

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: December 16, 2024
Meeting date: November 25, 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, Freddie Harden, Sharon Neely, Harold Kight

Employee: LaTora Lewis

Others Present: Maefield Streetman, Kathy Brown, True Citizen, Jerry Couch, James Cohli

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:

Corrections

No Corrections

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 as is.**

Committee Reports

Environmental Water

Harold Kight

- Everything seemed pretty good until the hurricane came along.
- Said that the city lost water pressure had a boiling water effect, said if we would have had a maintenance man that knew what he was doing and had a set of keys the city would have never lost water pressure because we could have had the generator hooked up to the well house.
- Instead, we had to call our operator which was out of town at the time to get a set of keys.
- Said there was a hard time getting fuel because of places not having power and not accepting cards.
- Something needs to be in place to get a backup fuel tank.
- Said the emergency plug needs to be wired up on the well house and somebody needs a set of keys.
- Said that he had to use his personal vehicle to take the generator up to the EMA station because no one had any keys.
- Said that EMA would not give the city any fuel for the generator, and they were supposed to loan the city a generator, but we did not receive it til later on.
- Said someone was trying to break the lock at the water tower and mentioned that he had to break the lock for the guy from Verizon himself because no one had any keys.
- Mentioned the city has his phone number on the water bill and now people are calling me all night and said that he asked that it be removed, and he has not seen it happen yet.

City Water Clerk LaTora Lewis

- Mentioned that her and Ms. Russ took time away from their family to go and get gas.
- Said she and Ms. Russ stopped and spoke with Mr. Kight at the top of the hill and told him the information about the EMA.
- Mentioned that no one was aware the guy from Verizon was in the city trying to break into the gate.
- Stated that the situation with the water bill Mr. Kight asked for his name to be on the water bill along with Mr. Jeremy Johns.

Emergency/Personnel:

Council Woman Sharon Neely

- Concerned about the dogs in the city turning over the trash cans.
- Mayor Linda Wilkes responded there is nothing the city can do about that.
- Said that she thinks she spoke with the mayor during the emergency situation going on about trying to get the people who came out to help Keysville as far as the meals and all the donations of the water. Stated the mayor said she had a list so that a letter can be put together so the city could thank them personally as well as the plaque for the Sheriff.
- Said that she was here in august or whatever date she was here and said she gave the mayor names of citizens that helped out moving trees and Kathy said something about her neighbor.
- Said that she was not trying lash back on anything but the fuel situation.
- Administrator Sherell Russ said there was not a situation.
- Asked if the responses in the messages could be a little better so that everyone could be aware of what is going on?
- Stated as far as the keys, someone needs to have a set of keys, just in case and emergency does happen there needs to be an extra set of keys.
- Harold Kight mentioned the way things are being stolen he prefers not to have a set keys himself.
- Asked that the city follow up on the Gwen Williams situation.
- Administrator Sherell Russ said the attorney said the city was not going back that far for the resident to be paid.

Building & Housing:

Councilwoman Kathy Couch

- Said that Sharon did not report the lights.
- Sharon Neely stated that she did not report the lights because Georgia Power was backed up from the storm.

Roads & Recreation:

Councilman Freddie Harden

Road and Recreation report from September until November 25,2024

- On MLK Rd from the beginning of the city all the trees have been removed from the road all the way down to Hwy 88.
- Cleaned up from Hwy 88 to Center St. where the trees were on the side of the road as well as all the way up Hwy88 to the nursing home they cleaned up the trees up there.
- They even went all the way down to the bridge so there is no debris in the road except for the stomps.
- They cleaned up the debris on Rhodes Lee and on South Street. Streets look good with the debris picked up.

Roads

- Hole on MLK RD there is a barricade sitting in a hole on Old Waynesboro Road.
- Rhodes lee and Tyrone Brooks Street there was hole there now a water repair was dug up and repaired now there is a leak there.
- Said that he called Mr. Johns and asked him could he fix the leak on Rhodeslee, but Mr. Johns said that the leak would have to wait because he has not been paid yet.
- Burke county repaired the driveways all the way down to Old Waynesboro Road.

Recreation

- At the park there is a lot of trees that the storm came through and blew over, but we need to do whatever we have to do to get them up.
- Said that he saw maintenance cutting the trees up and mentioned he realized that maintenance has a new chainsaw.
- Said that the mayor said the city council can't do work for the city and if he had not help out during the storm the city would have been without water and sewer.
- Said if he sees something he could do it's not going to cost the city anything. Mentioned he used his personal vehicles to help the city during the storm and could not use his personal anymore because he was all out of help with his personal vehicles, so he realized the city had a brand-new golf cart so used the new city golf cart to help.
- Said that there was a problem with him using the city golf cart.
- Said the city was spending money without the approval of a council member.
- Said that you could go online and see the minutes. Mentioned that someone asked him about the minutes not being posted online. Minutes has not been posted since September of last year.
- City Water Clerk LaTora Lewis stated that she has the minutes to post them on the website and said that all this time no one has asked about the minutes now the news reporter is here, and you are trying to show out.
- Said that it was time for the budget to be read and there have been continuous checks written out 2023 back to 2020. Asked were there any receipts so that the city can give the auditors so the audits can be done?
- Mayor Linda Wilkes stated she does not know where his information came from, but the city has completed the audits for 2022 and is currently working on the audits.
- Said the auditors are just about finish with 2022 and the city has given them 2023.
- As far as the audit concerned that was something she inherited.

- Administrator Sherell Russ stated that she was told that Freddie Harden took some oil from the shed, and she quoted in Mr. Freddie words that all the work I done for the city they owe me something and when she looked on the camera yes you did take from the city.
- Freddie Harden stated that he would like to see the camera and he would like to have the person that said it, the video, burke county sheriffs' office and the newspaper here.
- Freddie Harden asked did Jeremy Johns get paid.
- Administrator Sherell Russ said that she will explain cause there were not any payments being made during the time of the storm and there no money at the time but once the building started to operate and money was coming in yes, she paid Mr. Johns.
- Freddie Harden asked how long maintenance had to get the trees to the road.
- Administrator Sherell Russ said that he had until March.
- City Water Clerk said that the patch on Rhodes lee was not an old patch so there was no money wasted but the old patch was maybe a few feet up the road from it.

Finance:

Council Woman Maggie Terrell:

- Queensboro Bank Statement September and October 2024
- Wellsfargo Bank Statement September and October 2024
- Charles Walker Building Statement September and October 2024
- Administrator Sherell Russ stated that she wanted to clear up the negatives on the bank statements and the reason the accounts are negative is because the storm happened and there was not any income coming into the city and the banks were closed.
- Maggie Terrell asked back in August why did the city need two zero turn lawn mowers?
- Administrator Sherell Russ answered at the moment the other lawn mower was not working so we went on and bought another one.
- Maggie Terrell asked so the city bought two. Sherell and Latora asked where do you see two?
- City Water Clerk LaTora stated that the city did not purchase two lawnmowers and that there was a mistake of an mislead conversation about and lawnmower at Home Depot, but the city did get an cashiers check from the bank and the check was never cashed.
- Sharon Neely asked why did the check show up on the statement?
- Administrator Sherell Russ stated that she would look into it.
- Sharon Neely asked why was the golf cart purchased?
- Administrator Sherell Russ said that the city was supposed to have a parade, but they did not so that was the reason for the golf cart being purchased.
- Freddie Hardens asked Sherell Russ did she get three bids before purchasing a lawnmower because she mentioned to him that he had to have three bids before he could have the roads done?
- Mayor Linda Wilkes stated that they did go to three different stores and said that she went to Lowes, Home Depot, and Burke and Tractor.

Complaint/Concerns:

Jerry Couch

- Thanked the city for their work that has been done.
- Maggie Terrell was concerned about the service inventory line letters that was sent out.

Announcements/comments:

District 7 meeting in Davisburg, GA

Christmas Program Dec.20,2024

Agenda:

Service Line Inventory

Mayor Linda Wilkes said the inventory is being handled by Turnip Seed Engineers and they completed all the paperwork that goes with the inventory. Said that Water Service Inventory is being conducted because of what happened in Flintwood Michigan.

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.