

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, Administrator
LaTora Lewis, Water Clerk

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MINUTES

KEYSVILLE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Today's Date: February 10, 2025

Meeting Date: January 13, 2025

TIME: 7:00 PM

LOCATION: KEYSVILLE CITY HALL

Meeting called to order by: Mayor Linda Wilkes.

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

Employee: Sherell Russ

Others Present: Maefield Streetman, Kathy Brown, James Neely, Jerry Couch, Mary Powell, Annette Washington

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

Prayer: Maggie Terrell

Absent: LaTora Lewis

Agenda:

Mayor Linda Wilkes asked to make a motion to approve the agenda as order of the day.

Council Woman Kathy Couch motioned to approve the agenda as order of the day.

VM Sharon Neely seconded the motion.

Minutes approved:

Mayor Linda Wilkes

- Asked for a motion to approve the minutes with necessary corrections if there are any.
- **Council Woman Kathy Couch** motioned to approve the minutes with necessary corrections if there be any.
- **VM Sharon Neely seconded the motion.**
- **Mayor Linda Wilkes stated the minutes will stand without any corrections.**

Corrections:

N/A

Committee Reports

Environmental Water

Harold Kight

- Said January 4th he received a phone call from two citizens and the nursing home stating that they were not receiving water. Said that he contacted Jeremy Johns and texted him and did not receive an answer also he contacted VM Sharon Neely, and she finally contacted him back later on.
- Said that he did not know what else to do after contacting the people he knew to call.
- Said he did not have a key to see what was going on.
- Mentioned he was told not to use the group text anymore, but he texted the group and said the Nursing Home is out of water.
- Mentioned when the city water tank runs out of water there should be a boiling water effect put into place.
- Mentioned that he does not think the volunteer should be fixing on the city water and that the city needs a maintenance for the water not anyone who is a volunteer.
- Said that he has been pushing the issue of hiring a maintenance guy since he has been on the council the past two years.
- Asked about Ms. Williams refund and the situation was brought up in the last meeting and it was voted on and approved that the city reimburse Ms. Williams so all the city had to do was pay her.
- City Attorney Doug Kidd stated if that's what the council wants to do and asked how much did they want to pay.
- Attorney Doug Kidd said the legal way was that she waited to long to find out what the situation was, and they could only go back so many years for her to be reimbursed.
- Attorney Doug Kidd stated the right thing to do is refund the entire amount and it seems like something the council wants to do then they may refund the full amount if they wish.
- Harold Kight said that he was only concerned about if she was reimbursed or not.
- Harold Kight was also concerned about the citizens wellbeing when the water went out and said that he was surprised if any of the residents got sick.
- City Attorney Doug Kidd asked how long was the water out?
- Mayor Linda Wilkes answered 45 minutes to an hour.

Emergency/Personnel:

Council Woman Sharon Neely

- Said the lights are being put back together.
- Mentioned she had a bid for a computer, and she would like an updated invoice because the invoice was from June.
- Stated the notices for the meeting that were received and is there anyway possible that the meetings that they are being invited to can they be notified a little sooner.
- Mayor Linda Wilkes mentioned if they go on the website and put in their email, they will receive the notices.
- VM Sharon Neely said other than the people coming out about the dogs and the trash cans she does not know what else to do.
- Kathy Couch mentioned if they wanted to be held reliable, they could use a bunji chord on the trash cans so that the dogs can't get into them or put something on the trashcans. Sharon Neely said that in the meeting Ryland said that they would do a household pick up and she would like for it to be set up.

Building & Housing:

Councilwoman Kathy Couch

- Noticed on MLK its so trashy and said that she would like to request to put atleast two lights on MLK right there where the boat man use to live. Sharon Neely asked were any poles there and said that she would get the information for Kathy?
- Said the limb guys are picking up the tree limbs.

Roads & Recreation:

Councilman Freddie Harden

Roads & Recreation

- Old Waynesboro Road there is dirt in the hole that has been repaired.
- Right now, the dirt has been packed down and the hole needs to be repaired again at 199 Old Waynesboro Road.
- Rhodes Lee Street they put gravel in the hole where it was repaired.
- On Old Waynesboro Road in front of Ms. Anfield house that hole needs to be repaired again.
- Mt. Tabor Church Road there was a pine tree across the road it has been removed but the stump is still there on the right side of the road.
- The trees have been removed from off the roads from hurricane Helene.
- At the recreation the department the trees have been removed from there.
- The pump is still sitting at the recreation department down there under a trashcan.
- The light pole at the basketball court needs to be repaired.
- The old basketball court is just there said that there would be something done with it, but nothing has been done.
- Stated that the park looks good.

Finances:

Maggie Terrell

- Queensboro Bank Statement December 2024
- Wellsfargo Bank Statement December 2024
- Charles Walker Revenue Statement December 2024
- Said that the cashier's check had been deposited back into the TIA Account. Thanked Ms. Russ!
- Stated that she went to Wrens to the Queensboro Bank and got information about the bank statements and said the banker suggested that Ms. Russ should use e-document online to get the bank statements.

Complaints/Concerns

- Freddie Harden asked Mayor Wilkes did she know anything about Ms. Russ buying the city a golf cart?
- Mayor Wilkes answered yes, Ms. Russ told her she was going to buy the golf cart.
- Freddie Harden also asked did she know the cost of the golf cart?
- Mayor Linda Wilkes answered she does not keep up with the invoices, Sherell keeps up with invoices.
- Freddie mentioned in a meeting a while ago it was said that anything purchased over \$500.00 should go through the council members. Stated it has been two years since he has been on the council board and proceeded to say that the council has not been notified about anything that has been purchased in the city.
- Also said that anybody that quits or has been fired and there is a new hire has not come through the city councils.
- Asked when is it going to be that the city picks the employee, and the council members hire them wanted to know when will that be put in place?
- Mayor Linda Wilkes stated she is authorized to hire contractors with her duties through the charter.
- Freddie asked did the city have a contract with Mr. Smith?
- Mayor Linda Wilkes answered she did not hire Mr. Smith. Ms. Russ hired him.
- Freddie stated that back in November the city administrator accused him of stealing oil and said that he asked the true citizens, Burke County Sherrieff Deputies to be here and to see the video.
- There was a meeting held in December the True Citizen was present 2 Burke County Deputies show up but there was no video present shown of me stealing.

- Said that his name is out there that he was a thief and there is a video to prove that and there was no video to prove.
- Freddie said he stated in that meeting that he would get back with the Councils and the Mayor, it has been more than enough time for a video to be shown.
- Mention that his name is out there, and he want everyone to know that he does not steal and will not steal from the city or anyone and he wanted his name to be cleared so he called and asked the Lawyer to be here, and he has called and spoke with other Lawyers, and they said the City Lawyer can handle it.
- Said he asked Mr. Kidd what route he should go.
- Attorney Doug Kidd stated that he did not hear of the situation until coming into the meeting and he did read the article. Said for general information if you see anybody taking or anything or using the city things improperly you should contact the City Lawyer. Said that he was never contacted. Mentioned when there is accusation statement you have to make sure that statement is correct.
- Statement from the City Attorney about the rights and wrongs of how to handle certain situations. Also said the charter gives the Mayor a lot of power and it also gives the City Council a lot of power.
- Freddie asked for the employees pay rate?
- Mayor Linda Wilkes said come down and ask for it.
- Conversation held about the employee pay rate and the budget amongst council members the Mayor and Ms. Russ.

Announcements

City Lawyer Doug Kidd spoke on the Homestead Exemption.

District 7 meeting

Burke County Board of Commerce

Adjournment

Mayor Linda Wilkes asked to make a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Council Woman Kathy Couch motioned to adjourn the meeting.

VM Sharon Neely seconded.

Mayor Linda Wilkes Meeting adjourned.