

Sandersville City Council
Working Session Minutes
February 18, 2019 – 4:00 P.M.

Council Members and City Employees present:

Mayor Jimmy Andrews	Victor Cuyler, Chief SPD
Mayor Pro Tem Jeffery Smith	Russell Riner, Chief SFD
Council Member Henry Watts	Wayne Poole, Electric Department Director
Council Member Danny Brown	Robert Eubanks, Public Works Director
Council Member Jason Davis	Dave Larson, Building Official
Keenan Howard, City Attorney	Brianna Wiley, Finance Director
Judy McCorkle, City Administrator	Karrie Brown, City Clerk

Absent: Council Member Mayme Dennis

Mayor Andrews called the working session to order at 4:00 p.m. He noted that Council Member Dennis will be absent today. Also, he will follow the Working Session Agenda in reverse order because there will be a presentation from the Police Department at the end of the meeting.

Council Reports:

Mayor Andrews stated he has received feedback from residents on Wedgewood Drive and they are glad the speed bumps have been installed. Also, Kaolin Road from Thiele to Saffold Road, needs to be striped. Mayor Andrews stated that he appreciates Electric Director Poole putting up the Black History Month banners.

Council Member Watts noted the entrance into the hospital near the walking trail has a lot of potholes. Public Works Director Eubanks will look into this.

Mayor Pro Tem Smith stated that Avant Alley, which runs from East Church Street to the Baptist Church, has potholes that need to be addressed. Public Works Director Eubanks will look into this.

Council Member Davis stated that the section of Sunhill Road, from Franklin Haynes Drive to Ridge Road, needs a litter and debris pick up. Public Works Director Eubanks stated his crews have recently done a cleanup in this area, but that he will follow up on it. Council Member Davis noted the banners look good.

City Attorney Report:

City Attorney Howard stated there were a lot of ordinance violation cases in City court today. He asked the Mayor and Council Members to start thinking about how they want to address these cases going forward. City Attorney Howard added that in several of the cases, the property is heir property and the heirs may not have the funds to make repairs. City Administrator McCorkle stated the City may be able to apply for a Transformation Grant and we are working to set up a Land Bank Authority.

Mayor Andrews added that he would like to see something done with the Byrne property on South Harris Street that is located just before you get to Wal-Mart. He noted that this property is not in the City.

City Administrator Report:

City Administrator McCorkle stated that the fire service agreement with the County is on the agenda for approval. The Animal Control agreement with the County is not on the agenda because the County had initially agreed to pay 60% and are now asking to lower their percentage to 55%. City Administrator McCorkle noted that the 60% was derived from the number of calls, the population, and road miles. The Mayor and Council Members discussed the agreements in detail. The consensus of the Council was to only move forward with an agreement with the County if they are willing to agree to the 60%.

City Administrator McCorkle stated there will be a final session of the EDGE training and the tentative date will be March 28th in the Fire Department Training Room.

Department Reports:

City Clerk Brown stated there is a permit on the regular agenda for Council approval to allow beer and wine to be served in Thiele Park for a private wedding event.

Building Official Larson stated the underground tanks have been removed from the Downtown Café property and the soil samples have been sent to the EPA for testing. Once it dries out, they can begin to compact the dirt.

Public Works Director Eubanks stated that he and Finance Director Wiley attended the LEP training last week and will attend another two day session next week. Also, on the agenda is an approval for Goodwyn, Mills, and Caywood (GMC) to complete the NPEDS Wastewater Permit which is due in 2020.

Electric Director Poole stated one of the bucket trucks is currently undergoing some repairs that may exceed the \$5,000 limit. He will bring the invoice back for approval once the repairs are completed.

Fire Chief Riner reported that representatives from the Georgia Fire Academy inspected the burn building training facility and they stated that Sandersville has one of the best facilities in the state. Also, the inspection for the new Ace Hardware has been completed and should open in the next week or two.

Fire Chief Riner thanked everyone for their support for Volunteer Firefighter Justin Whiddon while he is undergoing cancer treatment. Also Chief Riner stated there will be a blood drive in Sandersville this Wednesday and that there is an urgent need.

Police Chief Cuyler stated that LGRMS will hold training on Use of Force on April 16th and 18th at the Fire Department Training Room. He invited Mayor and Council Members to attend.

Police Chief Cuyler added there is a discussion item on the regular agenda on proposed changes to the policy to allow police officers to have facial hair. The Mayor and Council Members discussed the requested policy change in detail. They also discussed allowing Chief Cuyler to issue a general order to allow facial hair during a 12 month trial period instead of making a policy change.

CID Captain Ken Parker then made a presentation on gang motivated crimes and statistics. He noted that the Sandersville Police Department is working with the Washington County Sheriff's Department to share information and help solve these crimes.

Captain Parker added that the City needs to recruit and retain good police officers.

Mayor Andrews adjourned the Working Session at 5:05 p.m.