. Councilman Harold Kight said that he still thinks that it is a conflict of interest to hire friends and family.

- Said that he was asked about some new carpet that was put into the Charles Walker Building. **City water Clerk LaTora** responded back and said the carpet was wet due to the air conditioner leaking and our Maintenance Terry pulled the carpet up and there is no new carpet in the Charles Walker Building and asked Ms. Maefield was I correct and she responded yes because the carpet had smell to it. **Councilman Harold Kight** asked was there going to be anymore carpet installed? Cause if it was, he wanted to know how much the bid was going to be. Mayor Linda Wilkes responded that it would not take much to fix.

Emergency and Personnel:

VM Sharon Neely:

- **Asked LaTora** if she could get her a list of all the residents address in the City of Keysville so that when there is a light out, she would be able to give a direct location on where the light is out. **Mayor Linda Wilkes** responded by saying that is private information to give out the city residents addresses and that she needed to ask the residents was it okay to give their information out.
- Stated her reason of being for those addresses was if there was anything going on in a specific area, she needs to be able to give an address and not just a name so that she would know the area she is talking about. **Mayor Linda Wilkes** responded when that resident calls, they need to give a direct address.
- Said that there is a light out by Russell Streetman and that it was dark. **City Water Clerk LaTora** responded Mr. Streetman did call and let her know the light was out but she never had chance to check on it and mentioned that she would get out tonight and check the lights.
- Stated that she was requesting keys to Charles Walker Building whatever the city has keys to, because if we run into problems over the weekend or any type of problems, we would be able get what is needed to get things done. That was a perfect example when they found the whole in the street all I needed was a police or something so that we could block off the road and not have any further incidents to occur on the street, but she had to use her car Council man Harden used his truck to block off the street until we were able to get some one to fix that area.
- Stated she contacted the City of Keysville employers and did not receive a response from anyone. **Mayor Linda Wilkes** stated that we have an emergency contact on the water bills so when stuff is going on use the emergency contact, asked did **VM Sharon Neely** use the appropriate contact for the water? **Councilman Harold Kight** stated that he sure did he call Mr. Johns no one could open the utility house for them to get the materials out or even lock it back up even if it was open. We were worried about a kid on a four-wheeler hitting the whole and killing or hurting themselves. We are talking about an

emergency, and we could not get any barricades, or get to the tractor, Mr. Johns was all the way under submerge nothing was sticking out but the top of his head with a shovel trying to get that stuff out. We finally got the keys to the tractor that we could use the backhoe and got barricades to keep somebody from getting hurt. **Mayor Linda Wilkes** asked who gave them keys to the tractor? **Councilman Harold Kight** responded Mr. Johns had keys to the tractor.

- **VM Sharon Neely** responded once Mr. Johns got there, cause before he got there, we still had to use our own barricades.
- **Councilman Harold Kight** stated that Mr. Johns did not have keys to the supply house.
- **Mayor Linda Wilkes** responded she does not have any keys and does not want any because that's not her job and it does not make since for everyone to have keys to everything so why are you calling her, we have an emergency contact in place that should be used.
- **Council man Harold Kight** said that if he was an emergency contact why does he not have a key. Mayor Linda Wilkes responded the city gave him keys. **Councilman Harold Kight** said that he has a gate key to get into the gates and the spray field and to the water plant, he has no key to get into the shed just in case something like the incident that occurred would not happen again. **Mayor Linda Wilkes** stated she understood what he was saying and that he could have a key to the shed, but it does not make sense for everyone to have a key.
- **Councilman Harold Kight** said they spoke with one of the employees and was told that they could not do anything until they talk to the mayor. Asked what they are supposed to do and that he used his personal truck and two other council member truck to make our city safe and the road safe cause they couldn't get in touch with nobody else. **Mayor Linda Wilkes** said that it should have been common sense for him to unlock the shed and that she would not vouch for that cause he should have given you those keys. **Councilman Harold Kight** said if he was the emergency contact on the water bill, he needs a set of keys to everything.
- **VM Sharon Neely** made a motion to give councilman **Harold Kight** a set of keys. **Council Woman Kathy Couch** seconded the motion and the council favored Aiye, no opposes.
- **VM Sharon Neely** requested keys for herself. **Mayor Linda Wilkes** asked why she needs a set of keys and that the city don't need all those keys out like that cause that is how stuff got missing and that we have someone to open and close those buildings. VM Sharon said with the exception of holidays when the city is not working. Mayor Linda Wilkes said on holidays the building is supposed to be closed. VM Sharon Neely said that we have people that hold meetings. She would have a set of keys just in case no one could open that building. **Inaudible**.
- **VM Sharon Neely** made a motion to get a set of keys. **Council Woman Kathy Couch** seconded the motion. **VM Sharon Neely** asked was there any opposes, and Mayor Linda Wilkes opposed, the council out voted the mayor. **VM Sharon Neely** asked to favor Aiye, and the council favored Aiye. VM Sharon Neely asked to have the keys by the end of the month.

Building & Housing:

Council Woman Kathy Couch

- Stated that she has not heard anything back from the community worker Scott also he contacted the commissioner Mr. Abrams and he said that he would get back with her on the tiny house ordinance, so she has no information to give about that.

City Roads and Recreation:

Councilman Freddie Harden

- On old business it was discussed in a meeting 2023 concerned citizen concerns the rain continues to wash out the driveways I have been filling them back in with crush n run from the park and it keeps washing out when it rains, so I asked the mayor did we have any money to repair the roads, she say we had enough money to repair the roads and said that we had to get three estimates and have approved.
- New Business, I have started working on getting the three estimates I have to get some account issues squared away, we had some money in our account and last week in our monthly fee and last month I our monthly fee we have discussed the money our account the road department was being removed so I would have to wait now to do an estimate, I would just continue to fill them in with dirt and crush n run as I been doing there is one on Tyrone Brooks St. and Martin Luther King Jr road, Old Waynesboro Road those holes are being filled back in. The driveways all the way up Martin Luther King Jr Rd Burke County has scraped all of those driveways.
- I did some temporary road patching at 199 Tyrone Brooks St and Old Waynesboro Road where the road washed out Saturday.
- Received a phone call saying that there was a lot of water in the road and said that she tried to go through it and tore up the front end of her car, I told her she needed to get an incident report, like Mr. Kight was saying I had a problem getting to the barricades to block the road off, so we used our vehicles until Mr. Jeremy Johns got here. Inaudible.
- Said he asked if he could have a meeting, but there is no point of having a meeting we just have to get the roads repaired. So, I would just have to keep filling in the wholes with the dirt, not only that we have to get a road department.
- Down at the recreation department they dug the road for the well and everything, but they left it in a mess, looks like there is more mess around, well it's not in a secured area around anything. His concern is that there need to be some type of security around it. The kids can go out there and play on it or however its just sitting out in the open. We spent 397,000 dollars on the well it should not be open like that.
- **VM Sharon Neely** asked (inaudible) is it finished or do we have a problem or is it something on the ground. **Councilman Freddie Harden** said that there is metal pipe on the ground, but what the expectations are I can't tell you, but you can go down there and see its just sitting out there in the opening its nothing around it. **VM Sharon Neely** asked was it not ready yet or were they still working on it. **Councilman Freddie Harden** said that he was not sure if it was finished or not but it's sitting there open. **Mayor Linda**

Wilkes asked did it have a lid around it and **Councilman Freddie Harden** responded no its just sitting there open said that he took pictures and sent to the email it was pictures of how the whole was in the road, afterwards Jeremy Johns came and filled the whole in with dirt and gravel.

- **Mayor Linda Wilkes response to Councilman Freddie Harden**
- To answer your question about the money for the roads you have \$56,985.70, this from the TIA it is used for the roads.
- Repeated TIA was the money for the roads.
- As far the money that was taken out last month that money was not taken out of the LMIG, (if you look at the top of your paper you will see at the top that is not LMIG account it says City of Keyesville Special Revenue Fund it started out with \$61,990.50 there was a check of 54,000 that went towards the pump, this is not an LMIG ACCOUNT this is a Special Revenue Account is for ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act). That money was put up for infrastructure, it was money left over from the coronavirus and they created this account for the money to be there to be used for water infrastructure and anything else that needs to use this money from the Corona Act. Its ARPA it does not say LMIG anywhere on this paper.
- **Council Woman Maggie Terrell** asked mayor Wilkes may she give her financial report now? and **Mayor Linda Wilkes** responded that she was answering a question that **Councilman Freddie Harden** had, and that she may give her report because the report that was given out last month was incorrect information. **Council Woman Maggie Terrell** said that her report was not incorrect. **Mayor Linda Wilkes** asked for **Council Woman Terrel** to show her where it says LMIG. Council Woman Terrell stated ever since she has been here it has been called LMIG. **Mayor Linda Wilkes** (Inaudible). **Council Woman Maggie Terrell** (Inaudible).
- Repeated conversation amongst **Mayor Linda Wilkes** and the City Council Members about LMIG, ARPA, and TIA Account.
- **City Water Clerk LaTora Lewis** stated that she received a text message from the City Administrator that she has Reeves coming out to the city to pave the roads and fill in the potholes on the city roads. **Councilman Freddie Harden** asked did Ms. Russ get 3 estimates before the decision was made? **Water Clerk LaTora Lewis** answered back and said that Ms. Russ did get an estimate.

Finance:

Council Woman Maggie Terrell

- Queensboro Bank statements June 2023
- Wells Fargo Bank statements June 2023
- Read a bank statement about the LMIG account starting in June 2021 and not last year in 2022 when the mayor stated the account started. **Mayor Linda Wilkes** stated that the LMIG did start last year because it came from the covid relief.
- Repeated conversation between **Council Woman Maggie Terrell** and **Mayor Linda Wilkes** about what type of account LMIG was and where did the account come from and how long the account was active?
- Read a statement that stated what the LMIG could be used for and what LMIG could not be used for.
- **Councilman Freddie Harden** asked when the 2023 budget was approved should it have stated Special Revenue Funds or LMIG? **Mayor Linda Wilkes** stated that the budget

should have been corrected with Special Revenue instead of LMIG and the amount is correct, but the name LMIG is incorrect.

Old Business

New City Business:

Council Woman Maggie Terrell:

- Mentioned that her and the council had a resolution typed up by **Doug Kidd** stating that her and **VM Sharon Neely** be able to have access to the city financial account.
- **Council Woman Maggie Terrell** read the Financial Resolution aloud.
- **Mayor Linda Wilkes** asked a question stating are you saying that four people need to be on the bank accounts or you saying that you need access to go to the bank? **Council Woman Maggie Terrell** answered and said to have access to the bank accounts and for signatures. **Mayor Linda Wilkes** asked so if we write a check does it need four signatures or meaning if they can't get anyone else to sign the checks you all can sign it? Council Woman Kathy Couch said that its for authorization to receive checks and authorized to receive bank statements. Councilman Freddie Harden stated that its saying that as of right now there is only one signature. So, this right here says that if a check is being written from the city of Keysville it should have two occupant's signatures. Mayor Linda Wilkes responded and said that the signatures are electronic so they would have to submit the signatures to the bank to have their electronic signature put in the system, because we don't sign the checks they are electronically signed.
- **Mayor Linda Wilkes and the City Council** signed the financial resolution and **City Water Clerk LaTora Lewis** did not sign the resolution due to incorrect job title. **Council Woman Maggie Terrell** stated that the city needed a city clerk. **Mayor Linda Wilkes** responded and said take it to the state office. **VM Sharon Neely** stated if she refusing to sign that's fine and repeated to the **City Water Clerk LaTora Lewis** to just bring the resolution back to me if you're refusing to sign that's fine. **City Water Clerk LaTora Lewis** said I'm not refusing to sign it's the title that's held on here.
- **Mayor Linda Wilkes** read section 3.21 from the city charter. Council Woman Kathy Couch responded (Inaudible).

Unfinished Business:

Mayor Linda Wilkes announcements:

- Said that the city has been working on coming home to Keysville and we have someone helping the city plan, if anyone would like to participate and be part of

the committee, please contact the City Hall we don't want to wait until the last minute to get started.

Announcements/Comments from the floor:

Marvin Scott

- Back to school picnic will be held July 22,2023

James Neely

- Thanked the city for supporting the kids summer camp.
- Said that he could see why the City of Keysville is in financial trouble, said that none of you knows what is going on. Said that he figured that he could write a check to repair a hole cause that \$9,000.00 could be gone.
- **Mayor Linda Wilkes** said that **Mr. James Neely** did not know what he was talking about Said that he just heard them say that certain amount of money would be gone. **Mayor Linda Wilkes** said that your right whatever money we need for the pump is going to be used.
- **James Neely:** responded there's no clarity, no wonder we have been under audit for all these years. **Mayor Linda Wilkes:** that's not the reason we have been under audit you just came into town you don't know what you're talking about.
- **James Neely** the point is there is simply poor to almost none existence management. **Mayor Linda Wilkes:** you're wrong 2x. **James Neely:** why can't you tell us where the money is? **Mayor Linda Wilkes:** We just told you where the money was, and by the way where is your money at for the concerned citizens. Show us where your money is. **James Neely:** Mrs. Couch can show you every penny that is in the account.

No further Discussions

Mayor Linda Wilkes adjourned the meeting.

Meeting adjourned.