

# MINUTES



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## CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, February 20, 2024

7:00 P.M.

In Council Chamber

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### ROLL CALL:

Mayor Vince R. Williams  
Mayor Pro Tem Brian Jones  
Councilmember Christina Hobbs  
Councilmember Lawanna Owens-Twaites  
City Attorney – Dennis Davenport  
City Manager – Sonja Filingame  
Interim City Clerk – Sharday Freeman  
Operations Director – Cindy Givens

### Present:

Court Services Director – Shenika Wright  
Community Development Director - Anthony Alston  
Public Services Director – Lonnie Ferguson  
Human Resources Director – Brittany Sainnatus  
Park & Recreations Director – Lee Blitch  
Police Chief – Cassandra Jones

### Absent:

Assistant City Manager – Tarsha Calloway  
Interim Finance Comptroller – Britney Gordon

Councilmember Angelette Mealing

### I. CALLED TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

### II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG:

Invocation by Min. Gavin Lane

### III. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

*On motion of Councilmember Hobbs, seconded by Councilmember Owens-Twaites and carried, Council approved the Agenda. Vote was unanimous.*

### IV. MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC TO DISCUSS ITEMS NOT ON AGENDA: (2 MIN)

V.

- Antonio Andrews spoke regarding Council considering a new ordinance pertaining to livestock.

### V. PRESENTATIONS/ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS OF AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Acknowledgement and Recognition of the Employee of the Month (February 2024)  
Lillie Davis (Finance Department)
- Proclamation Honoring Jane Gunter

- Mayor and Council presented proclamation to Ms. Jane Gunter
- Presentation to Youth Leadership Council (YLC)
- Mayor and Council presented awards to YLC.

**VI. OLD BUSINESS:**

**VII. CONSENT AGENDA:**

*All matters listed on the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine and will be approved by one motion. No separate discussion will take place on these items. If discussion of any Consent Agenda item is desired, the item will be moved to the Regular Agenda for separate consideration.*

- A. Council to accept the submittal of a request to approve the Work Session Minutes dated 01/23/2024.
- B. Council to accept the submittal of a request to approve the Regular Council Meeting Minutes dated 1/23/2024.
- C. Council to approve the submittal of a request to enter into an agreement with Gibson Landscape Services LLC for Citywide Landscaping & Maintenance (RFB-PS-24-02).
- D. Council to approve the submittal of a request to enter a Preliminary Engineering Agreement with CSX Transportation, Inc.
- E. Council to approve the submittal of a request to adopt a Resolution to increase the amount of the freeport exemption for e-commerce fulfillment centers.
- F. Council to approve the submittal of a request to adopt a Resolution to declare liens against certain property in the city for unpaid water and sewer bills.

*On motion of Council Member Hobbs, seconded by Councilmember Owens-Twaites and carried, Council approved the Agenda. Vote was unanimous.*

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS:**

**IX. PUBLIC HEARING(S):**

None

**X. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE PLANNING COMMISSION:**

None

**XI. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:**

- City Manager Fillingame deferred to Chief Maddox for a presentation.
- Chief Maddox reported to Council the urgent need to bypass the competitive procurement process for cardiac monitoring or defibrillator funded through the Assistance to Firefighters Grants Program. Chief Maddox updated Council regarding the impact to public safety due to supply delays. He further advised that staff reached out to the federal contact via the grant to explain the circumstances. Chief notated staff justification and Council unanimously approved with non-competitive procurement given the emergency.

*On motion of Council Member Hobbs, seconded by Councilmember Owens-Twaites and carried, Council approved the purchase of new cardiac monitors or defibrillators.. Vote was unanimous.*

**XII. CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT:**

- City Attorney Davenport spoke regarding obtaining land that GDOT wants to donate to the city. The land is at the corner of Highpoint and 29.

### **XIII. REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM MAYOR & COUNCIL:**

#### **Councilmember Hobbs**

- Thanked Staff for everything.
- Congratulations to Employee of the Month Lillie Davis
- Thanked Jane Gunter for her ministry and devotion to Union City
- Congratulations to Youth Leadership Academy
- Congratulations to Fire Chief Joe Maddox for his appointment as the Regional III designee for Urgency Medical Services Council
- Thanks to Director Givens and UC Staff for participating in the Georgia Economic Placemaking Collaborative
- Thanks to Coach Blitch for the Valentines Day Celebration
- Acknowledged individuals for Black History Month such as Benjamin Banneker, Garrett Morgan, Madame CJ Walker, and Ralph Moore

#### **Councilmember Owens-Twaites**

- Thanked everyone for coming out.
- Acknowledged the employee of the month Lillie Davis
- Thanked Jane Gunter for her services.
- Recognized Youth Leadership Council
- Acknowledged the Valentine's Day Celebration

#### **Mayor Pro Tem Jones**

- Recognized Jane Gunter and Lillie Davis
- Acknowledged Lonnie Ferguson and the Public Works team for the streetscape project on Roosevelt Highway
- Acknowledged Marcomm for Art Camp
- Acknowledged Fire Chief Joe Maddox
- Thanked Team and Staff for their support during his and his wife time of bereavement.

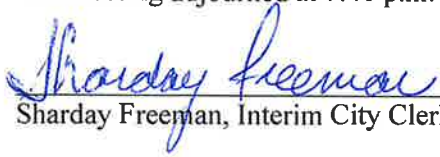
#### **Mayor Vince R. Williams**


- Asked for prayers for Councilmember Mealing family in the loss of their brother.
- Asked for prayers for the city of Lagrange who loss their Mayor (Dr. Willie Edmondson)
- Acknowledged the Celebration of Black History Month
- Recognized the Youth Leadership Council
- Discussed his visit to the port of Savannah.
- Informed everyone about the City Hall Renovations
- Discussed the GMA Cities United
- Informed everyone about Early Voting and Election Day on March 12
- Congratulations to Fire Chief Joe Maddox
- Discussed the Grants that Union City received.
- Discussed the lighting need on Raymond Drive and Raymond Terrace

***On motion of Mayor Pro Tem Jones, seconded by Councilmember Hobbs and carried, Council adjourned the meeting. Vote was unanimous.***

**XIV. ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

  
Sharday Freeman, Interim City Clerk

  
Vince R. Williams, Mayor