

City of Hamilton
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MAYOR PATRICK WHEARLEY
October 14, 2024 Minutes

Open session by Mayor Patrick Whearley

Attendees: Mayor Patrick Whearley, Mayor Pro Tem Alvin Howard, Councilor Nancy Wall

Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Patrick Whearley

Invocation led by Mayor Pro Tem Alvin Howard

Councilor Wall made a motion to approve the September 9, 2024 minutes. Mayor Pro Tem Howard 2nd. Vote unanimous.

Water/Sewer Report- Ben reported that everything has been going good. The service line inventory has been submitted. The quote has come in for a new dump trunk. Everything is getting more expensive and they are looking to adjust the water rates fairly. 15 year old radio read meters will have to be replaced soon. Ben is hoping to do a \$3.00 increase on rates. There is a small water leak outside of City Hall. There were preventative measures put in place during the hurricane that allowed them to keep what they needed at the plant. No loss of solids as they would any other time. A few meters and a pouring pump were affected.

Streets/Maintenance Report- Terrence reported that General Electric was able to come out and fix the issues on the outlets on the square. Only one pole is still not working. During the hurricane we only had one tree to fall down on Hill Street. Everything else is good.

Police Report- Chief Weiss reported that the homecoming parade went well and thanked Terrence for his help. They are looking to do fencing instead of barricades for the Christmas parade to increase safety. Sweetbay will be a big event for Halloween. Christ Chapel will open up their parking lot for parking for trick or treaters. This year should be a lot smoother than it has been in the past. 2020 Ford Expedition was deemed a total loss. Dash cam footage was turned over to Georgia State Patrol and the accident was deemed not our fault. We have acquired a 2024 Chevrolet Colorado pickup truck. It should be on the road by Mid November. We are now the busiest police department in the county.

Fire Report- Assistant Chief Cooper reported that they had 16 total calls in the last 30 days. The new truck is in service. It was in the homecoming parade. They are going to assist with the rodeo to supply water for the Mike and Tracy Arena. Four fire fighters are going through the fire fighter one class with the county. A Trunk or treat will be held at the Mike and Tracy Arena on October 24. They are having issues with the parking in front of the bay at the fire station.

City Report- Rhett Wade reported that the software migration took a hit because of the hurricane but we are catching back up to speed.

Old Business:

Mayor Whearley spoke on the charter; the charter has been revised and updated. We've had two public hearings for a charter read. Mayor Whearley made a motion to adopt the new charter as the city attorney and committee has written it to be turned in to the State for approval. Councilor Wall 2nd. Vote Unanimous. Upon approval this will Change Rhett Wade's title to City Manager instead of a Mayor's Assistant. Brandy Robertson is our sponsor. 33 Provisions have been made.

Rhett Wade spoke on the lead service line. Hamilton beat the deadline for submission. A Report will be in next week's news's paper.

New Business:

Mr. Wade is asking for a budget amendment to take from Water and Sewer for a new dump truck not more than \$160K. The actual quote was just under \$155K. We are hoping to get a new one within the next 6 months. Mayor Whearley made a motion to amend the budget for the purchase of a new dump truck. Mayor Pro Tem Howard 2nd. Vote unanimous.

Mr. Wade is asking for a budget amendment for the replacement of the patrol car of \$36k and not to exceed \$18K for outfitting. Mayor Whearley made a motion to approve the budget amendment. Councilor Wall 2nd. Vote unanimous.

City attorney:

The attorney spoke on ballot information for House Bill 581. It will show up as House resolution 1022 on the ballot. "Shall the constitution of Georgia be amended? So as to authorize the general assembly to provide by general law for a statewide homestead exemption that serves to limit increases in the assessed value of homesteads, but which any county, consolidated government, municipality, or local school system may opt out of upon the completion of certain procedures.

Comments:

November's Council meeting will be held on November 12, 2024 at 7PM.

City of Hamilton will be closed on Veteran's Day November 11, 2024.

Adjournment:

Councilor Wall made the motion to adjourn. Mayor Pro Tem Howard 2nd and passed unanimously.

Mayor Patrick Whearley

Mayor Pro Tem Alvin Howard

Councilor Nancy Wall

Councilor Greg Allen

City Clerk Tonia Crittenden

Councilor William Fields