

**Minutes
CITY OF FOLKSTON
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
July 17, 2023**

The Mayor and Council of the City of Folkston met in regular session on July 17, 2023 at City Hall.

Mayor Lee 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: Jamison Guice, Charlton County Herald and Elaine Bailey

AGENDA

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

MINUTES

Mr. Bruce Young made a motion to approve the minutes for the Work Session, June 12, 2023 and Regular Meeting, June 12, 2023 as presented. Mr. Jim Gowen seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

APPROVE INCOME AND EXPENSE STATEMENTS

Mr. Rob Roberson made a motion to approve the income and expense statements for June, 2023 as presented. Mrs. Ruby Baker seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Chief Wesley Green stated the police department filed 33 incident reports, investigated 7 accidents and answered 1,269 calls during the month of June 2023.

The police department collected \$11,379.00 in fines and forfeitures; the city's portion is \$8,306.27.

He then stated that the city has received the new patrol car and the equipment will be installed once the bids are received and approved.

The police department made three arrests for the theft of catalytic converters, two locals individuals and one person from Orange Park. The investigation is ongoing at this time.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Mr. Lloyd stated the 2022 Audit has been completed. The council was given a copy for their review.

He then gave a review on the list of projects, by priority that were submitted to the Department of Transportation for the LMIG and TSPPOST funds. The list had to be submitted by last Friday, July 14, 2023. The state will decide which project will be funded. The city is projected to receive \$5 million for the new Transportation Investment Act (TSPLOST) over a ten-year period. Mayor Lee Gowen stated there will be a referendum on the ballot to renew the TSPLOST in May 2024.

- 1) Dixie Lake Bridge Reconstruction; \$2,761,218.00
- 2) Third Street Resurfacing (Love St. to Health Department); \$1,317,386.00
- 3) Bowery Lane Sewer, Drainage and Paving; 1,276,800.00
- 4) Henri Road Drainage and Paving; \$1,640,804.00
- 5) Eula Street Drainage and Paving; \$727,586.00

MELODEY MARTINDALE / OKEFENOKEE CHAMBER

Not present.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Mr. Lloyd stated he had attended a meeting last Thursday, July 13th in Waycross regarding a promotional presentation on the Okefenokee Swamp becoming a World Heritage Site and the impact it will have on the community if it should be awarded. Mayor Lee Gowen stated the swamp has been looking at the possibility of being recognized as a World Heritage Site for several years.

Mrs. Elaine Bailey expressed her concerns about the lack of a traffic light at US1 and Indian Trail, where the new service station is located. Mayor Lee Gowen stated the city has looked into putting a traffic light at this location and was told the location does not meet the state's requirements. The city and county will continue to pursue the issue.

ADJOURN:

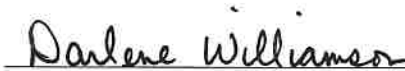
Mr. Marion Davis made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Rob Roberson seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

The meeting adjourned at 7:03 PM.



Lee Gowen, Mayor

ATTEST:



Darlene Williamson, City Clerk