

CITY OF KEYSVILLE, GA

A City Where Everybody Is Somebody

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



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

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MINUTES
KEYSVILLE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Today's Date: December 12, 2022
Meeting Date: November 14, 2022
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

Employee: None

Others Present: Jerry Couch, Maefield Streetman, Harold Kight, David Powell, Bobbie Powell, Jennifer Powell, Freddie Harden, Melody Tindal, Rubye Rucker, Marvin Scott, James Neely, Alaetin Sungu, Wendy Blount, Christine Ryan, Kathy Brown, Kathleen Whitaker, Vanessa Griffin

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

Prayer: Maggie Terrell

Absent: N/A

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. Council Woman Sharon Neely second the motion to have the agenda approved as order of the day.

Mayor Wilkes presented the Minutes for approval and corrections if there be any.

Council Woman Sharon Neely stated the recording needed to be listened to again because the information that was provided by the city attorney Doug Kidd was not accurate. There was a lot of cans in the statement that needed to be corrected. As well as her stating that the council can have the right to amend the announcements back on the agenda was not stated the way it is typed.

Mayor Linda Wilkes: Stated the minutes will stand with corrections noted.

Mayor Linda Wilkes made a statement to the city about when she took office she agreed to be as transparent as possible and to make decisions based on facts, not hearsay, and not feelings.

The mayor shared a text and phone call of a customer falsely accusing an employee and how she demanded facts before speaking to the employee. The person could not provide proof and stated the bank had made a mistake; it was not the employee.

The mayor stated other hateful tactics against the city, not only from the outside but from people who are part of the administration. Stated that intimidation, harassment, and coercion were not okay.

Stated Other things that were not okay

City Council Member holding an employee in the office for over an hour questioning and coercion an employee to discuss another employee,

City Council Members to interfere with the election process

Members of the Concerned Citizens intimidating employee to quit their job before someone comes in to take their computers

The Mayor Pro Tem to call, text, or come into the office to instruct the City Administrator to fire someone because of their race or to write an employee up for anything the person does.

For City council members to neglect the business of the city and work against the city to push the agenda of a nonprofit organization to remove the mayor from office.

City council members to conduct city business in private meetings, texts messages, or emails

Mayor states enough is enough. The actions are out of order and in violation of the constitutional laws of the United States and the State of Georgia.

Stated the action have created a hostile work environment for the employees and hinders the daily operations of the city. And as a council we need to get back to the business of the people we were elected to serve.

Swearing in Ceremony of the Newly Elected City official were:

Harold Kight- Sworn in by Mayor Linda Wilkes

Freddie Harden- Sworn in by Mayor Linda Wilkes

Reports

Environmental Water:

No Report

Emergency and Personnel:

Council Woman Sharon Neely:

- Stated that her question about the lights could not be answered because Latora was not present.
- Asked about the decals for the city cars.

Mayor Wilkes

- Stated the decals were being picked up on Tuesday.

Building & Housing:

Council Woman Kathy Couch

- Asked about the tiny house ordinance.
- Welcomed the new city residents to our town.

Mayor Wilkes

- Stated that the tiny house ordinance did come with the adjustments made.

Roads and Recreation:

No report

Finance:

Council Woman Maggie Terrell

- Financial report
- Stated that she did not get a report for the coming back to Keysville Day and wanted to know what she needs to do to receive the finances.

Mayor Linda Wilkes

- Advised Council Woman Maggie Terrell to get with the City Administrator about the missing items.
- Council Terrell stated she would make an appointment with Ms. Russ,

Councilman Harold Kight

- Stated that since he is part of the water department, he would like a list of phone numbers and names of each individual that works in the city water department so he can set a

meeting with the individuals to see what has been fixed and to keep up with what is going on in the water department and said that he would like a set of keys to be issued to him as well.

- Asked who was in control of the city water.
- Mayor Wilkes responded Jeremy Johns from J & T Environmental is contracted under the city and mentioned we have a maintenance guy for the city.
- Asked was the maintenance for the general account or for the water account. Mayor Wilkes responded that Terry was maintenance and that he does help Jeremy fix water leaks as well.
- Mr. Kight Stated the operator's manual says a full-time employee and part time is employee is needed.
- Mayor Wilkes mentioned times has changed and EPD has approved a lot of cities to contract their departments out. Most cities now have their water department contracted out. Said the city could not just afford a water a guy just to come in and do water. Mayor Wilkes stated our city water has been contracted out about four to five years now.
- Councilman Harold Kight stated that our water is so neglected the city want even turn on the water cooler. Said that instead he sees the bottled water cooler.
- Mayor Wilkes said the reason the water cooler was shut down during COVID because a lot of places including our city were not allowing to use the public water fountains at that time. and she also told Councilman Harold Kight that he is more than welcome to plug the fountain back up if he would like.
- Councilman Harold Kight also said that we should not be scared to drink our city water covid has been over a year now. Stated that when he was on council before that they also received water reports. Mayor Wilkes stated times has changed since he was last on the council. But she is sure we have the water reports.
- Mayor Wilkes stated there is nothing wrong with our water, it is regulated by EPD and that she drinks and shower with the water daily.
- inaudible

Complaint/Concerns:

Council Woman Sharon Neely

- Asked if the council can have some time to look over the notice about the concerned citizens paying a fee to use the Charles Walker building.
- Inaudible

Finished Business:

Unfinished Business:

Announcements:

Council Woman Kathy Couch:

- Turkey giveaway on November 19,2022

James Neely

- Thanked the junior concerned citizens for the recent event that was held on Halloween.
- Concerned citizen garden is coming along great.

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Jennifer Powell

- Stated that the Halloween event went great, and the kids enjoyed themselves.
- Stated if there were any other kids that would like to participate and attend the concerned citizens meetings, they are more than welcome.

Marvin Scott

Christmas dinner December 23,2022.

Meeting adjourned.