

## M I N U T E S

### City Council Meeting Monday, February 3, 2025 – 6:00 p.m.

**Call to Order:** Mayor Campbell called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 p.m.

**Opening:** Councilmember Hall gave the invocation with Mayor Campbell leading the City Council in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

#### **Roll Call**

**City Council Members:** Mayor Bruce Campbell, Mayor Pro-Tem Marcia Daniel, Councilmember Gwyn Hall, Councilmember Richard Lassiter, Councilmember Natalyn Morris, Councilmember Debbie Ruiz, and Councilmember Kim Tice.

**Staff Members:** Rhonda Ferrell-Bowles, City Manager; James P. Gerard, City Attorney; Gil Ballard, Chief of Police; Katie Draeger, Finance Director; Mike Dick, Fire Chief; Carlos Nevarez, Fire Marshal; Cliff Ducey, Parks and Recreation Director; Veronica Enoch, Executive Assistant; Tonya Roper, Clerk of Council; and Andrew Guzman, IT Technician.

**Informal Public Comment:** Given no speakers, Mayor Campbell closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

**City Council Minutes:** Councilmember Daniel motioned to approve the minutes from the January 6<sup>th</sup> Pre-Agenda Session and City Council meeting minutes and January 13<sup>th</sup> Council workshop. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Tice. The motion passed with all voting in favor of the motion.

#### **Items for Consideration**

**Ordinance – Zoning Map Amendment (4602 Old Louisville Road):** Mayor Campbell stated this request has been withdrawn from tonight's agenda. Mayor Campbell called for a motion of continuance.

Councilmember Hall made a motion for continuance of the zoning map amendment request. Councilmember Tice seconded the motion, the motion passed without opposition.

**FY2025 Fee Schedule:** The Clerk of Council read the heading for consideration by the Mayor and City Council to approve the updated schedule of fees for the fiscal year 2025.

Councilmember Tice made a motion to approve the consideration. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ruiz.

City Manager stated this schedule is the set of fees for fiscal year 2025 with Councilmember Morris asking if the schedule is done on an annual basis?

City Manager replied the schedule is done on an annual basis normally during budget time, however we were still making changes, and the schedule was still being looked at by Council.

With no further questions, the motion passed with Councilmember Daniel, Councilmember Hall, Councilmember Lassiter, Councilmember Morris, Councilmember Ruiz, Councilmember Tice and Mayor Campbell voting in favor of the motion.

**First Reading - Ordinance – Zoning Text Amendment(Occupational Taxes and Regulatory Fees):** The Clerk of Council read the heading of an ordinance to amend the code of ordinances of Garden City, Georgia, as amended, by amending Chapter 22, Article II, Section 22-28, of the Occupational Taxes and Regulatory Fees ordinance by changing the administrative fee required to be paid on all business and occupational tax accounts from seventy-five (\$75.00) dollars to the fee specified in the City's current official annual fee schedule.

Councilmember Daniel made a motion to approve on the first reading of the ordinance. Councilmember Ruiz seconded the motion.

City Manager stated we have an ordinance on the books showing the administrative fee as \$75, this puts the fee in line with the fee schedule.

With no further comments, the motion passed with Councilmember Daniel, Councilmember Hall, Councilmember Lassiter, Councilmember Morris, Councilmember Ruiz, Councilmember Tice and Mayor Campbell voting in favor of the motion.

**Motion to Suspend the Rules of Council:** Councilmember Lassiter motioned to suspend the rules of Council to hold the second reading of the ordinance. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Morris and passed without opposition.

**Second Reading - Ordinance – Zoning Text Amendment(Occupational Taxes and Regulatory Fees):** The Clerk of Council read the heading of an ordinance to amend the code of ordinances of Garden City, Georgia, as amended, by amending Chapter 22, Article II, Section 22-28, of the Occupational Taxes and Regulatory Fees ordinance by changing the administrative fee required to be paid on all business and occupational tax accounts from seventy-five (\$75.00) dollars to the fee specified in the City's current official annual fee schedule.

Councilmember Daniel made a motion to approve on the second reading of the ordinance. Councilmember Tice seconded the motion; the motion passed with Councilmember Daniel, Councilmember Hall, Councilmember Lassiter, Councilmember Morris, Councilmember Ruiz, Councilmember Tice and Mayor Campbell voting in favor of the motion.

**Resolution – 2025 Municipal Election Candidate Qualifying Fee(s):** The Clerk of Council read the heading of a resolution to set the qualifying fee for the Office of the City Council Member at \$360.00 for the general election in November 2025.

City Manager stated the fee is calculated at the preceding calendar year. The fee is calculated at 3% of the annual salary of the Councilmember seat.

Councilmember Lassiter made a motion to approve the resolution. Councilmember Daniel seconded the motion, the motion passes without opposition.

**Resolution – 2025 Designation of Municipal Election Duties:** The Clerk of Council read the heading of a resolution to authorize the Board of Elections of Chatham County, Georgia, to perform all duties as the municipal superintendent of elections with the exception of the qualifying of candidates, which shall be the responsibility of the Clerk of Council and to authorize the Chatham County Board of Registration to perform the duties of absentee ballot clerk. Qualifying for City Council will take place at City Hall commencing on Monday, August 18, 2025, at 8:30a.m. and ending Thursday, August 21, 2025, at 4:30p.m.

Councilmember Ruiz made a motion to approve the resolution. Councilmember Hall seconded the motion.

City Manager stated that every election year the City spells out the duties for elections. The County Board of Elections serves as the City's superintendent, qualifying is done by the Clerk of Council with Chatham County Board of Registration performing duties of the absentee ballot clerk.

The motion passes with Councilmember Daniel, Councilmember Hall, Councilmember Lassiter, Councilmember Morris, Councilmember Ruiz, Councilmember Tice and Mayor Campbell voting in favor of the motion.

**Resolution – Savannah River Utilities Agreement:** The Clerk of Council read the heading of a resolution by the Mayor and City Council to authorize an agreement for services with Savannah River Utilities in the amount of \$122,500 for the replacement of sanitary sewer infrastructure at the intersection of Bowman Avenue and Lynn Drive.

Councilmember Tice made a motion to approve the resolution. Councilmember Ruiz seconded the motion.

City Manager stated this is to replace the deteriorating terra cotta sewer line with PVC piping and replacing two failed manholes and changing out the lateral lines at the intersection of Bowman and Lynn where we're getting stormwater infiltration.

The motion passes with Councilmember Daniel, Councilmember Hall, Councilmember Lassiter, Councilmember Morris, Councilmember Ruiz, Councilmember Tice and Mayor Campbell voting in favor of the motion.

**Resolution – Job Classification & Compensation Plan:** The Clerk of Council read the heading of a resolution to re-establish job grades and salary ranges for employee job classifications and to authorize salary adjustments in accordance therewith; to establish an effective date; and for other purposes.

Councilmember Ruiz made a motion to approve the resolution of the job classification and compensation plan. Councilmember Daniel seconded the motion.

City Manager stated the last update to our salaries and compensation study was in 2022. We as staff have looked at the job grades along with salary ranges for certified and non-certified employees – if Council approves tonight, it will become effective with today's date of February 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The motion passes with Councilmember Daniel, Councilmember Hall, Councilmember Lassiter, Councilmember Morris, Councilmember Ruiz, Councilmember Tice and Mayor Campbell voting in favor of the motion.

**Resolution – Tyler Technologies, Inc. Service Agreement:** The Clerk of Council read the heading of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a software service agreement with Tyler Technologies, Inc. for software packages handling financial and revenue management and to appropriate available funding to support the software service agreement through the FY2024-25 budget period.

Councilmember Ruiz made a motion to approve the resolution. Councilmember Daniel seconds the motion.

City Manager stated this is a budgeted item within the IT Department, to update the City's financial and revenue management system.

The motion passes with Councilmember Daniel, Councilmember Hall, Councilmember Lassiter, Councilmember Morris, Councilmember Ruiz, Councilmember Tice and Mayor Campbell voting in favor of the motion.

**Resolution – Amendment to City Council Meeting Schedule:** The Clerk of Council read the heading of a resolution to amend the regular meeting schedule of the Garden City Council; to eliminate the February 17, 2025, regular City Council meeting due to the President's Day holiday; and to establish a meeting of the City Council on February 18, 2025.

Councilmember Tice made a motion to approve the resolution. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Daniel.

City Manager stated that this is to cancel our regularly scheduled meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> due to the holiday and per our Charter we must establish a meeting on the following Tuesday, which is February 18<sup>th</sup>.

The motion passes with Councilmember Daniel, Councilmember Hall, Councilmember Lassiter, Councilmember Morris, Councilmember Ruiz, Councilmember Tice and Mayor Campbell voting in favor of the motion.

**Resolution – GMA Lease Supplement – FY2025 Pumper Truck:** The Clerk of Council read the heading of a resolution to authorize and direct an officer of the City to execute one or more lease supplements for a lease or leases under the GMA Direct Leasing program; to designate such leases as qualified tax-exempt obligations; to provide an effective date; and for other purposes.

Councilmember Ruiz made a motion to approve the resolution of the GMA Lease Supplement. Councilmember Hall seconded the motion.

City Manager stated we have a master lease agreement with GMA, and this is a supplement for the budgeted pumper truck for 2025. We're given a 4.65% interest rate, the term is seven (7) years

starting in January 2026, it will take about a year to build the truck, the payments will run approximately \$181,853 annually, we budgeted \$184,000 and this is within budget.

The motion passes with Councilmember Daniel, Councilmember Hall, Councilmember Lassiter, Councilmember Morris, Councilmember Ruiz, Councilmember Tice and Mayor Campbell voting in favor of the motion.

**Adjournment:** Mayor Campbell called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Ruiz motioned to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Daniel and passed without opposition.

*Transcribed & submitted by: The Clerk of Council*

*Accepted & approved by: The City Council on 02-18-2025*