**The City of Williamson**

*P.O. Box 9*

*Williamson, Georgia 30292*

**Steve Fry, Mayor Tom Brown, City Council Post 3**

**Stephen Levin, City Council Post 1 Carol Berry, City Council Post 4**

**Bob Harrison, City Council Post 2 Steve Davis, City Council Post 5**

**MINUTES**

**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING**

**9 January 2025 7:00 PM**

\*\*All council in attendance, with S. Levin arriving at 7:54pm\*\*

1. **CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE, WELCOME……**Mayor Steve Fry-7:05pm
2. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA** (O.C.G A. § 50-14-1 (e) (1))-BH/SD 4-0
3. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** (O.C.G.A. § 50-14-1(e) (2))
4. Minutes from Meeting held 12 December 2024-SD/TB 4-0
5. **FINANCIAL REPORT-**Documents provided to council. Motion to approve report SD/CB 4-0
6. **REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENTS, COMMITTEES AND BOARDS**
7. City Clerk Report-Advised state flag hasn’t flown since Feb. 2024 as pulley system needs repair and asked if anyone had access to a bucket truck; J. Smithson said he may be able to get one. Mentioned working remotely due to inclement weather and council said to close city hall instead.
8. Council Member- **CB:** Reported staff reviews were performed and noted that the clerk has gone above and beyond job description. Expressed discontent with the $100 Christmas bonus, saying it was not reflective of all the hard work and that they were not showing enough appreciation. Stated the library personnel are doing a great job, have been making multiple improvements, and have lots of plans for the upcoming year. Motion to add executive session for personnel TB/SD 4-0.

**BH:** Discussed roads needing repairs; pointed out pot hole in front of Ashley Glen and Mayor advised it was on the county side. Mayor reported he has discussed road patches with the county manager, but asphalt centers are not operating during the winter. Mr. Morton said small projects can be handled by the county and that he had previously requested a list. Expressed dissatisfaction that issues the council report get documented in minutes but never get addressed. Virgil Herndon is working on electrical problems at the Memorial Park and Caboose. Turf at disc golf still needs repair, and Mayor advised he has spoken with a citizen who is willing to fix it. Stated the council was saddened by the loss of Carol’s sister.

**SD:** Road repair issues already discussed.

**TB:** Items for discussion already on agenda.

1. City Attorney Report-Discussed HB581 and informed that Representative Beth Camp attended the county commission meeting. Advised that the Mayor has contacted the surveyor regarding the Coggin property and an updated plat has been received that Mr. Coggin agrees with. Alcohol license issuance process under review.
2. Mayor’s Report-Thanked Caroling participants and the Smithsons for donating gift baskets. Explained weather preparedness efforts, noting fire stations will be manned full time for the next day and a half. Installed the 2nd park router and AT&T to come out and help pair cameras. TB mentioned replacement plan for the Ring cameras.
3. County Matters-Courthouse and county offices are closed Jan.10 due to weather, excluding public works as they are essential and will be putting sand on bridges in the morning. McLeRoy will pave McKinley Rd using ARPA funds. County has encumbered all ARPA funds by the Dec. 31 deadline. SPLOST funds will be used to pave Woodard Rd. Budget work has commenced.
4. Library Report-Open 18 days and had 90 patrons, 55 books checked out, issued 5 new library cards, 20 new books added, and made $65.75 income. Social media engagement increasing presence and events are being added to the calendar on the city’s website.
5. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
6. Park Router and Camera Install Status Update-Addressed in mayor’s report.
7. City Main Waterline Project Update-Coggins Construction to start work next month. City working to get SAM CAGE number issued for funding.
8. Speed Hump Installation, Repair, and Locations-On hold due to weather conditions.
9. Coggins/Park Property Status Update-Revised plat reflecting requested adjustment received and is ready to be finalized. A new Quit Claim Deed will be created.
10. Audit Report Update-DOAA approval letter received for FY22 Annual Agreed Upon Procedures and Mayor will write corrective action plan. Attorney advised FY24 audit is due by June 30 and the city will need a letter of engagement. Motion to hire Bambo Sonaike to perform the FY24 audit TB/SL 5-0.
11. **NEW BUSINESS**
12. Library Ramp Railing Repair-Wood is rotten and railing cannot be stabilized. Bobby Harrison and Johnathan Smithson will look at repair options.
13. Setting of Qualifying Fees for FY25-Motion to set fee as $25 for council and $35 for mayor SL/TB 5-0.
14. Review of 2024 Excise Tax Receipts-Mayor sent data showing total of $14,225.03 collected through November and noted amount is less than previously budgeted. BH asked about committing excise taxes for specific use, and attorney advised the issue should be discussed before the end of the year.
15. Update FY2025 Schedule of Fees and “Bed Tax Review”-Motion to keep all fees the same as 2024 CB/SL 5-0. Hotel taxes are paid to the county. Attorney advised of recent intergovernmental agreement changes and will send a letter to the county requesting collection of fees for the city.
16. Review and Update of City Applications-Motion to keep all applications the same as the 2024 versions CB/SL 5-0.
17. Homestead Tax Exemption Discussion (HB581)-Deadline to opt-out is March 1. Meeting requirements/process explained. A new sales tax (FLOST) would be added in conjunction with the floating homestead exemption. The exemption would freeze home assessments plus rate of inflation until the property is sold. County expects over $1.6 million in revenue loss if floating exemption is enacted, which would incur a 4 mill increase for taxes. State declared that county assessments were too low and values will be increasing as properties are reassessed. Attorney recommended all cities collaborate with the county procedure and reported the county meetings will be held on January 28 at 6:30pm, February 12 at 9am, and February 25 at 6:30pm.

Motion for Williamson to join county hearings BH/SL 5-0. City will have a special-called meeting Feb.27 at 7p.

1. Review of Special Use and Operational Agreements-List of current contracts and terms provided by clerk. There was discussion regarding auto renewals and term lengths. After much deliberation the council decided to continue with its existing contracts until further review at the August meeting, which would allow ample time for cancellations as needed. Council chose to have the landscape contract put out for sealed bids.
2. Code Enforcement Board Discussion/Creation-Options considered, and the city attorney advised he couldn’t prosecute infractions while also legally advising the board. Motion by SL to have council constitute the board died for lack of a second. Attorney will review requirements for discussion at a later meeting. Mayor reported that the code enforcement officer is no longer patrolling but will address issues as directed and should submit reports of actions taken.
3. **EXECUTIVE SESSION: (**O.C.G.A.§50-14-3) Personnel-Motion to enter executive session 8:59p SL/TB 5-0. Motion to exit executive session and re-enter regular session 9:15p SL/TB 5-0. Actions resulting from executive session: Motion to authorize mayor and/or designee to meet with Pike County to discuss impact fee collection and intergovernmental agreement TB/BH 5-0.
4. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** None Requested
5. **ADJOURNMENT-**SL/BH 9:22PM