

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: August 12, 2024
Meeting date: July 8, 2024
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, Harold Kight, Freddie Harden, Sharon Neely

Employee: LaTora Lewis

Others Present: Maefield Streetman, Kathy Brown, James Neely, Bobbie Powell, William Campbell Jr., Vanessa Washington, Willie Walker, Erica Walker, Annette Washington, George Washington, Jerry Couch

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

Prayer: Maggie Terrell

Absent:

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.
- **Councilman Harold Kight** seconded the motion.

Corrections

Council Woman Kathy Couch

- Said where it say's Council members present it has Mayor Linda as a council member instead of mayor.

Councilman Harold Kight

- The fourth bullet down he said that his statement was incomplete and that he said more than what was documented.
- Stated that the name Mr. John McClellan needed to be changed to Mr. Charles McCann from Georgia rural Water.

VM Sharon Neely

- Stated if you would go back to the front, you have today's date June 10 and it should be July 8th, there was not a meeting in June because it was cancelled.
- Asked to add an s on the end of the word light.

Councilman Freddie Harden

- Stated that one of his statements were incorrect on the recreation report. Said that he said that the grass was being cut and blown all over the equipment at the playground, and when the grass is being cut it needs be cut the opposite way from the playground equipment and then take the weed eater and cut.
- Said that he could not tell if there was any running water in the bathroom, but he knows the water spicket outside there was no running water there.

Motioned Corrected Minutes

- Mayor Linda Wilkes asked for a motion for the minutes to be approved with the corrections as noted.
- Councilwoman Kathy Couch motioned for the minutes to be approved with the corrections as noted.
- Councilwoman Maggie Terrell seconded the motion to approve the minutes corrections as noted.

Committee Reports

Environmental Water:

Councilman Harold Kight

- Read the water report for the month of June.
- Said that he wanted to make a statement on the committee report where the mayor said there was nothing wrong with the city water.
- Councilman Harold Kight responded and stated that he did not say anything was wrong with our water system I he said that our sewage system is about to fall apart, said that he didn't know what was going to happen with it.
- Asked has the pumping station been fixed yet. Water clerk LaTora Lewis answered not yet but we did purchase an aerator. Councilman Harold Kight said that the pumping station is more important because the aerator does not benefit transferring the poo from the pumping station to the sewage pond.
- Most important thing is that lift station if that thing goes down the city is trouble, we gone be paying budget sewer to drive down there pump the poo out of that hole down there and dump it they're going to running back and forth, because if that stuff runs down on the ground, we really have problem.
- Asked was the tractor fixed yet. Water Clerk LaTora Lewis answered the city is working on getting the tractor fixed by Burke and Tractor. They have to make room in their shop.
- Mayor Linda Wilkes also stated that the city also rented a tractor for have the water leaks fixed. Said its not that the city can't repair the tractor, but we are waiting on the company to be able to fix the tractor.

- Concerned about the duck weeds in the waste plant. Said that it was a violation and explained how it could be a violation.
- City Water Clerk LaTora Lewis said that it was not a violation and that EPD just was at the City Hall to do an inspection.
- Asked Questions about the water system. Mayor Linda Wilkes stated that Mr. Johns is the one to handle the water and also stated that he may receive his report from Mr. Johns.
- Asked when the last time was the generator was crunk up? Mayor Linda Wilkes answered last week. Asked who the person to crank the generator?
- City water Clerk LaTora Lewis stated while everyone is hollering my, honestly the council is supposed to go out and find out how to help get these things that needs to be fixed completed and help bring money into the city.
- VM Sharon Neely asked that Mr. Kight receive the reports in his file.

Emergency/Personnel:

Councilman Harold Kight

- Stated that there was a light out at his house on Center ST.
- Stated she wanted to start with the lights because they are the main deal and said told LaTora she sent her a text of the lights that was out.
- The reason Georgia Power ahs not gotten to the lights, and they are aware of the lights being out, but they have someone out in the city cutting down trees off the powerlines, but they are on the backup as far as fixing lights.
- Said we were having concerns about the trash and the trash cans being turned over. Said that well we're putting it all on the dogs, but you have hungry deer she saw for herself.
- Said the citizens were concerned about keeping the bathrooms being unlocked on the weekend.

City Water Clerk LaTora Lewis

- Answered and said that her and the City Administrator were discussing the situation today and said that people would still use the restrooms when there wasn't any running water in them and that they were trying to come up with a convenient way to keep the bathrooms from being messy and trashed but a decision was not made but if the council has a idea of what could be done they are more than welcome to suggest something the city can do.

VM Sharon Neely

- Said that we can't keep the bathrooms locked because of what people do.
- She does recall a while back we had someone to open the bathrooms on the weekend and they allowed that person to be paid and if the city could get back on that schedule because we do need to have some kind of service to go the bathrooms or do like Mrs. Couch said use portable potties out there but yet you still have to have them maintained so its best to just open and close the restrooms in the evenings on the weekends.

City Water Clerk LaTora Lewis

- Answered and said that the bathrooms were being worked on so the bathrooms could be properly used, because they were still trying to see where the water leak is inside of the bathrooms, so we have to figure out a way to get the other water off to make the restroom that is completely fixed to work. The is still currently working on the situation and will resume tomorrow.

VM Sharon Neely

- Asked LaTora did she speak with Sherell about the budget and the budget meeting?

LaTora Lewis

- Responded back yes mam she said that she does have the city council budget packets but I do think it locked in her office and that she would call the council and schedule a budget meeting with them.

VM Sharon Neely

- Said in that in the last meeting Mr. Campbell spoke on Barack temple using the CWB for rental and trying to get a contract pulled up.

Building & Housing:

Councilwoman Kathy Couch

- Stated she had been working on the Tiny House Ordinance and she did receive one, however she needs more research done so it can't be presented.
- Said she was able to get some community workers and the city looks fairly good except some grass.

Roads & Recreation:

Councilman Freddie Harden

Roads

- Said that gravel was put in the hole on Rhodes lee and old Waynesboro Road.
- On Martin Luther King Road the county came out and put crush n run in the 4 driveways that had been washed out by the rain.
- Said the hole on Mlk and Hwy 88 will be fixed and hole on side of the road on the main road of Hwy 88 will be repaired also.

Recreation

- The handrail on the left side of the bathrooms has been broken.
- Said that there was a toilet sitting outside the restrooms.
- The bathroom doors are locked so I still can't tell you if there is running water inside of them or not.
- Said the park grass needs to be cut, as well as the kids playground needs to be weedeated.
- Said the pump is still sitting out in the opening.
- The baseball dugout still has plywood 2x6's 6x8's still laying up there on the ground.
- Said that there was garbage laying on the ground by the basketball goal.
- City Water Clerk LaTora Lewis
Responded and said that the trash bags were left there on Friday and that there is work being done at the park to be completed.

Councilman Harold Kight

- Asked who was completing the work at the park and was the person licensed and bonded? City water.

Clerk LaTora Lewis

- Answered she was not the one to do the hiring so ask the person who did the hiring.

Councilman Freddie Harden

- Asked well who hired the person? LaTora Lewis responded back the administrator.

Finance:

Council Woman Maggie Terrell:

- Queensboro Bank Statement May2024 and June 2024
- Wellsfargo Bank Statement May 2024 and June 2024
- Charles Walker Building Statement May 2024 and June 2024

Complaint/Concerns:

Councilman Freddie Harden

- Stated he had a problem with the administrator not being here and LaTora is the city clerk so why is that the administrator isn't at the meetings.

Mayor Linda Wilkes

- Answered she cannot speak for anyone else, but Council Freddie Harden is more than welcome to go down to city hall and speak with the administrator she is there during business hours.

Council Woman Kathy Couch

- Stated even if we wanted something in written form, we are allowed to get it? Mayor Linda Wilkes said if that is what you want.

Councilman Freddie Harden

- Stated when they do come down to city hall and ask for anything it turns out to be a problem.
- Asked who were the new city employees she has hired now?

Mayor Linda Wilkes

- Answered we are not supposed to talk about employees in the meeting, but she can meet with councilman Freddie Harden, and they could discuss employee information because it's not supposed to be discussed in the meetings. Employee information is off limits in the City Council's meeting.

Councilman Freddie Harden

- Said that he was not asking for the employees' information he was asking for the employee's name.
- Said that by him being a councilman the mayor could not tell him who worked for the city.

Mayor Linda Wilkes

- Answered Devin Wilkes part time and Desean Tennyson part time and together they make on full time position.

Councilman Freddie Harden

- Stated he had no acknowledgement of who Desean was but had an acknowledgement of who Devin Wilkes is, that in the employee handbook it says that he is a conflict of interest and conflict of interest.

Mayor Linda Wilkes

- Responded and said he is not a conflict of interest because he does not answer to her, nor does he work up under her and the city administrator was the one to hire him.

Finished Business:

Announcements/comments:

Mayor Linda Wilkes

Agenda:

William Campbell

- Stated that Barack Temple is looking for a new location to have their meetings and listening to the council about the budget the organization is looking to help bring in some revenue.
- They meet twice a month every 2nd and 3rd Thursday at the James Town Community Center.

Council Woman Kathy Couch

- Motioned to let the Barack Temple use the Charles Walker Building for their meetings every month.

Councilman Harold Kight

- Seconded the motion to let Barack Temple use the Charles Walker Building for their meetings every month.

All Council Members

- No opposes.
- All council members favored Aye.

James Neely

- Asked about the access to the CWB on the days that were agreed upon.
- Had a complaint about the Charles Walker Building not being open one day in June.
- Asked was the going to keep the commitment that was agreed upon.

Maefield Streetman

- Stood up and attested to the situation of the building not being unlocked.

Mayor Linda Wilkes

- Stated that the conversation was misunderstanding about the building open.
Sharon Neely
- Asked was there a secondary contact person to open the building?
- LaTora Lewis said that the if she is available that she would usually open the building if Mrs. Streetman calls.

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.