

CITY OF KEYSVILLE, GA

A City Where Everybody Is Somebody

**LINDA WILKES, MAYOR
CITY COUNCIL**

Sharon Neely
Kathy Couch
Maggie Terrell
Harold Kight
Freddie Harden



City Administration

Sherell Russ, Administrator
LaTora Lewis, Water Clerk

120 Old Waynesboro Road
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**MINUTES
KEYSVILLE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Today's Date: March 11, 2024
Meeting date: February 12, 2024
TIME: 7:00 PM
LOCATION: KEYSVILLE CITY HALL**

Meeting called to order by: Mayor Linda Wilkes.

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

Employee: Sherell Russ

Others Present: Maefield Streetman, Jerry Couch, Kathy Brown, James Neely, Bobbie Powell

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

Prayer: Jerry Couch

Absent: N/A

Agenda:

- Mayor Wilkes asked for the motion to have the agenda approved.
- Council Woman Kathy Couch motioned to approve the agenda.
- Council Woman Maggie Terrell motioned to amend the agenda and those two items needed to be added to the agenda.

- No Opposes
- Council Woman Maggie Terrell- 2023 Attorney Invoice
2024 Budget
- Mayor Linda Wilkes repeated the 2023 Attorney Invoice will be added and the 2024 Budget for the year will be added to the agenda.
- Mayor Linda Wilkes asked for a motion to add the two amended items to the agenda.
- Council Woman Kathy Couch motioned to approve the agenda with the two amended items.
- VM Sharon Neely Seconded the motion.
- Mayor asked for favor say Aye. Council favored Aye.
- No Opposes
- Mayor Linda Wilkes stated the agenda will stand with the two items added to the agenda.

Minutes/corrections:

Mayor Linda Wilkes asked for approval of the minutes with corrections if there be any.

Council Woman Kathy Couch motioned to approve the minutes with necessary corrections if there be any.

Council Woman Maggie Terrell seconded the motion.

Mayor Linda Wilkes said the minutes will stand with corrections as noted.

Corrections

VM Sharon Neely

- Said second page last sentence at the top mentioned oppose needs to be changed to did corrections.

Council Woman Kathy Couch

- Said third page 5th bullet down the T in turnip Seed is suppose be a capital T.
- Under Emergency/Personnel 5th bullet down got is supposed to be go and in the same bullet last sentence in the statement who is who's
- Tenth bullet down under Emergency/Personnel the word versus is verses.
- Last page under building and housing it should say the Tiny House Ordinance is still pending. Same section third bullet down when weather was permitted was left off of the statement.

Mayor Linda Wilkes asked for the minutes to be approved with the necessary corrections as noted.

Council Woman Kathy Couch motioned to have the minutes approved with necessary corrections as noted.

VM Sharon Neely seconded the motion.

Mayor Linda Wilkes asked for any opposes and stated the minutes will stand with the necessary corrections as noted.

Committee Reports

City Report:

Environmental Water:

City Administrator Sherell Russ

- Stated that there was a water leak fixed on Keysway and Birt Street and the pipes moved over from the middle of the road to the side of the road.

Emergency/Personnel:

VM Sharon Neely:

- Mentioned that she knows they stated something about we were going to have a flyer ready for the citizens concerning the election seats.
- LaTora is working on those flyers and hopefully she will have them out soon.
- Asked did anyone contact Georgia Power about the led lights. City Administrator said she is waiting on Georgia power to come but they never showed up.
- Said if anyone comes out from Georgia Power, she would like to be present.
- Mentioned that Council man Harold Kight did go down to the animal shelter and did follow up what reporter Smitley had said about the animals.
- She stated that if we took the animals down to burke county, they would be free of charge councilman Kight stated that was a false statement and said that if we took those animals down there, they will be responsible for a \$200.00 charge.
- Mentioned back to square one with the dogs because she does not know what to do about it.
- Concerned about the 2024 budget on the agenda.

Building & Housing:

Councilwoman Kathy Couch

- Had a question about the city councils being on the sign out front.
- Mayor Linda Wilkes stated she thought about that.
- Council Woman Kathy Couch also asked can they put the concerned citizens meetings on the board.
- Concerned about the trailers on the end of MLK and Old Waynesboro Road asked could there be a bid put out for 500 hundred dollars if somebody goes under fiver hundred dollars give it to them it's a low bid.
- At the old city hall building we gave Terry Scott \$500.00, and he tore it down and rid of everything.
- Mayor Linda Wilkes responded it was on the to do list!
- VM Sharon Neely asked was it the single wide also to be torn down.
- Administrator Sherell Russ stated that the city has been receiving phone calls about bringing tiny houses into the city.

- Council Woman Kathy Couch responded when she called Waynesboro, they said the ordinance was pending. The only thing she has is the first one that City Attorney Doug Kidd gave us.
- Mayor Linda Wilkes said that they could do an ordinance and amend it if we needed to.

Roads & Recreation:

Councilman Freddie Harden

Roads

- A couple roads had been repaired and I could see where they did the work.
- I have an invoice but don't understand it.
- City administrator Sherell Russ replied she would explain the invoice to Councilman Freddie Harden.
- Mayor Linda Wilkes and City Administrator Sherell explained to the council about the work that was done on Birt Street and Keysway.

Recreation

- Down at the basketball court the lights are in the breaker by the fence I cut them off somebody turns it back on the light is a distraction towards the road and to some residents, so how do we go by resolving the issue do we need to put a lock on it or what needs to be to stop it.
- Mayor Linda Wilkes said it should have a timer on the light where it should go off, I'm not sure if why its permanent.
- The wood is cleaned up that was laying on the dugout, someone said the kids can play and it looks really good out at the park.

Finance:

Council Woman Maggie Terrell:

- Queensboro Bank Statement January 2024
- Wellsfargo Bank Statement January 2024
- Charles Walker Building Statement January 2024
- 2023 City Attorney Fee Doug Kidd
- City administrator Sherell stated the reason for not paying City Attorney due to phone calls being made without the city being notified.
- City Administrator Sherell said the city Attorney could not give her a clear explanation on why he was charging the city for phone calls and emails that was not made by the city.
- Council Woman Maggie Terrell asked why the city attorney was not getting paid again.
- City Administrator repeated and said that the City Attorney could not provide any proof for his invoice.
- Mayor Linda Wilkes also said that when we emailed him to ask him questions about his invoice, he never said anything back.
- City Council and Mayor held repeated conversation about the city attorney invoice.
- Mayor Linda Wilkes mentioned that the city is in the process of looking for another attorney.
- VM Sharon Neely stated we are not getting rid of him just yet so make a note that we are not firing anybody right now.
- Council Woman Maggie Terrell responded in the meantime we need to go ahead and pay the attorney his \$7000.00 for the year.

- Mayor Linda Wilkes stated that we will pay the city attorney in March of 2024.
- Council Woman Maggie Terrell asked to see the statements to the quickbooks.
- Mayor Linda Wilkes stated that the council was out of order and why would they need to see what the city employees make.
- Budget
- Council Woman Maggie Terrell stated Ms. Russ said that she would have the 2024 budget next week? She also asked what day next week the budget will be completed?

Complaint/Concerns:

Councilman Freddie Harden

- was concerned about the elections and asked VM Sharon Neely about the election's flyer.
 - On the election seat you have been holding your seat for four years and his seat as well he may not run with the other two, he stays to himself.
 - Stated he is willing to resign his seat give it up and its not too late to do an election.
 - Go ahead and put it in the paper like it supposed to be the election is up in March whoever wants to run for the seat let them do it.
 - Let's start the year off right it's 2024.
 - Council Woman Kathy Couch read they will have another election between the council and the mayor and as for their understanding no runner. Basically, hold our seats and rollover is not possible cause we are going to have another missed election, we are going to have the elections on the days they are supposed to be.
 - Said that the decision has been made.
 - Councilman Harden stated before he qualified for his seat he went around and got information on how the election supposed to be. He was told that his term was up in one year. He feels like they could meet the deadline in March elections.
 - Repeated conversation about the elections and council seats.

Finished Business:

Announcements/comments:

Jerry Couch

- Was concerned about the election rules and election laws.
- Mayor Linda Wilkes responded back to Mr. Couch and said the attorney should have been consistent with the options that he gave the council, and he was not so the council stuck with the last option that was given to them and ran with it, so she blames the attorney for what is going on.

Kathy Brown

- Said with the elections she stated the attorney did give the council two choices.
- She repeated the conversation from the city attorney about the elections.
- Said the final thing was for the council to resign.
- Kathy Couch responded that the city hall has everything under control, and we are the ones to let the council know when it is their time to be elected again like has been done in the past.

James Neely

- Said the Black History Program is Saturday February 17,2024 @ 1:00 p.m. @CWB.

- Mentioned that he agreed with Kathy Brown. He appreciates what Council Harden is doing.
- Stated that he thought that it was said to go forth with another election the council to step down by the Dec.31,2023.
- Mentioned he asked the city to hold a town hall meeting for the citizens so that they can see what is going on and have a input.

Meeting Adjourned

Mayor Linda Wilkes:

Asked for a motion to have the meeting adjourned.

Councilwoman Kathy Couch

Made the motion to adjourn the meeting.

VM Sharon Neely

Seconded the motion.

Mayor Linda Wilkes Meeting adjourned.