

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: September 11, 2023
Meeting Date: August 14, 2023
TIME: 7:00 PM
KEYSVILLE CITY HALL

Meeting called to order: Mayor Linda Wilkes.

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

Prayer: Maggie Terrell

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

Employee: LaTora Lewis

Others Present: Jerry Couch, James Neely, MaeField Streetman, Kathy Brown,

Absent:

Agenda: Mayor Wilkes: asked for the motion to have the agenda approved as order of the day. **Council Council Woman Kathy Couch:** made a motion to approve the agenda.

Councilman Harold Kight: seconded the motion.

Mayor Linda Wilkes: stated the agenda will stand as order of the day.

Minutes: Mayor Wilkes asked for the approval of the minutes with necessary corrections if there are any.

Corrections Noted:

Councilwoman Kathy Couch

- Stated she had a correction, but it was just typos.

- The fourth pg. Aye the sixth bullet down is supposed to be Aye.
- The next pg whole is supposed to be hole.

Council Woman Maggie Terrell

- Said that it says under environmental water where it's stated that Mr. Kight asked Mr. Wright to stray away, she does not think he said that it supposed to be stay away.

VM Sharon Neely

- Under Emergency Personnel the fourth bullet down where it says we were able to get someone to fix that area it should say until we were able to get barricades.

Mayor Wilkes presented the Minutes for approval and corrections noted. **Council Woman Kathy Couch** motioned to have the minutes approved with necessary corrections noted. **Council Woman Sharon Neely** seconded the motion to approve the minutes with necessary corrections. **Mayor Linda Wilkes** stated the minutes will stand with the necessary corrections noted.

Committee Reports

Mayor Linda Wilkes Report

- Said that there will be Town Hall meeting September 7,2023 to let the city know more information about the curbside pickup and that we will have flyers out.
- Said for the council members we will have a meeting to go over the comprehensive plan. Ms. Russ has been working with the CSRA Regional Commissioner and they have put together a comprehensive plan for 2024 they sent a DRAFT, but we have to look at the draft to see if there are changes that need to be made on it. VM Sharon Neely asked what date that meeting will be? Mayor Linda Wilkes responded by saying she has not set a date yet.
- Announced tomorrow is city hall selfie day and if anyone would like to take a selfie, they are more than welcome submit your selfie to hashtag city hall selfies.
- Said that last month we did a resolution and I'm going to resend my signature until Ms. Russ title is correct on the resolution she is listed on there as intermediate administrator. Councilman Freddie Harden asked what you are saying? she is not intermediate no more. Water Clerk LaTora Lewis answered and said that she has her certification to prove. VM Sharon Neely asked when did she get her certificate? Water Clerk LaTora Lewis answered and said July 26,2023. Vm Sharon Neely asked when was the last meeting? Mayor Linda Wilkes said the last meeting was July. VM Sharon Neely asked was she not interm at that time? Mayor Linda Wilkes answered no she was not interm at that time, she promoted her. VM Sharon Neely said you promoted her before she finished her classes. Mayor Linda Wilkes stated that Ms. Russ does not have to have the class to be administrator.VM Sharon Neely asked was she now the administrator? Mayor Linda Wilkes responded yes.
- **Councilman Harold Kight stated that he thought that they had asked for a city clerk.**

- **Mayor Linda Wilkes said when she came here, they did not have a city clerk they there was always an administrator.**
- **Councilman Harold Kight mentioned the charter says city clerk.**

Environmental Water:

Councilman Harold Kight

- Gave the water report for the month of June.
- Stated that he had a citizen to call him on the 11th it was Mrs. Singletary she reported a water leak out there on Martin Luther King Jr Road and we are waiting on the dig report on the area. Water Clerk LaTora Lewis stated that she called 811 dig to report the leak as well as Georgia Power and AT&T. all three companies did come out and check their area 811 dig came out today and marked the area around the leak so that we will be able to start our digging process Thursday.

Emergency and Personnel:

VM Sharon Neely

- Wanted to start off by thanking LaTora for those lights I went around and checked, and Mr. Russel is happy so thank you for taking care of that part.
- In the minutes from last month, I think I requested a set of keys for the city to all the doors, do we have those available? Water Clerk LaTora Lewis responded not today we are waiting on administration.
- VM Sharon Neely asked the mayor what was the issue with the keys?
- Mayor Linda Wilkes responded back there are a lot of problems! I don't understand why do you need keys to everything in the city that's just unusual and when those keys were out before, this is the reason we put this in place, is because we were having a lot of problems with those keys, they were being duplicated, there were things that were being stored in the building that was from another place, it was a lot of stuff going on. You don't have a office in here so why do you need a set of keys.
- VM Sharon Neely said OK if I'm not mistaken, we went through this last month, we had agreed, it was motioned and seconded that I get those keys for the city we have already discussed it so there is no need of hashing it back up we just need to go ahead and get those keys. We had til the 31st of July I did give you time.
- Mayor Linda Wilkes said that she was going petition the keys and that she would petition the attorney first, because there are a lot of things, and everybody does not need keys.
- Discussion amongst Mayor Linda Wilkes and VM Sharon Neely.
- VM Sharon Neely said once again I'm going to put in the minutes that I'm asking for a set of keys, and this is going through a motion that in=m asking for keys to the city. Mayor Linda Wilkes said that she did not want Vm Sharon Neely to have the keys and asked if anybody else wanted keys because she did not want her to have them.

- VM Sharon Neely said Mayor Linda Wilkes was bitter. Mayor Linda Wilkes said she was not bitter, and that Vm Mayor Sharon Neely was a thief and anybody else in this council can have a set of keys but im not going to give them to you. Now we can go to jail for storing stuff from your job. Repeated 2x does anybody else want a set of keys.
- VM Sharon Neely said just to prove a point anything that came from that job was given to the city.
- Mayor Linda Wilkes and VM Sharon Neely repeated conversation about keys to the city.
- Mayor Wilkes and VM Sharon Neely (inaudible)
- Council Woman Kathy Couch suggested to call the city Lawyer and ask him what we can do to solve this, that's what we need to do because we did pass it for Sharon to get a set of keys and does not know what personal problem it is, but the council has passed it.
- Mayor Linda Wilkes said that you guys move together on everything right or wrong yall stick together so it does not matter.
- Councilman Freddie Harden asked Mayor Linda Wilkes so one mind over rules 5 minds is what you're telling me?
- Mayor Linda Wilkes answered no she did not say it overruled (inaudible) we are here to protect the city not to protect an individual person.
- Councilman Freddie Harden repeated his question is 1mind greater than 5 minds?
- Mayor Linda Wilkes answered yes, if that one mind is more accurate. Council man Freddie Harden stated see that's the key right there.
- Mayor Linda Wilkes said Well all of yall must be thieves then, if you're taking up for that?
- VM Sharon Neely asked is there any way possible that we can have these minutes typed in a week after the meeting, so that we want to have to sit here and read through this and keep the congregation waiting. I understand that you have to get approved through the mayor once you get it, but us there any way possible we can get this in advance.
- Mayor Linda Wilkes responded that the minutes was here early.
- Vm Sharon Neely mentioned that she had to work!
- Mayor Linda Wilkes said you guys came up on an agreement to come in and get the minutes early @ 6:30 p.m. so that we can start the meeting on time @ 7:00 p.m.
- Councilman Harold Kight said at least have the minutes the Friday before the meeting, that way we can look at them over the weekend.
- Mayor Linda Wilkes said they were ready Friday, and they were ready last week. Vm Sharon Neely said then we should have them.
- Mayor Linda Wilkes said you didn't get them because you said you were going to come in early @ 6:30 p.m. and read the minutes, so if you are changing that let her know you are changing that.
- VM Sharon Neely asked was there any way possible LaTora that you can have the minutes ready for us.

- Water Clerk LaTora said that she will have them ready for them way before the meeting maybe like a week before. Mayor Linda Wilkes responded she has other work to do she has another 30 days.
- Water Clerk LaTora Lewis said she spent about two weeks listening to this meeting but will try to have the minutes to the council a week or two before the meeting.
- VM Mayor Sharon said the billboard outside who is that to benefit, because I do have other people that wanted to do some advertisement on the kiosk.
- Water Clerk LaTora Lewis said that the messages get passed through the administrator and we have someone to control the kiosk, Mr. Jerry is his name.
- Mayor Linda Wilkes said the kiosk is used for the city business. Council Woman Kathy Couch said right like if the city has business like the school supply give away that would have been really nice if we could have it announced on the kiosk that's for the city. then asked wouldn't that be for the city, it's for the kids.
- Mayor Linda Wilkes responded and said if the city is sponsoring it.
- VM Sharon Neely so you are saying its only for city hall use and no one from the outside can advertise, so how can we go by changing this, because she didn't know.
- Mayor Linda Wilkes said that it's a state law stating that anything the city pays for is for city use only.
- Council Woman Maggie Terrell responded what city don't realize is it's the taxpayer's money that paid for it. Mayor Linda Wilkes asked so you are saying anybody can come up here post what they want if we start with one person then everybody wants to advertise. Council Woman Maggie Terrell said that no I'm not saying just anybody.
- Council Woman Kathy Couch responded that's not true, what we want to do is advertise things that's in city on the sign, just like the back-to-school supply drive that would have been really nice if we could have done that.
- VM Sharon Neely that was not the only thing we had somebody that would like to advertise a birthday for an elderly here in the city. said she thought that would have nice, but she brought it to the city first, so is there anyway we could change that for the kiosk board to have advertisement, but first it has to be screened and we'll represent it.
- Council Woman Maggie Terrell said there should be a resolution made.
- VM Sharon Neely asked councilman Freddie Harden and Councilman Harold Kight what did they think? Councilman Harold Kight said that he would say vote on it, but it does no good to vote.
- Councilman Freddie Harden stated the mayor says it's a state law that the only use for it is the city use, that's where she's talking about assignment the city car was used for a whole month.
- Conversation amongst councilman Freddie Harden and Mayor Linda Wilkes (INAUDIBLE).
- Council Woman Maggie Terrell made a comment pertaining an example of Mayor Linda Wilkes and Councilman Freddie Hardens conversation.
- Mayor Linda Wilkes preceded to say that she will look into the situation.
- Outspoken conversation amongst the council (inaudible).

- VM Sharon Neely said the mayors means that she's going to look into it and then we are to advertise for the city. Council Woman Kathy Couch mentioned make sure all information is correct before any advertising.

Building & Housing:

Council Woman Kathy Couch

Said she has not heard back from commissioner Abrams last thing she heard was they had a workshop on the Tiny House Ordinance, and she has not heard anything else.

City Roads and Recreation:

Councilman Freddie Harden

- Old Business it was an accident on 7/28 has there been anything done about that incident and has any information been given to the person that was involved?
- Mayor Linda Wilkes answered yes, the information was sent to GIRMA our Insurance Agency
- Said in the last meeting Ms. LaTora said that Ms. Sherell had someone that was coming to pave the roads, but she didn't know who it was asked Ms. Lewis did she know who it was?
- Water Clerk LaTora Lewis answered and said she told him it was Reeves in the last meeting that was held. Councilman Freddie Harden asked was there a day and time that they were supposed to start? City Water Clerk LaTora Lewis answered and said she was not sure Ms. Russ has not said anything she was supposed to contact them and see when the company was going to come out because I have been asking for myself cause my car is getting tore up by the driveway, said Ms. Russ was awaiting a phone call back from Reeves but have not heard anything else about it.
- Put gravel n the hole where a leak was repaired at 199Old Waynesboro Road, and Martin Luther king jr, Road Rhodes Lee needs to be filled back in with gravel. Said that he asked Mr. Davis to fill the roads back in with gravel and he answered yes, but he was concerned about that.
- Councilman Freddie Harden made a concerned statement about resident Corey cleaning up the city.
- When the city maintenance is cutting grass in the road it has been brought to my attention over and over. Said that he spoke with Mr. Davis, they are cutting the grass in the road, they gone hit somebody car, break somebody glass then the city is going to be held responsible. I cut from 492 all the way to 199 Martin Luther king Jr Road on the same side of the road there is no grass in the road, but if you look at the Charles Walker Building and Medical Assoc. the grass is all the way to the yellow lines, people call me, you go over here to Rhodes Lee Street, I have been asked why are they cutting the grass in the street like that? I responded back I understand what you are saying, resident asked well what we need to do? I can't talk if an employee says the councilman is not their boss, whoever the boss is at the city hall, please ask them not to cut the grass in the road.

- Mayor Linda Wilkes asked Councilman Freddie Harden when he speaks on potholes and things does that fall under the Reeves? Water Clerk LaTora Lewis answered yes, if Reeves comes to pave the road they will be able to do it, but if something needs to be done immediately then (statement was not completed), Councilman Freddie Harden interfered said that crush n run down there (inaudible) show me the three estimates, in the last meeting you told me to get three estimates but, then she told me that Reeves is coming to do the roads, so I didn't get any estimates, cause she said that Sherell already had the someone coming, and asked Ms. Lewis did she have three estimates and she said she did not have any estimates. Councilman Freddie Harden (inaudible) what I need to know is if you got three estimates let me see them, let me go ahead and look for the guys, who picked them out? Who picked the one that you wanted to do the roads? Water Clerk LaTora Lewis answered I thank Ms. Russ did.
- Council man Freddie Harden said exactly why can't I uphold the roads and recreation why can I sit in and look at those things and sit in and talk to them. Water Clerk LaTora Lewis said if that what you would like to do then, Councilman Freddie Harden said yes that's what he would like to do when it comes to those roads and recreation let me have some input. Water Clerk LaTora Lewis answered and said call and let Ms. Russ know that you would like to be apart of it when its out of my control and it's in the Administrator hands.
- Councilman Freddie Harden said that he has been in the chair since January I have taken and done several different driveways and put the crush n run in and filled the holes in, and the Mayor tells me to get three estimates and you tell me she already has them. So, I need some input in it if Reeves going to do it, I need to know who the other two are. Why did she pick Reeves was it to high or was it to low? Water clerk LaTora Lewis responded she thinks that Reeve's was referred to Ms. Russ from the previous administrator and that she was not sure about the other two or if she had two more estimates, she's not sure but like I said if you would like to get with her call her or come down to the city hall and with her and let her know you would like to be involved more in the roads and recreation.
- Like right here on old Waynesboro Road where the hole was just repaired its already washed up. Water clerk LaTora Lewis said just like the one in the curb on Cheatham Street that big dip up there taring my tires up. Councilman Freddie Harden said he understood, said that he put crush n run there before but the rain comes and wash it out, but I got the water running down into the ditch and its not running into the main road, so you got two city workers now and both of them knows how to drive the tractor. Asked has anybody checked on the sewage plant? Water Clerk LaTora Lewis responded and said that we had someone from J&T Environmental and someone from EIC to come out and check the lift station and the pumps at the water plant and it's some things that has to be done to that stuff and was told that it was not a violation, but it needed to be done.
- Councilman Harold Kight said if we keep on it is going to be a violation. Water clerk LaTora said we just had an inspection done EPD on our part we are good, but he did point out somethings. Councilman Harold Kight said he just been talking and talking, and it does not do any good, that's our biggest asset is our water with out our water we can not take care of our citizens. Water Clerk LaTora said that particular day he got with

Sherell, he showed some parts that needed to be replaced I'm not sure of the name, but I will get with Ms. Russ and ask her about it.

Finance:

Council Woman Maggie Terrell

- Council Woman Maggie Terrell read aloud an apology letter apologizing to the Mayor, City Council, and the Citizens of Keysville.
- Queensboro Bank statements June 2023
- Wells Fargo Bank statements June 2023
- Said she requested the Charles Walker Building Report for the month of July, and she called down there on Friday, I asked her when I went down there and got these reports how come you have not put the Charles Walker report in there, so I called back and asked her could she place the report in her notebook for tonight.
- City Water Clerk LaTora answered and said that Ms. Russ was busy, but we only had one rental for the month of July.
- Council Woman Maggie Terrell said that she would call down to the city hall and see if Ms. Russ would give her the report, then.
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Old Business

New City Business:

Council Woman Maggie Terrell:

Unfinished Business:

- Kenya Cronin gave a report of her comprehensive plan for a wedding venue that she is planning to place in the City of Keysville.
- The Mayor and the City Council asked questions and got an understanding of Mrs. Kenya Cronin comprehensive plan for the Wedding Venue.

Mayor Linda Wilkes announcements:

Announcements/Comments from the floor:

James Neely

- Presented two things to the city.
- Stated the splost funding that went in earlier this year for 2025 I think there is \$200,000.00 set aside for them media center and I have been contacting different organizations about grant money to support what the city is going to put in for the media center, and they all have come back told me I need to identify a piece of land or a building. So, I'm going to make a formal request, since the SPLOST has been approved and we have decided that we are going to move forward with that project, let the city look into what piece of land or facility that we would use. Therefore, I could go ahead and

start looking at grant money and I could write that up and include that in the grant request.

- The second thing is the 2018 and 2019 audits for the city has been done and I'm requesting the city would give the citizens of Keysville the results of that audit in some form of presentation.
- What would the audit consist of? What were the finding or however? but do a formal submission to them an explanation would be good of the audit itself.
- Mayor Linda Wilkes said that the audits were posted in the True Citizens so if you want them, you can always get them, they're analyzed and everything else in the True Citizen.
- James Neely said that he was asking the city to formally present to the citizens of Keysville. The citizens of Keysville paid for the audit to present to the citizens the audit and the results, he was not depending on the true citizens to make up my mind for me, but I would like the city since it was done for you, the mayor, and the council (inaudible) I would like for you all to present the audit.
- Another thing is with that kiosk I think the city should make a formal resolution with stated guidelines of what that kiosk can be used for, who could advertise on it, it maybe another situation, but if its for city use and not citizens be more specific on what types of events and etc.

Jerry couch

- Asked the city and the citizens of Keysville to donate to Maui, Hawaii.

Council Woman Kathy Couch made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Councilman Harold Kight seconded the motion.

Mayor Linda Wilkes adjourned the meeting.

Meeting adjourned.