

The regular meeting of the Mayor and Council was held at Laurens County Library, on Thursday, December 7, 2023 at 5:30 P.M.

Mayor Joshua Kight called the meeting to order. Council members Bill Brown, Bennie Jones, Tess Godfrey, Sara Kolbie, Paul Griggs, Chris Smith, and Rich Mascaro present. The invocation was given followed by the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Presentation of Employee of the Quarter:
Marissa Moon was presented with Employee of the 3rd Quarter.

Service Pin Awards:

Kris Harden	8/1/23	40 Years (Purchasing Dept)
Patti Fountain	8/12/23	10 Years (Police Dept)
Danny Raburn	11/4/12	10 Years (Shop)
Albert Padilla	11/6/23	10 Years (Water Distribution)
Lena Lee	12/6/23	10 Years (Police Department)

APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 16, 2023 COUNCIL MEETING AND NOVEMBER 28, 2023 SPECIAL CALLED CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilman Jones and seconded by Councilwoman Kolbie to approve the minutes. The motion carried 7/0.

APPROVAL OF BILLS OVER \$15,000

A motion was made by Councilman Griggs and was seconded by Councilwoman Godfrey to approve the following bills. The motion carried 7/0.

CHECK#	DATE	PAYMENT TO	PURCHASE	AMOUNT
DFT0001772	10/31/23	Internal Revenue Service	Payroll Tax	110,504.56
DFT0001773	10/31/23	Department of Revenue	Payroll Tax	20,638.80
1001	11/01/23	Laurens County Commissioners	Excess SPLOST Proceeds FY 2023	85,609.16
38296	11/03/23	Dublin-Laurens Co. Recreation	Appropriations/Hotel-Motel Tax	84,709.57
38308	11/03/23	Laurens County Library	Appropriations	18,580.06
PSpecial1023	11/03/23	Morris State Bank-Visa	Purchasing Special Oct 23	17,758.81
38330	11/03/23	T. Lake Environmental Design	FY 24 Landscaping Fees	17,495.85
38297	11/03/23	Dublin-Laurens Tourism Council	Hotel-Motel Tax	30,564.57
38292	11/03/23	Downtown Developement Authority	Hotel-Motel Tax	15,282.30
GuardianNov	11/03/23	Guardian	Insurance	17,017.26
38354	11/09/23	Dublin Board of Education	October 2023 Tax Collection	752,658.63
110923	11/09/23	Partnership Card Service	Visa Card Purchases	16,933.98
38385	11/13/23	Georgia Power Company	Utilities	1,624,196.53
DFT0001790	11/14/23	Internal Revenue Service	Payroll Tax	107,933.19
DFT0001791	11/14/23	Department of Revenue	Payroll Tax	20,139.67
DFT0001821	11/15/23	GA Environmental Facilities Auth	GEFA Payments	16,951.09
DFT0001800	11/16/23	Georgia Department of Revenue	Sales Tax for October 2023	16,161.82
DFT0001801	11/16/23	Internal Revenue Service	Incentive Payroll Tax	23,192.80

38433	11/17/23	Ryland Oil Company	Restock Fuel	21,951.21
38412	11/17/23	Dominy Oil Company, Inc.	Restock Fuel	22,927.12
38423	11/17/23	Laurens County SWMA	Landfill Fees	45,175.88
CSHOct23	11/21/23	Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia	Gas Purchase	19,089.56
MGAGOct23	11/21/23	Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia	Gas Purchase	645,984.81
38455	11/22/23	C.E. Garbutt Construction Co., Inc.	City Hall Bricka and Window Project	35,580.08
38490	11/22/23	Thomas & Hutton Engineering Co.	East Jackson/Madison/Stubbs/US80	23,172.00
38492	11/22/23	Truist Bank	November 2023 Payments	116,658.08
DFT0001807	11/29/23	Internal Revenue Service	Payroll Tax	129,255.97
DFT0001806	11/29/23	Department of Revenue	Payroll Tax	23,986.44
38529	11/30/23	Dublin Industrial Services	Metal Building/Water Plant Lab-Breakroom	68,529.00
38532	11/30/23	GA Power Company	Utilities	82,088.74
38516	11/30/23	Axon Enterprise Inc.	Body Cameras/Taser/Training	169,335.56
RetirementNov	12/01/23	GMEBS-Retirement Trust Fund	Insurance	155,537.67
Total:				\$4,555,600.77

APPROVAL OF PURCHASES OVER \$15,000

There were two purchases for council consideration:

Telecommunications - 2 A10CGNAT (Carrier Grade Network Address Translation) Thunder 1040 Devices. The devices recommended for purchase will allow for the assignment of additional ports to our current IP addresses which will allow us to use the existing IP addresses, and be will be broken into different ports. The cost of this equipment and installation is \$47,609.14, which will go over Telecomm's "Other Equipment Budget by \$22,609.14, which we propose to pay for out of Telecomm Reserves. Staff's recommendation was to approve the purchase from ePlus Technology, Inc. Out of Herndon, Virginia. This will be paid for out of Account #570-4750-542500 (Telecomm. Other Equipment).

Natural Gas - Roof Replacement - This purchase will be the replacement of the old dome roof on the front bricked portion of the facility. There have been a number of leaks in the roof since the gas department moved into the building. Dublin Construction submitted a quote for this work including a 15-year warranty on materials and labor in the amount of \$69,800. This was not budgeted, but staff intends to use gas reserves to pay for this purchase. Staff's recommendation was to approve the purchase for a new roof from Dublin Construction. This will be paid for from account # 515-4700-522205.

Councilman Mascaro made a motion to approve both purchases and seconded by Councilman Brown. The motion carried 7/0 to approve.

REPORT FROM ELECTION SUPERINTENDENT ON CERTIFIED ELECTION RESULTS FROM THE NOVEMBER 7, 2023 CITY ELECTION

Election Superintendent, Heather Browning, presented the official and complete results from the November 7, 2023 election.

<u>Mayor</u>	
Joshua E. Kight	1,384
<u>City Council Ward 1</u>	
Bennie Jones	189
<u>City Council Ward 2</u>	
Chris Smith	325
<u>City Council Ward 3</u>	
Paul Griggs	522
<u>City Council Ward 4</u>	
Rae S. Bloodworth	158
Bill Brown	236
<u>Board of Education District 1</u>	
JoAnna M. Glover	147
Kerry L. Smith	78
<u>Board of Education District 2</u>	
Peggy Davis Johnson	319
<u>Board of Education District 3</u>	
Bill Perry	98
Amanda Yates Smith	459
<u>Board of Education District 4</u>	
James Lanier	335
<u>Board of Education At Large</u>	
Tony Ingrando	659
Regina McRae	899

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON RESOLUTION #23-48 FOR CDBG GRANT WRITER
& ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES CONTRACT FOR THE MARY MOORE
IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

City Manager Powell read resolution #23-48 to approve the agreement with Grant Specialists of Georgia, Inc. to prepare and submit a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application for the Mary/Moore Streets improvement Project for fiscal year 2024, to approve subsequent agreement with Grant Specialists of Georgia, Inc. to administer the project funds if said grant is awarded, to commit necessary funding for these services. Staff solicited proposals for grant writing and administration services for the 2024 CDBG Project, for what will be called the Mary Tyler Moore Drainage Project. This project, if the grant application is successful, will involve improving the drainage on West Mary Street and West Moore Street and also sidewalks and resurfacing of West Mary Street. Grant Specialists of Georgia was recommended by staff to be awarded the grant writing and administrative services if the grant is awarded. The fee for preparation of the FY'24 CDBG Application is \$5,500. If the city is awarded the grant, their fee will be 6% of the project cost and staff is anticipating applying for \$1 Million in grant funds. There will be a required match as well. This will be paid for out of budgeted funds for professional services from Urban Redevelopment Account # 100-7310-521200. Staff's recommendation was to approve the resolution. Councilwoman Kolbie made a motion to approve the resolution and seconded by Councilman Jones. The motion carried 7/0 for approval.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON AWARD OF BID FOR THE HYDRANT REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Staff solicited bids for hydrant replacement on the following hydrants:

- DUB - 0326 - North Drive and Church
- DUB - 0528 - North Decatur and E. Gaines
- DUB - 0467 - Marcus @ Kingsby
- DUB - 0640 - Charles W. Manning, Sr. Way and E. Garner
- DUB - 0284 - Carter and Lily
- DUB - 0344 - Kersey Lane and Coleman Court
- DUB - 0355 - Edgewood Drive @ Greenwood Drive
- DUB - 0438 - Fairmont @ Regency Cir.
- DUB - 0801 - Bellevue Rd. Across from Laurel Lane
- DUB - 1052 - Greenway Drive and Edgewood Drive

Staff budgeted \$100,000 in the general fund to cover the work, but would like to ask council to approve the replacement of all of these hydrants and utilize Water R&E Funds to supplement the budgeted amount. The low bid was from L&L Utilities in the amount of \$257,000. Staff's recommendation was that council award the bid to L&L Utilities. This will be paid from account #100-3520-522200 (\$100K) and the amount over budget will be supplemented from the Water R&E Reserves. Councilman Brown made a motion to approve and seconded by Councilman Jones. The motion carried 7/0 to approve.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON TIA AGREEMENT FOR INDUSTRIAL BOULEVARD

City Manager Powell explained that in the last referendum for the T-SPLOST, our regional project of widening Industrial Blvd from US Highway 80 to US 441 was approved. It includes the creation of three lanes with raised median sections and auxiliary lanes at intersections. It also includes sidewalks on each side of the road and a single lane roundabout at the intersection with Walke Dairy Road. This project will be reimbursed to the city with T-SPLOST funds and, at the time the project was submitted, the estimated cost was \$13,979,000. This round of T-SPLOST funding started collections in January of 2023. The agreement is with the Georgia Department of Transportation to verify that TIA funds will cover this project and establish the different phases of it that we must follow in order to receive that funding. Staff's recommendation was to approve the agreement. Councilman Mascaro made a motion to approve the agreement and seconded by Councilman Brown. The motion carried 7/0 for approval.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON RESOLUTION #23-49 TO TRANSFER PROPERTIES TO THE LAND BANK AUTHORITY

City Manager Powell read resolution #23-49 to execute and deliver a quitclaim deed of certain properties to the Dublin-Laurens Land Bank Authority. The city has 37 properties that need to be transferred to the Land Bank so they can begin work to get them into private hands for development and/or maintenance. City Planner, Tara Bradshaw, has worked closely with the Land Bank to evaluate each property and determine a value and future development potential for each of them. These are all vacant lots except for one. The properties are:

- Tract 1: 104 Chester Street; D11B 061
- Tract 2: 1008 N Franklin Street; D15C 033
- Tract 3: Akerman Street; D15D 155
- Tract 4: 822 N Church Street; D15E 062

Tract 5: 304 Johnson Street; D15F 059
 Tract 6: 507 Stone Street; D15F 071
 Tract 7: 209 Bainbridge Street; D15F 120
 Tract 8: 215 Mincey Street; D16A 162
 Tract 9: 217 Mincey Street; D16A 163
 Tract 10: 221 Mincey Street; D16A 165
 Tract 11: 407 N Church Street; D16A 172
 Tract 12: 210 1/2 Prince Street; D16A 180
 Tract 13: 211 Prince Street; D16A 183
 Tract 14: 214 Sawyer Street; D16A 192
 Tract 15: 215 Sawyer Street; D16A 201
 Tract 16: 107 W Johnson Street; D16B 251
 Tract 17: 207 Mincey Street; D16B 263
 Tract 18: 209 Mincey Street; D16B 264
 Tract 19: 210 Mincey Street; D16B 269
 Tract 20: 202 Hughes Street; D16D 215
 Tract 21: 815 S Jefferson Street; D16F 116
 Tract 22: 813 1-2 S Jefferson Street; D16F 118
 Tract 23: 111 Marshall Street; D16F 285
 Tract 24: 122 Marshall Street; D16F 290
 Tract 25: Wabash Street; D16F 333
 Tract 26: 201 Ray Street; D17A 141
 Tract 27: 209 Ray Street; D17A 145
 Tract 28: 405 Ella Street; D17C 119
 Tract 29: Ella Street; D17C 120
 Tract 30: 302 Hayes Street; D17C 156
 Tract 31: Hayes Street; D17C 157
 Tract 32: Ray Street; D17C 16
 Tract 33: S Washington Street; D20C 045
 Tract 34: 510 Wabash Street; D20E 045
 Tract 35: Wabash Street; D20E 056
 Tract 36: Wabash Street; D20E 060
 Tract 37: Pearl Avenue; D20E 082

Staff's recommendation was to approve the resolution to authorize the transfer of these properties to the Land Bank. Councilman Jones made a motion to approve the resolution and seconded by Councilman Mascaro. The motion carried 7/0 to for approval.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON RESOLUTION #23-50 TO REDUCE THE MAXIMUM SPEED LIMIT ON CERTAIN CITY STREETS

City Manager Powell read resolution #23-50 to reduce the maximum speed limit on certain streets within the corporate limits of the City of Dublin which include: Woods Avenue, Hudson Drive, Village Circle, Cardinal Drive, and Edgewood Drive. Traffic Calming Cycle 2 involved evaluation of the following streets:

Brookhaven Drive;
 Brookwood Drive;
 Springdale Road;
 Woods Avenue;
 Waverly Drive;
 Village Circle;
 Shadow Pond Road;
 Live Oak Way;
 Heartwood Lane;
 Cardinal Drive;
 Edgewood Drive;
 Hudson Drive (Kersey-Fred's Lane) [Note* Smith Street to Stewart Avenue was studied with Cycle 1 for effects on Kersey Lane].

Councilwoman Kolbie made a motion to approve the resolution and seconded by Councilman Brown. The motion carried 7/0 for approval.

PUBLIC HEARING ON CLOSURE OF EARLWOOD DRIVE

City Manager Powell explained that Earlwood Drive was included in Cycle 1 of our Traffic Calming Program "Project Slow Zone". Staff studied the road, sent notification letters about the process, and closed the road with temporary measures to study the effects of doing that. The results indicate the neighborhood is being used as a cut-through to the disturbance of many of the residents who have voiced their concerns. In accordance with city traffic calming policy, approved by the council, City Manager Powell provided notice to the residents of the neighborhood that the council may be considering permanent closure and gave them a 30-day period of the month of December to provide staff with feedback on doing that. The purpose of the hearing is to allow for citizens to speak directly to council about any concerns they have about closing or not closing the street on a permanent basis. Mayor Kight closed the meeting and opened a public hearing. The following citizens spoke on the closure:

Michael McCarn, 213 Earlwood Drive, thanked Mr. Matthew Bradshaw, City Manager Powell, and Mayor Kight for supporting the studies that have been done. Thanked the citizens that came out to support this. As a neighborhood supports the closure.

Ben Hall, 217 Earlwood Drive, talked about problems that have been there since the beginning was the entrance and exit onto Walke Dairy Road was only a 5ft radius, it's too narrow. He suggested taking the median out and widening to solve that problem.

Bob Walker, 206 Wellington Drive, he is in opposition to closure at this time. He believes that staff should try installing speed cushions in the neighborhood to slow the traffic down. Possibly placed at the end of Wellington Drive.

Susan Johnson, 203 Earlwood Drive, thanked the council for listening to the citizens concerns. She reminded council of her three mailboxes that have been demolished while living there. Also stated that she doesn't have to pick up trash since the closure and she feels safe. She hopes that council will permanently close Earlwood.

Dr. Randall Ozment, 221 Earlwood Drive, stated that there has been a dramatic difference in the quality of life in the neighborhood since the temporary closure. He also stated that the speed cushion would just punish the neighbors that live there.

Dwayne Greer, 210 Earlwood Drive, in opposition of closing the road. Walke Dairy Road is very narrow, to get in and out he has to pull in the other lane to get in and out of the street. The road is about to collapse on both sides and the curbing is completely gone. It's a very dangerous intersection at Georgia United Credit Union. Also talked about the damage on his property since the temporary closure.

Dale Whittle, 212 Wellington Drive, thanked council for the temporary closure and would prefer a permanent closure on the Walke Dairy entrance. Veterans entrance is much wider, possibly add a three lane for turning out.

Laura Ozment, 221 Earlwood Drive, read a letter from Eddie Moore (220 Earlwood Drive) support the closure of the road and widening the median at the Walke Dairy entrance to allow it to be more accessible. Spoke about the closing of Linda Vista in reference to this closure. She stated that she has personally almost been hit head on from a truck in the wrong lane on her street.

Gail Yates, 207 Wellington Drive, would like the Veterans Blvd side opened and close the Walke Dairy exit.

Catherine Morris, 211 Earlwood Drive, states that she has been slow to warm up to the closure. There needs to be a correction at the Walke Dairy end and add a gate for necessary use.

Karen West, 218 Earlwood Drive, stated that she doesn't care which end is closed, she just wants is closed. Speed cushion isn't a solution, it's the cut threw traffic.

Robert Hooks, 216 Earlwood Drive, he likes the idea of closing the road and either end will be fine.

Mayor Kight closed the public meeting and reopened the council meeting. No action was taken on this item. Mayor Kight announced that council will look at taken action on this item at the January 18, 2023 meeting.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON AN AGREEMENT WITH FLOCK GROUP, INC.

City Manager Powell explained that council approved the agreement for the public safety grant through the Governor's Office for public safety and community violence reduction in the amount of \$1,280,370.30 back at our July 6, 2023 council meeting. This included funds for 20 Flock tag reader cameras to be installed in the Housing Authority Properties. Now that the budget for the grant has been approved, staff is ready to move forward with the purchase of those cameras. The first-year cost is \$57,000 and then will be \$50,000 thereafter, up to a total of four years. The Grant will cover the first three years of this contract, and the city will pick up the cost for the last year. This will be paid from Account #224-3221-542500 (Violence Reduction Grant - Other Equipment). This was not budgeted. Councilman Mascaro made a motion to approve the agreement and seconded by Councilman Brown. The motion carried 7/0 for approval.

DISCUSSION ON RESOLUTION #23-51 TO AWARD A BID FOR THE INDUSTRIAL SEWER PROJECT

City Manager Powell read resolution #23-51 to authorize the award of a bid to RPI Underground, Inc. for the Dublin Industrial Park Sewer Improvements & Rehabilitation Project; to authorize the City Manager to approve change orders. Staff received two bids on the Industrial Sewer Project. The city has an EDA Grant for this project in the amount of \$2,620,000 and also have a GEFA Loan in the amount of \$4,880,400, and \$275,000

of that will be forgiven. The low bid came in at \$7,614,562.92 from RPI Underground, Inc. out of Valdosta, Georgia. This bid price doesn't include engineering costs, property acquisition costs, wetland costs, grant administration costs, and construction observation and oversight costs that will total around \$860,000 on top of this figure. Since the bid opening, our engineers with Carter and Sloope have reviewed the bid documents and found around \$480,000 in savings with the contractor by changing some of the process from pipe bursting to traditional open cut placement based on the breakdown of the bid received. We have \$7,500,400 in funding available for the project and are going to be roughly \$500,000 short after the change order savings. The contractor has been notified of a substantial price increase (35%) in one of its suppliers for the trench rock that will be needed for the project that will take place at the first of the year. The rock needed for the project amounts to about \$800,000 of the bid cost. Staff would like to go ahead and get council approval to award the bid, and then immediately execute the change order to reduce the cost of the project with the open cut adjustment. Our engineers with Carter and Sloope recommend the contractor and have worked with them before. Staff is planning to go back to GEFA to see if there is additional principal forgiveness available for this project or at least additional loans available. Pay back for the loan doesn't start until the project is complete. Staff's recommendation was to approve the resolution to approve the award of the bid. Councilman Griggs made a motion to approve the resolution and seconded by Councilman Mascaro. The motion carried 7/0 for approval.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON DECLARATION OF SURPLUS

The following vehicles and equipment are being submitted to Mayor and Council for surplus declaration.

Unit #66 (Purchasing) 2003 Ford F-150(181094 miles) VIN 2FTRF17W53CA82410
Unit #636 (Water Distribution)2000 Ditch Witch J20-D Trencher 530.0 hours)
Lot of 3 X-Mark Zero Turns (Golf Course)
Shredmaster 1656S (Finance)
Stove (Solid Waste)
Lot of Filing Cabinets (Solid Waste)
Unit #174 (Police Patrol) - 2005 Ford Explorer (152368miles) VIN 1FMZU72K85ZA76096
Unit #412 (Solid Waste) - 1997 Ford F-700 Dump Truck (205585 miles) VIN 1FDXF70J2VVA43704
Goosen Versa-Vac (Golf Course)

Councilman Griggs made a motion to approve the surplus and seconded by Councilwoman Kolbie. The motion carried 7/0 for approval.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Jacqueline Jaudon Wright thanked the mayor and council for a job well done. Thanked Councilman Chris Smith and Councilwoman Tess Godfrey for the speed cushions on Hudson Drive.

Vonda Morton gifted council with a Georgia Flag and then said the pledge to the flag.

John Hall asked that the clock downtown be fixed with the correct time.

Sonya May Calvin wished Councilwoman Godfrey a Happy Birthday and Payton Towns a Happy Anniversary.

Maylin Stauff expressed her concern about crime and the need for safety.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Brown thanked everyone for coming and for the citizen input and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Councilman Jones thanked all the citizens for coming out especially the ones that expressed their opinions. Also congratulated the employees that received service awards. Stated that council is giving the resources to help with the crime.

Councilwoman Godfrey thanked everyone for coming out and wished everyone a Merry Christmas

Councilwoman Kolbie thanked the citizens for being engaged and proactive in their town. Reminded everyone to be concern about each other. Also reminded citizens about the MyDublin311 app. Wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Councilman Griggs thanked everyone for coming and congratulated to employees that received service awards. Wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Councilman Smith wished everyone Happy Holidays.

Councilman Mascaro thanked everyone for coming and Merry Christmas.

City Manager Powell update on City Hall improvements and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Mayor Kight thanked the Dublin Exchange and all the volunteers for their hard work pulling a tremendous Christmas parade. Also thanked the police and staff for working overtime to make it work. Wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Kight adjourned the meeting at 7:00 P.M.


Joshua E. Kight, Mayor

ATTEST:

Heather M. Browning, City Clerk

