

**Minutes
City of Folkston
Regular Monthly Meeting
April 19, 2021**

The Mayor and Council of the City of Folkston met in regular session on April 19, 2021 at City Hall.

Mayor Gowen called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. He gave the invocation and led the pledge of allegiance.

Members Present: Lee Gowen, Mayor
 Ruby Baker
 Marion Davis, Jr.
 Jim Gowen
 Rob Roberson
 Bruce Young

Members Absent:

Also Present: Leonard H. Lloyd, City Manager
 Darlene Williamson, City Clerk
 Wesley Green, Chief of Police
 Patrick Brooks, City Attorney

Visitors: Kim Rodgers, Sylvia Everett, Tammy King, Pastor Terrance Pender and Chamber Director Dana O'Quinn

AGENDA

Mr. Young made a motion to approve the amended agenda as presented.
Mrs. Baker seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

MINUTES

The council was presented the minutes from the March 8, 2021 Regular Meeting.

Mr. Davis made a motion to approve the minutes as presented.
Mr. Young seconded motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

APPROVE INCOME AND EXPENSE STATEMENTS

The income and expense statements for March 2021 was presented.

Mr. Davis made a motion to approve the income and expense statements as presented.

Mrs. Baker seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Chief Green stated the police department filed 38 incident reports, investigated 8 accidents and answered 1349 calls during the month of March 2021. The police department collected \$11,758.00; the city's portion is \$7,021.39.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Mr. Lloyd informed the council the Tower Street project has been delayed due to the lack of base material. Loads of base material are being delivered now and the project is moving forward.

A surveyor will be in Folkston next week to finalize information for Main Street. Once the information is completed the city will resubmit the request for LMIG funds.

The city is currently upgrading water meters. The old meters have software that is outdated and parts are not available for repairs. The city has installed 1000 new meters so far. An additional 250 water meters have been received and once they are installed then another 250 meters will be ordered until all meters have been replaced.

DANA O'QUINN / OKEFENOKEE CHAMBER

Dana O'Quinn requested an update on items she has presented during previous meetings; Multi Day Festival and Hometown Hero banners. The council needed more information concerning the request and stated they will be prepared to give her an answer at the next regular meeting.

APPROVE 2019 DELINQUENT UTILITY ACCOUNTS

Mayor Gowen stated the delinquent utility accounts are over one year old and need to be approved as uncollectable for audit purposes. The balance on these accounts can still be collected should a customer request utility service in the future.

Mr. Young made a motion to approve the 2019 delinquent utility accounts in the amount of \$15,596.90 as presented. Mr. Gowen seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

ADOPT PROCLAMATION FOR CONGENITAL DIAPHRAGMATIC HERNIA DAY

Mayor Gowen stated that Kim Passieu has requested a proclamation to declare April 19, 2021 as Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia Day. An article will be placed in the newspaper to promote the awareness of the congenital defect.

Mrs. Baker made a motion to adopt the Proclamation as presented.

Mr. Young seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

APPROVE AT&T LEASE

Mayor Gowen stated the city has received a letter from AT&T requesting the city consider a modified contract.

Mr. Davis made a motion to reject the request from AT&T to modify the Lease.

Mr. Roberson seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Mayor Gowen informed the council that he had resigned from the Development Authority Board, Jovan Timmon has been appointed to the board to fill the position. Jim Gowen was already on the board and he will represent the city.

The volunteer fire department is in need of new volunteers.

The Southern Georgia Regional Commission is still holding zoom meetings each month.

Road repairs were discussed for Eula Street, Mt. Carmel, Sixth Street and MLK Jr. Drive.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Gowen requested an executive session to discuss personnel.

Mr. Young made a motion to enter into executive session to discuss personnel.

Mr. Davis seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

The executive session began at 7:00.

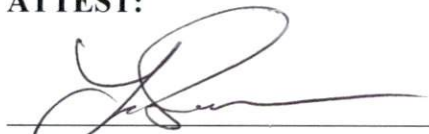
Mayor Gowen declared the meeting back in session at 7:15.

No action was taken.

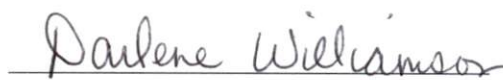
ADJOURN

Mr. Young made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Roberson seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

ATTEST:



Lee Gowen, Mayor



Darlene Williamson, City Clerk

STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF CHARLTON

AFFIDAVIT RE: CLOSURE OF OPEN MEETINGS

The undersigned presiding officer, under oath certifies that at the meeting of the Mayor and City Council for the City of Folkston ("City") on April 19, 2021, the City Council closed its meeting as permitted by the Open Meetings Act of Georgia. The legal exception(s) applicable to the exempt matters addressed during such closed meeting is/are checked below:

(Check or initial as appropriate)

- ☒ To discuss or deliberate upon the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of a public officer or employee; [O.C.G.A. Section 50-14-3(6)]
- ☐ To discuss the future acquisition of real estate; [O.C.G.A. Section 50-14-3 (4)]
- ☐ To consult and meet with legal counsel pertaining to pending or potential litigation, settlement, claims, administrative proceedings, or other judicial action brought or to be brought by or against the City or an officer or employee or in which the officer or employee may be directly involved; [O.C.G.A. Section 50-14-2]
- ☐ Staff meetings for investigative purposes under duties or responsibilities imposed by law; [O.C.G.A. Section 50-14-3(1)]
- ☐ Tax matters made confidential by state law; [O.C.G.A. Section 50-14-2]
- ☐ Inspection of physical facilities under the jurisdiction of the Agency; [O.C.G.A. Section 50-14-1(a)(2)]
- ☐ Meeting with a governing body, officer, agent or employee of another agency at a location outside the geographical jurisdiction of the City or such other agency and at which no final action is taken. [O.C.G.A. Section 50-14-1(a)(2)]

I certify that the subject matter of the closed meeting or the closed portion of this meeting was devoted to matters of official business or policy within the exceptions provided by law as set forth above.

Sworn to and subscribed before

Me on this the 19 day of
April, 2021.

Darlene Williamson
Notary Public



City of Folkston

Regular Meeting

April 19, 2021

Please Sign In

Please Print

Kim Rodgers
Dana O'Quinn
Sylvia Everett
Tammy King
Terrance Pender

CITY OF FOLKSTON

CONGENITAL DIAPHRAGMATIC HERNIA DAY

WHEREAS: One in every 2,500 pregnancies are diagnosed with a congenital diaphragmatic hernia (CDH); and

WHEREAS: Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia occurs when a baby's diaphragm fails to fully form; allowing abdominal organs into the chest cavity and preventing lung growth; and

WHEREAS: CDH is as common as Spina Bifida and Cystic Fibrosis; however, very few people know about it or are aware of it; and

WHEREAS: 1,600 babies are born with CDH every year in the United States; and

WHEREAS: There are many people living in Georgia who have been diagnosed with and have survived their CDH, although many families in Georgia have endured the horrible pain associated with the loss of loved ones with CDH; and

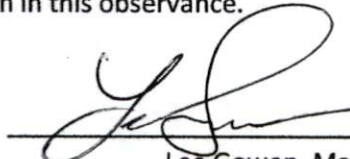
WHEREAS: There are families affected by CDH living in the City of Folkston who are members of the charity, CDH International; and

WHEREAS: CDH International is a charity which is a 501C3 organization that was created to help families affected by CDH; and

WHEREAS: Those with CDH often endure multiple surgeries and possible medical complication beyond their diagnosis that include heart defects, pulmonary complications, gastric and intestinal problems, developmental delays, and may require respiratory and medicinal support for years; and

WHEREAS: Raising awareness of this congenital defect will help bring about acceptance and support for those suffering with it and will help advocate for urgently needed medical research and advances.

NOW THEREFORE WE, THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FOLKSTON, GEORGIA do hereby proclaim Monday, April 19th, 2021 as **CONGENITAL HERNIA AWARENESS DAY** in the City of Folkston and encourage all residents to join in this observance.



Lee Gowen, Mayor

Marion G. Davis, Jr
Mayor Pro-Tem

Ruby Baker
Councilmember

Rob Roberson
Councilmember

Bruce Young
Councilmember



10590 West Ocean Air Drive, Suite 300
San Diego, CA 92130

March 5, 2021

City of Folkston, Georgia
541 S 1st St.
Folkston, GA 31537

Re: AT&T Cell Site Lease Partnership | FA: **10099170** | Site Name: GA5332/DT Folkston

Dear City of Folkston, Georgia,

AT&T is in a very competitive space and we need to ensure that our lease terms and conditions are supportive of our current and future needs. AT&T has the option to either extend or terminate the above referenced lease ("Lease") in approximately three years. AT&T is instituting a new program to evaluate terms and conditions of all leases coming up for renewal, explore advance renegotiation options and consider possible alternative site locations. Our first choice is to create a new agreement that serves both parties well. Conditions we desire to implement in all new "go forward" leases include:

- "Real Estate Rights": In its simplest form, a lease right to utilize the entire RAD center without any "per touch" rent upcharges.
- Rents reduced to competitive rates.
- Reduced or no annual escalators (depending on other terms of the overall new deal).
- "Fair" early termination rights.

As you know, it takes time to negotiate, plan and execute a site relocation. That is why AT&T's review process is starting now. Please review the specifics of our Lease agreement and advise if you are willing to enter into discussions regarding a new, modified contract. For new terms consistent with the above, AT&T will in turn consider additional term extensions.

AT&T will appreciate a reply within 60 days of receipt of this letter. A "no" or non-response will trigger AT&T's review of alternate locations. A positive response will be appreciated, but satisfactory terms and conditions must be negotiated within 90 days or AT&T will continue to evaluate alternative site locations. Responses may be sent via email, standard mail, or called in as designated below. Please reference FA number 10099170 in your response so that AT&T may ensure your response is documented accordingly. AT&T values its association with you and looks forward to continuing this relationship for the long term.

Sincerely,

Greg Ohmer
Director – Network Planning

Email Responses to: g03998@att.com with a Subject line of **Partnership - FA 10099170**

Mail Responses to: AT&T Cell Site Partnership 1347 (FA **10099170**)

1025 Lenox Park Blvd NE
Atlanta, GA 30319

Telephone Number: **888-517-1212** (8am to 5pm PDT)

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