

CITY OF KEYSVILLE, GA

A City Where Everybody Is Somebody

City Council
LINDA WILKES, MAYOR
Sharon Neely, Vice Mayor
Kathy Couch
Maggie Terrell
Harold Kight
Freddie Harden



Sherell Russ, City Administrator
LaTora Lewis, Water Clerk

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MINUTES
KEYSVILLE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Today's Date: November 13, 2023
Meeting Date: October 10, 2023
TIME: 7:00 PM
KEYSVILLE CITY HALL

Meeting called to order: VM Sharon Neely

VM Sharon Neely: Welcomed all and thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Prayer: Maggie Terrell

Councilmembers Present: Kathy Couch, Sharon Neely, Maggie Terrell, Harold Kight, Freddie Harden

Employee: NaCora Thomas

Others Present: James Neely, Kathy Brown, Maefield Streetman, Bobbie Powell, Sanita Whitelaw, Shellie Smitley (True Citizen)

Absent: Mayor Linda Wilkes

Agenda: VM Sharon Neely: asked for the motion to have the agenda approved as order of the day.

Council Woman Kathy Couch: made a motion to approve the agenda.

Council Woman Maggie Terrell: seconded the motion.

VM Sharon Neely: stated the agenda will stand as order of the day.

Minute Corrections

Minutes: N/A

Committee Reports:

Environmental water-

Councilman Harold Kight

- Named several roads that have water leaks.
- Leak at Ms. Streetman address is taken care of.
- Spoke with Mr. Johns at the spray fields spoke with him about a few things.
- Said we asked for a part time employee for the water department and asked is that what Mr. Grant is hired for, does anybody know?
- **Temp NaCora Thomas** respond undecided and said maintenance.
- Concerned about the corroded basket at the wastewater pond. Said Mr. Johns that he was supposed to have someone to help maintain it.

- Concerned about the trees growing through the fence.
- Said one of the employees has hit the fence and ripped the post out, it has been almost 2months ago.
- Said that he is going to invite the reporter to examine the water system if she would like to go look at the water system and maybe we could get some help around here cause, he's tired of asking.
- Concerned about the condition of the wastewater plant office.
- Family member came to pay taxes and the letter that he received had not been updated on the letter head read aloud the council members that was listed mentioned Kathy Watts supposed to be Kathy Couch and the letter head was missing two council members.
- The letter was sent out September 12,2023. Says LaTora Lewis City / Office Assistant and then at the bottom it says City of Keysville Tax Clerk, this is a letter sent out for \$10.20 and it has penalties and interest and I come to pay it for my family member and couldn't pay it because we didn't know how to accept the money. How can you send somebody a second notice for penalties and interest but don't take the money when they come? Just unprofessional is what it is!
- Said to the temp I know you are just a part time helper, but they should have explained your job to you better.
- **Temp NaCora Thomas** spoke on her behalf and apologized for any inconvenience, but she does the best that she could to get the job done.'
- **Councilman Harold Kight** also said residents has come to him and has not been able to pay a water bill and asked the temp how true was the statement?
- Upset about the way the system is being ran.

Emergency/ Personal

VM Sharon Neely

- Lights out @ 248 Tyrone Brooks Street
- 189 Tyrone Brooks Street
- End of Perkins Mill and Old Waynesboro Road
- If you could report those to GA Power to get those fixed.
- 169 Cheatham Street
- Thanked everyone for coming out to the Coming Home to Keysville day it turned out to be a success.
- We would personally like to thank the people that took part in making it a success.
- Thanked Councilman Freddie Harden and Council Woman Maggie Terrell for their input.
- The after coming home to Keysville festival that happened that Sunday, I would like to thank the Burke County Sheriff's Department, they on the job.
- Like to thank the cleanup committee with very little trash they did pick up on Monday.
- Would like to present the Burke County Sheriff's office with a plaque to show how much the city appreciates them.
- Council Woman Kathy Couch made a motion to present the sheriffs office with a plaque to show their appreciation, Councilman Harold Kight seconded the motion.

Building and Housing

Council Woman Kathy Couch

- Thank VM Sharon Neely and Council Woman Maggie Terrell for taking over her spot.
- Called Mr. Singleton over the community workers and I had him come out here the Saturday for come home to Keysville.
- Called Mr. Abrahams about the Tiny House Ordinance he didn't answer so I left a message.

- I printed out the zoning, but we are not doing anything on the zoning right now.

Roads and Recreation

Old Business

- Following up on paving the roads
- The road work was completed with holes filled in with asphalt.
- The grass was cut around the city.
- Concerned about not being able to sit in when the decision was being made for the road work.

Recreation

- Thanked the City Workers, the Mayor, the Council, and the City Staff, Volunteers from the Burke County Sheriffs Office and all workers who helped prepare the Come Home to Keysville day and Camp meeting.

Finances

Council Woman Maggie Terrell

- Wells Fargo Bank Statement September 2023
- Queensboro Bank Statement September 2023
- Was gone ask for financial summary for Come Home to Keysville and Camp Meeting event.
- **Councilman Harold Kight** asked about the Resolution for the Financial Records
- **VM Sharon Neely** stated the resolution was not the hold up, the holdup is the mayor not signing it. The Resolution has not been done yet. I did call Doby and she had not received anything.
- **Councilman Harold Kight** said that this is going on the 4th month or 5th month that it was requested, and the council also voted on it.
- **Smitley** (True Citizens) asked what's the hold up?
- **VM Sharon Neely** responded it's just the mayor going to sign the paperwork.
- **Shellie Smitley** repeated the statement about the mayor going to sign the paperwork.
- **Councilman Harold Kight** said it was a resolution they had the type up.
- **Councilwoman Kathy Couch Asked Temp NaCora** Thomas about an application of \$197,000.00 been turned in yet.
- **VM Sharon Neely** responded that would be on Sherell.
- **VM Sharon Neely** said that they needed to go over the resolution for the parking and events.

Agenda

Shellie Smitley

- Asked who was the Election Clerk of the City of Keysville?
- **VM Sharon Neely** Responded LaTora.
- **Smitley** asked was LaTora certified by law?
- **VM Sharon Neely** responded she would have to ask the administrator that.
- Said that **VM Sharon Neely** and **Council woman Kathy Couch** election was overlooked in 2020.
- What point did the city realize that the election had been overlooked?
- **VM Sharon Neely** said she could not answer that, but they did reach out to GMA to get information on how to go by fixing this.
- **Smitley** asked when was GMA called?
- **VM Sharon Neely** responded this was on Thursday or Friday of last week, and she instructed us to get with our city attorney and she is also assisting our city attorney to help us get this done.
- **Smitley** asked when you were elected in 2016 that was an even year do you know why that occurred on an even number? , when Georgia election law states that an election is suppose to be held on odd number years and not even number years.

- **VM Sharon Neely** responded undecided and said 2016 that's a long time!
- **Smitley** asked, but you would be working with GMA to get it back on odd number years?
- **VM Sharon Neely** answered yes, we will be and the city attorney.
- **Smitley** stated also the mayor had stated when I asked her was Mr. Kight filling in the seat that Mr. Aldric Griffin use to hold? and if that's correct, he will be up for reelection in November,2024 but it will actually be November,2025, so will he be holding his election in 2024 or 2025.
- **VM Sharon Neely** answered he will be along with us. Myself Kight and Mrs. Couch, and as soon as we get with attorney, we will let you know.
- **Smitley** said theoretically Mr. Kight seat is not up until 2025 and Mr. Harden seat is up in 2023 if he indeed filled a seat that was up for reelection in 2015 and possibly held by Sean Jordon which is what the mayor said.
- **Smitley** stated the dates of each council members reelection.
- **VM Sharon Neely** stated once we get this information back from the city attorney, he suppose to the one with all the research and get right back with us this was today that we spoke with him.
- **Smitley** asked so he's going to be working on getting it straightened out, so at this point you all don't know if you are having a special election or what its going to take to rectify it.
- **VM Sharon Neely** yes, that is questionable, nine times out of ten a special election.
- **Smitley** asked has that certification been completed by you election supervisor?
- **VM Sharon Neely** will get that answer back to you from the administrator and will be Sherell.

Announcements/ Comments from the floor

James Neely

- Thanked the city for the camp meeting and the fall celebration.
- Frustration at the last concerned citizens meeting with the efforts that was made to work with the city.
- 4 Main concerns
- The audit
- City approved the media center/ gym \$200,000.00 in splost money in 2025 have been trying to identify some land or a building,
- The third is more important and it impact the citizens and you that is sitting there right now, based on what information is in the true citizens about the elections. It's posted in the charter that positions 2,4,5 was up for election and want to know why it was not posted in the paper and why people were not given the opportunity to run for those positions.
- Talked about an election in 1996.
- Concerned about not getting any responses when the citizens have concerned questions and that the council should hold as much responsibility as the mayor.
- Worried about the zoning ordinance and asked for a reading on it.
- **Smitley** asked how was the last well being paid for?
- **Smitley** said that she put in the true citizens that the mayor said that she spoke with Georgia Rural water and they said that they would assist with the well being paid for, but I myself spoke with them and they said that they do not assist with that and he said the issue is there is no money to pay for the second well, and the application from senator Warnock for the grant is not submitted. He was wondering if too much had passed.
- **VM Sharon Neely** that is a question you would have to ask the Mayor and the Administrator.

- **Councilman Harold Kight** said he spoke with Mr. Johns and that he said he is doing the best he can to help us out with the well and said the well was over \$100,000.00 and that's what we need.
- **Smitley** so you're saying the well is \$100,000.00 short.
- **Smitley** said do you know when the Audits will be completed 2020,2021,2022 because there is over \$500,000.00 and \$200,000.00 of that was supposed to (incomplete sentence), plus there was American rescue funds that was over \$100,000.00.
- **Councilman Harold Kight** said that's why we write that resolution to get some records to get pass what we have going on. Its being held up because of signatures.
- **Smitley Repeated** question about the Bank account resolution with the council.
- **Jerry Couch** had questions about the councils and the mayor and the application for American Rescue Plan.
- **Smitley** said that EPA said the application was not completed.
- **Smitley** said that EPA said that were assisting the City of Keysville with completing the application.
- **Councilman Freddie Harden** responded back to questions that was asked from **Jerry Couch**.
- **Smitley** is there anything in the charter that says something about impeaching the mayor.
- **Councilman Freddie Harden** responded back yes.
- **Jerry Couch** said aloud take her to court.
- **Council Harold Kight** asked **Smitley** would she like a copy of the City of Keysville charter.
- **Smitley** responded back yes, she would like a copy.
- **Councilman Harold Kight** said here you can take my copy if you would bring it back to us. Its just kind of hard to do anything if you can't get nothing done!
- The **Council** and **Smitley** took the time to check the charter to see how they can impeach the mayor.
- **Councilman Harold Kight** said aloud three votes.
- **Smitley** said the mayor can appeal it.
- **Councilman Harold Kight** said we don't have any power.
- **Smitley** responded back what I have seen you do is not take the power that you have.
- **Council Woman Kathy Couch** said you right and Councilman Harold Kight said your right.
- **Councilman Harold Kight** said what about the employees she said we can't hire or fire them.
- **Council woman Kathy Couch** said we should be able to.

Meeting Adjourned.

VM Sharon Neely asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Council Woman Kathy Couch motioned to have the meeting adjourned.

Councilman Harold Kight seconded the motion.

VM Sharon Neely adjourned the meeting.