



### REGULAR MEETING

The Regular Meeting of the Hogansville City Council was held on Monday, March 5, 2018. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Stankiewicz at 7:00 p.m.

Present were Mayor Bill Stankiewicz, Council Member Reginald Jackson, Council Member Marichal Price, Council Member Fred Higgins, Council Member George Bailey, and Council Member Theresa Strickland. Also present were City Manager David Milliron, City Attorney Jeff Todd, City Clerk Lisa Kelly, and Chief of Police Brian Harr. Council Member Bailey gave the invocation and Mayor Stankiewicz led the pledge.

Motion was made by Council Member Strickland to amend the agenda striking items #4-Proposed Energy Audit Program and #6-Recreation Enhancements, under new business, seconded by Council Member Jackson. Carried 3-1 with Higgins opposing. Bailey abstained from a vote. Motion by Strickland to approved the agenda as amended, seconded by Bailey. Carried 5-0.

Motion was made by Council Member Higgins to approve the Work Session held on February 19, 2018, seconded by Council Member Jackson. Carried 5-0

Motion was made by Council Member Higgins to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on February 19, 2018, seconded by Council Member Price. Carried 5-0

### PRESENTATIONS

1. Audit Presentation -- Wilcox & Bivings. Stephan Wilcox of Wilcox & Bivings gave the audit presentation explaining the City's financial position at fiscal year-end 6/30/2017. A copy of this presentation is recorded as part of the permanent record for this meeting. Strickland asked if the line of credit was paid in full, to which staff confirmed the law requires the line of credit to be paid in full by calendar year end and that obligation was met. She also asked if the shortage in the debt reserve is new. Mayor explained how the reserve requirements work and this ongoing comment has been included in many previous audits. Bivings noted he is required to make a lot of adjustments but not nearly as many as he did 4-5 years ago. Depreciation is the biggest adjustments being made. Capital additions are made to include grant funds and SPLOST account. One other comment made during the audit was SPLOST IV over reimbursed the general fund but the adjustment was made immediately in-house. The finding was there at June 30, 2017 and adjusted during the audit. Bivings also noted the City has made improvements but needs to continue to find ways to increase its overall position.

2. Police Department Annual Report. Chief Harr made presentation on the statistical data for all crimes, citizen complaints and the outcome, and community involvement. In addition to the statistical report, he addressed the situation with a student at the bus stop. Bailey asked how the City handles the potential for guns in schools and the plan. Harr stated the school and the Police Department know what each other would do in an emergency situation and work on that plan regularly. ALICE is the program he has seen in the works most often but additional discussions are being held regularly with the school. He closed with announcing the annual Easter Egg Hunt, March 24, 9am at Hendrix Stadium. This is a popular event for community children.

#### OLD BUSINESS

1. 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading & Adoption – Council Reimbursement Ordinance. Jeff Todd read the caption for the proposed ordinance. Motion by Jackson to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Bailey. Carried 5-0
2. 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading & Adoption – Defined Benefit Retirement Plan Amendment. Jeff Todd read the caption for amending the retirement plan to allow for immediate vesting of the City Manager position. Motion by Higgins to adopt the amendment, seconded by Jackson. Carried 5-0
3. Restrooms – Lake Jimmy Jackson & Amphitheater. Milliron noted information is being provided on the restrooms based on initial discussions and recommendations for the restrooms at both facilities. Milliron feels a two-restroom facility will suffice for the lake. The restroom at the Tower Trail will also be served from the amphitheater and a three-restroom plan is being provided. Water fountains are attached to both buildings; graffiti control products are being used for low maintenance. Only two upgrades; fiberglass doors and battery back-up remote locking system based on a schedule. The two-restroom model proposed for the lake is \$100k and the three-restroom model is quoted at \$140k. Would like input from the Council prior to moving forward with additional construction. Strickland asked about changing clothes at the lake; could we add changing rooms? Milliron stated there is a maintenance room but no other room for changing rooms without expanding the building. Jackson asked if the stalls are open to others. Milliron stated they are single stalls. Milliron noted we will need to go before Historic preservation for the amphitheater before beginning construction. The Mayor stated to the public if questions arise, please call any member of Council or come to the Town Hall Meeting on Thursday night. Milliron reminded everyone we still must bid out the concrete and other construction, prefab construction will need to be completed, plans drawn and approval from Hogansville Historic Preservation Commission. Bailey asked if these buildings can handle wind and storms. Milliron stated these are used all over the country and he has seen these personally. Designed to last and be low maintenance. Bailey stated he feels good about moving forward but concerned we may eventually have to move porta-potties onto the site to accommodate guests. Milliron noted the numbers are calculated based on the numbers that could use the facilities at any given time. Motion by Bailey to move forward with 2 - 3 restroom facilities, seconded by Jackson. Carried 5-0

4. Blight Ordinance Discussion. Milliron stated the GMA ordinance has been presented in the packet and the City attorney was asked to do some research on the maximum amount of property tax to impose based on prior discussions. Penalty not to be in compliance with blighted property ordinance. Has seen a lot of cities with 7% but has seen as high as 10%. Mayor stated we should have a clear definition of blight. Todd stated he does not have any experience with this ordinance but would target the same type cases as nuisance issues. Todd asked for clarification from Milliron for the types of properties will be targeted. Milliron stated the properties must be uninhabitable. 2 blighted properties now and the legal bills came in today and it is expensive. Need to attack aggressively. Would like the Council to consider a field trip and gave a couple of examples. Mechanism in place right now puts the burden on the tax payer to make improvements happen. City of Griffin aggressively put the owners on notice and if not remedied by tax time, new taxes are imposed. Once property is fixed and satisfactory, then an incentive is given with tax break. All properties so far are not paid for by SPLOST dollars because we do not own the property. Working on utility holds in the UB system and clearly define categories 1-5. Staff is currently in the process of implementing 4s-5s as utility holds. If flagged as utility hold, it triggers an inspection. Jackson asked if there is any way to speed up the current process? Todd stated the overall procedure is not long and drawn out on his end but he cannot control the time allowed by the Judge. The Judge makes his own decision on the court date and in most cases will allow time to fix. Higgins asked if Griffin and Jackson are identical? Milliron stated they are similar but not identical but both are taking down dozens of houses on a regular basis. They are receiving clear direction from Council and it is working well. Research showed that 25 local governments have adopted this ordinance. Milliron stated budget dollars will need to be pulled from other areas and everything is generating expense with the current process. Higgins stated there is a lot of blight and he would like to go visit Jackson, Ga. Jackson would like to see how many cities are using the GMA ordinance. Todd noted tonight's discussion is for review only and will need direction to move forward from Council. Strickland stated she has concerns and is not willing to impose a tax. Higgins stated he wants to see Hogansville grow and expand and would like to move forward. The City should be prepared to set aside \$3k per property for however many will come down in a budget year. Strickland feels we have several obstacles such as trash that will distract. Jackson asked if we can raise fines? Milliron stated the Council does control that. If we don't tear down within a certain amount of time, we have to go through the process again. Don't have enough staff or resources to deal with big picture. Jackson confirmed the 7% is what is proposed and would be a great start. Will not start seeing the revenue until a year later but will give the City teeth with letters to begin the process. Jackson asked if this ordinance will give owners time to fix before taxes are imposed. Approximately 120 homes are on the list. 10% of the housing stock in the City. Mayor stated this tax is just imposed on the City portion of taxes, not total tax. If we enact the tax, the number becomes affixed in 2019. Todd explained the process and clarified unoccupied dwellings is the matter of law. The City would choose the percentage of the tax. In the list, these would be category 5 properties;

unoccupied, half falling in. Price inquired about utilities being cut on in a questionable property. Milliron stated the ordinance handles the category 5 properties and a separate policy is now being implemented regarding utility holds. If a new tenant comes in, property owner will be required to have an inspection done. Goal is to make sure property can be inhabitable through following International code and helps to look out for tenants that no one else is looking out for. No money can be gained from the owner for dilapidated properties. Codes must be addressed and implemented but needs support from the Council. Strickland stated the council has been addressing the issues with the utilities and questioned can we do inspections on all properties. Mayor stated we cannot inspect every property but can identify the worst. Milliron stated we are currently working with GICH for clear definitions for the different categories. Mayor asked how to proceed? Jackson asked about leaving the percentage open. Motion by Higgins to move forward with adopting the GMA model blight ordinance and put it in format that is conducive to Hogansville, seconded by Jackson. Carried 5-0

#### NEW BUSINESS

1. Patrol Car Purchase Proposal. Milliron stated this is a lease purchase proposal. Previously brought this to attention of the Council. Vehicles are older and repair costs will begin to rise. Proposal to address the vehicles and the financing of such. When 2019 SPLOST funds kick in can pay leases out. Looking to sale some vehicles and remove from the fleet. Jackson asked if the seized funds can take care of this until SPLOST funds will begin. Will not receive SPLOST checks until March / April of 2019. If something should happen could take council action and use GF dollars until SPLOST funds begin to arrive. Milliron stated the vehicles are 2017 Ford Explorer utility vehicles. Chief, in coming back from training and talking with other chiefs, these seem to be the best vehicles cost, maintenance, repairs, etc. 7 year, 100k mile warranty. Seeing these a lot now. Strickland stated she noticed an AJC article, five vehicles purchased by Smyrna, can we look at these as example? Harr stated we are looking at the same company that is handling the lease. He was concerned of upfitting. Brannen is best for upfitting and has compared the two. Feels this is a better deal for their experience. Can get from state contract but then has to be sent off for upcharged items. 2018 was the item Smyrna purchased and just challenged them to explore all options. Milliron stated we must purchase 2017 to fit within the budget. We really did our homework for the last six weeks. Motion by Jackson to purchase / lease for PD I Higgins. Carried 5-0
2. Police Department Ordinance Amendment. Last meeting Chief presented proposed ordinance amendments. Mayor asked if this is ready for a first reading? Motion by Higgins to amend the agenda to allow for a 1<sup>st</sup> reading, seconded by Jackson. Carried 5-0. Todd read the 1<sup>st</sup> reading of the proposed ordinance amendments.
3. Language Access Plan Resolution - CDBG 2017. Milliron stated this is a housekeeping item as part of the CDBG 2017. DCA requires a Language Access Plan to help people who do not speak English well. Requires us to post the documents and the City Clerk is

the program administrator. Motion by Strickland to adopt the resolution, seconded by Higgins. Carried 5-0

4. Proposed Residential Energy Audit Program. This item was stricken from the agenda.
5. Financial Advisor Recommendations. Milliron stated in the packet is a staff review of financial advisors. Staff would like to recommend Davenport and would like to bring before the Council on March 19<sup>th</sup>. Some credentials were presented comparing other entities. Looking at comparative analysis Davenport is far superior. Strickland asked if we considered the number 1 spot, PFM? Milliron stated all were heavily looked at and in Georgia only but Davenport still ranked higher in overall management and services. Mayor confirmed this. Strickland asked if Davenport had done the work for Villa Rica in 2015? Milliron stated he did not work directly with them but inherited. He confirmed in looking at private vs. public, tax exempt vs non-exempt. Looked closely at public sector and Davenport stood on top, particularly those engaged with public entities, debt must be privately placed. PFM will not be rooted in all areas. Strickland stated she would like to see PFM and be certain we are making the right decision for the City based on all the mistakes in the past with prior officials. Milliron stated he will be meeting with Springstead this week. Bailey stated let's look at both the top two based on the list provided. Mayor would like to handle at a work session to include energy audit and recreation enhancements. Work Session prior to next meeting was scheduled for 5:30pm.
6. Proposed Recreation Enhancements. This item was stricken from the agenda.

#### CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- a. This weekend fire hydrants were replaced and did not go as smoothly as planned and goes back to a previous issue and dealing with water system designed to push water outward where the City is pushing water inward. Fire hydrants are repaired and cut-off valves in place after the 3<sup>rd</sup> time being scheduled. As always weather has been a factor in accomplishing the work. Will work harder in the future to better communicate with customers. FaceBook is working and of 3100 residents, 1000 are watching the City. Will try to better utilize Nixel. We were not able to get everyone informed but will work harder in the future.
- b. The City is experiencing a loss of 1.2% in natural gas that is being lost due to slowing meters because of their age. Staff is performing audits on all gas meters and will look at this more closely during the budget. Gas meters should be replaced every ten years.
- c. Prior concerns of paving on Tallafiero and others will be addressed April 9<sup>th</sup> (prep) and April 10<sup>th</sup> (paving). Pine Street will be addressed during a meeting with the County.
- d. The Great American Clean-up will be on April 21 in cooperation with Keep Troup Beautiful. Detailed info will go out in next utility bill.
- e. Staff is in the process updating all citizen's information. A trial run was performed with the robo-call service and statistical data was provided. We are trying to better inform residents with emergencies, outages, etc.

- f. Staff would like to schedule a joint work session on March 13th with the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) to allow Georgia Conservancy to present the draft Downtown Master Plan. Strickland stated she would like to see Georgia Conservancy come before the Council. DDA has their own agenda and the Council will act upon it. Mayor stated it made sense to bring the two together instead of having the Georgia conservancy come twice. They were not limited to coming a certain number of times. Hired for master plan and they are finalizing. DDA can approved and would like to see a joint cooperative and come to a collective decision and get a final decision made. Strickland asked if the DDA will make a recommendation to the Council? Mayor stated yes. Jackson asked Strickland what would be a better date? Strickland would like to hold it on a work session date and carry on taking care of the City's business. Bailey stated there are a lot of meetings. Price doesn't think we should meet again outside the normal schedule. Mayor thinks it makes no sense to have the conservancy come twice to make the same presentation twice. Lynne Miller was asked to see if all parties could attend on the 19<sup>th</sup>. All agreed to move that work session and meeting to the library to have the room.

#### COUNCIL MEMBER'S REPORTS

##### *Council Member Jackson*

- a. thanked Wilcox and Bivings for coming and happy to see improvements are being made.
- b. thanked City workers for all their hard work during the water outage.
- c. asked if we have explored a pump and tank system for the water tank on Pine Street? Milliron stated the city engineer is looking into it. The City must raise the tank or pump it; either will have its own issues.

##### *Council Member Price*

- a. asked if a new update is available for Pine Street water pressure and the road condition. Milliron stated he personal went out on this call and the water crew got a 42 psi rating. He noted the closer to the tank the lower the pressure gets. At the particular location in question, door hangers were left for the resident and pressures were at acceptable limits. Price stated everyone over there is having pressure problems and having problems doing simple things like taking a shower. Milliron stated when a flow test is performed it is done with a licensed operator. That location had roughly 60psi at the street. Staff was advised by the resident that plumbing had been upgraded but there is still galvanized present. Low pressure and high pressure are well within limits.
- b. asked how many more hydrants are on the list to replace or repair? Milliron stated he is not sure but will get a number. The highest priority and worst condition hydrants were repaired first.
- c. Regarding robo-call system, can we go back to placing flyers in doors? Mayor stated no matter what system we do, we will not reach everyone. If we do 90% there are still 10% not reached. Price feels we should reach 100% of the customers. Robocall came about because we placed flyers and were approached by council to put it in place. Price still feels door hangers should be placed. If people aren't there then they will see it later. He feels both should be utilized. Milliron stated door hangers are very staff intensive and create costs for the City.

- Generally an outage is not planned and is an emergency. We could do mailer for far less than putting employees going door to door. If it is scheduled we can plan for it in a mailer.
- d. regarding Facebook; information is good but feels the negative is damaging and feels a committee is needed. Milliron stated the purpose of the Facebook page is to push information out. If questions are presented we will reply only to the question. Can pull up some interesting numbers with a lot of traffic. 12,000 views were made by citizens from the last robbery. Price is concerned of the bad stuff and suggested we make it so that no one can respond with comments. Milliron stated we want to stay within the letter of the law with first amendment rights. Price feels the commenting back and forth is not good. He also stated people are being pushed to talk to Council Members. Conversation was held as to comments being pushed toward Council and the content of those items. Mayor stated citizens can talk to Council at any time but policy must be changed by Council. Strickland stated during the meet and greet there were many times citizens were pushed to talk to Council. Milliron responded by saying that operations are things that can be handled from an administrative standpoint but policies must be changed by the Council.
  - e. thanked Mr. Wilcox and Chief Harr for their presentations.

*Council Member Higgins*

- a. commended the City Manager for his work in communicating the water issues over the weekend.

*Council Member Bailey*

- a. thanked Mr. Wilcox for being here and presenting the audited financials.

*Council Member Strickland*

- a. thanked all the City workers that worked overnight and into the next day on the water issue.
- b. apologized to Jennings Homes and Lee Street residents and glad to hear we are working on corrective action.
- c. reminded Chief Harr that Officer training was committed by the end of the month and understand from the meet and greet there have been some issues. Chief stated there will be some on-line training for several items but waiting on instructor to get training classes scheduled.
- d. asked about procedure for being put on the agenda. Kelly explained about a particular request where the citizen was told the item he wanted to discuss was going to be presented by Chief Harr during the meeting. Strickland would like to see us address the issue with citizen appearances. Should be clearly defined who can appear under citizen appearances.
- e. asked about the 4kv | 12kv conversion. She understands the project is on hold due to lack of funding and money set aside for the project. There was \$176k in the account last year but recent reports state there is only \$100k. An update and accounting of the funds was requested. Mayor stated he would follow-up and report.
- f. stated Council is here to ask tough questions and be transparent with the answers.

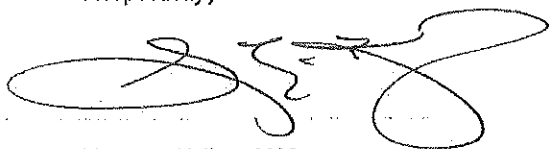
**MAYOR'S REPORT**

*Mayor Stankiewicz*

- a. Invited the Council to come to the Pre-k walking field trip on Wednesday at 9am. Three Pre-k classes will be visiting City Hall.
- b. complimented Milliron on receiving the LMIG funds from last year.

There being no further business to come before the Mayor & Council of the City of Hogansville at this time, on a motion made by Council Member Bailey and dually seconded by Council Member Jackson, the meeting was adjourned at 10:04pm.

Respectfully,



Lisa E. Kelly, CMC  
City Clerk  
City of Hogansville

*March 5, 2018*





### TOWN HALL MEETING

City of Hogansville Town Hall Meeting was held on Thursday, March 8, 2018. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Stankiewicz at 7:00 p.m.

Present were Mayor Bill Stankiewicz, Council Member Reginald Jackson, Council Member Marichal Price, Council Member Fred Higgins, Council Member George Bailey, and Council Member Theresa Strickland. Also present were City Manager David Milliron, City Clerk Lisa Kelly, and Chief of Police Brian Harr, and Community Development Director Lynne Miller. Reverend Robert Leek gave the invocation.

Mayor Stankiewicz welcomed everyone to the meeting and established some basic guidelines; state your name and address for the record. Time will be limited to three minutes to allow for comments by all.

#### Order of Business

1. Valerie Buice – 119 Granite Street. a) Ms. Buice asked who should she contact regarding the base rate for sewer for the last 10 years. On bills, we were told fees for USDA would come out of the utility bills and bills are not itemized. She understands, with regard to the USDA repayment, after the fourth year the fees will stop. Mayor stated there is no itemized separate billing. USDA gave us guidelines in order to generate the funds and for the length of the loan of 40 years. Buice claims there is no money for the plant. Mayor stated we have been paying for engineering services for years. She asked for breakdown of money spent for engineering. B) she stated the prior City Manager was terminated and while going through town she saw the former City Manager and new City Manager in the same vehicle Tuesday night. Milliron stated he was not with Woods on Tuesday night but did say that he has met with the former City Manager to discuss FEMA projects from the flooding 2015/2016 after staff and engineers could not provide information for some of the projects. He stated he feels the former City Manager had beneficial information. Each city he has left there is a severance agreement that allows for members of ICMA to reach out to former county or city managers for needed information.
2. Borree McCormick – Collier Street stated there is a detention pond beside her house that trees have grown in and created flooding. There was also a sewer in that same area. She has a one year old and a dog and concerned of sanitation problems. Council asked Milliron to follow-up on the issue.
3. Earnestine Mitchell – 116 Maple Dr. feels water and sewer rates have increased and stated the City has the worst sewer system in Georgia. She explained of a sewer issue she had

approximately eight years ago. Milliron stated rates have not been increased since he has been with the City. Mayor stated a meeting was held and potential rate increases discussed; no increase has been made or voted upon. She feels money is available to the city now and the whole sewer system should be removed and replaced. Mayor stated over the past 8 years the City has received CDBG funds primarily for replacement and repair of the sewer system. The newest project of \$750k will begin soon that will also include water. Grant funding is the only way these projects get done. Sewer system aging is not new to Hogansville and is prevalent everywhere. Mitchell stated other areas are not her concern, only Hogansville.

4. Sarah Sadler - 202 Jerry Drive stated she moved from an area with eight dog parks; will we be getting a dog park? Mayor stated we have discussed in the past and would love to have one but is not on the top of a priority list but feels we do need one.
5. Norma Landrum - 400 Lincoln Street stated new sidewalks were poured in front of her property but in the process the tap roots to two, possible three trees was damaged and causing the trees to die. Mayor committed to sending an arborist out to look at the trees.
6. Ricky Thrash - 110 Brookridge Dr. is concerned of air still in his lines at his business from the water outage. Milliron explained of the planned outage to repair 12 hydrants. System was taken down Friday and upgrades and repairs were made. Once repairs were made we opened hydrants to release air out of the system. Instead of pushing air out of the hydrants it pushed air into the Pine St tank and in effective created an air lock. The City will be more aggressive with future outages and communicating with the citizens. It does take time to get air out of the system. The City must deal with the elevation of the Pine Street tank; it needs to be raised about 20 feet. This will take a lot of engineering and will be a large and costly capital improvement to the City. He further explained he will be presenting a five year capital plan during the budget.
7. Brenda Geter - 1019 East Main a) asked if the water is safe to drink? Milliron stated it is and used an example - when there are tornado warnings and watches they mean two different things. An advisory was placed and any time water pressure is under 20psi it prompts the City to test the water. That was done and the test were clear. All water coming in was fully chlorinated. A form is being provided in the next utility bill to update customer's information. A lot of information is dated and needs to be updated. b) asked why her daughter's water bill was so high? Milliron stated there has been no change in rates but there are processes in place that will allow us to look at it on an individual basis.
8. Ellen Shellabarger - 304 Hwy 29 N. is really concerned about utility bills and infrastructure. Buildings are empty and need to attract more people to improve the quality of downtown to build a strong downtown. She asked each member what their thoughts are on bringing businesses in: Strickland stated there are things in place the City trying to achieve with Georgia Conservancy and feels businesses should be recruited. Price feels we should get with the DDA and possibly try to acquire some of the buildings. If we owned the buildings we could control the amount of rent. He understands the rent is so high it is not affordable. Mayor feels strongly that we will solve the problem by growing; will not solve the problem by staying the

same size. There must be reasons for people to come here. Council and DDA have stepped forward with a couple of things for improvement to downtown. He also thinks we have a treasure in the Royal Theater and feels we should restore it. He gave examples of other areas that are thriving. Jackson stated as a council everyone is interested in addressing the infrastructure issues and it will take improving that to grow. Shellabarger finished by saying her point is that the people behind her are the ones that are bearing the burden but there are resources that can lift the burden. Feels we should look at downtown and pull the opportunities with the state using Hogansville Historic Preservation Commission as a tool. Small towns bring tourism in. The shady side of Main Street is pure opportunity and studies prove the theater is a perfect opportunity.

9. Rose Pellet – 300 East Main Street – Cool Closet owner a) stated she bought her business, not the building and can take it anywhere. “Why should stay in Hogansville?” Jackson stated don’t give up. Higgins stated downtown must look usable. City is handcuffed because we don’t own the buildings. Strickland stated we love to have you here but must worry about the city as a whole not just downtown. Pellet replied stating if businesses leave Main Street it will only increase the problem. She asked what she can do to help and is willing to. She would like to know the plan and stand behind the elected officials. b) feels the alley between buildings on East Main Street needs lighting. Mayor stated an RBEG grant provided the ability to have the alley and sidewalks and will check into what can be done to light the area.
10. Winston Herring – Johnson Street feels the high water bills are not the rates but the consumption being charged for. He explained of an issue that happened some time back. b) Regarding buildings downtown, he feels the City should take the buildings and rent them. He gave a plan to get buildings occupied. Perfect opportunity to bring merchants in. Jackson stated a blight ordinance is currently being written by the City Attorney and will be taken up at the next meeting.
11. Jason Miles – Askew Avenue a) asked who pays for the water leaking into the street? There are currently two week leaks that someone will have to pay for. Jackson stated customers only pay for what goes through their meters. b) discussed the sewer from Meriwether to Hogansville and asked if there is a land bank in process? Milliron stated the County has an inactive one and will need Council action to initiate. Where they use to be local are now cooperative. c) What did FEMA money cover? Milliron stated the flooding from 2015/2016 initiated the funds from FEMA and the City is still working on the projects. Troup County still has repairs in progress. Elm St bridge, Boyd Rd., and Poplar St. are still some of the projects under way. d) feels that everyone wants a beautiful downtown but until the infrastructure is fixed need to spend money on that. He feels the City should spend money where it needs to be used. e) asked why the City doesn’t sell the Royal theater building? Mayor stated funds are available to renovate to the theater.
12. Tony Striblin – 201 Church Street stated there are funds available to renovate the theater covered by grants that can only be used for that purpose; not city or tax payer money. Will give a better quality of life in Hogansville. The theater can be used for multiple uses. Art in

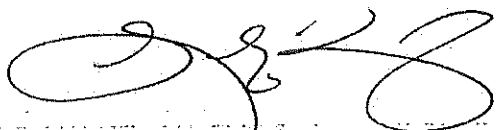
schools is gone and needed and could be a huge economic driver for town. Families coming in from out of town and see what a lovely town with shopping and dining. Would love to see a museum in town. Need subdivisions to get tap fees and utilities.

13. Earnestine Mitchell stated she all for growth in town. Can remember the great town it used to be. Hogansville had something to offer. We talk about beautifying and building up Hogansville. On the west side it looks like it doesn't belong. People go through whole town and parts of town are in bad shape. North Boyd onto Main St, drains are blocked. Streets in horrible shape and the City can't keep focusing on downtown. Milliron stated the County spent 1 ½ days on west side of town repairing areas. Do not have equipment to dig out ditches and we must address all work orders in a priority. Money doesn't allow for repairing everything all at once, must prioritize.
14. Pierre Millet - 226 Commerce St. is concerned that trains are blocking all three crossings and cannot get across. "Can we do anything?" Mayor stated we have very limited control over the railroad property. The City has had discussions with CSX. Improvements were made but have deteriorated recently. Meeting again with CSX next week. Major frustration for all of us and throughout the state. Port of Savannah is expanding, more storage and transportation. Trains are double stacking and longer. We have been taking video and timing of crossings blocked. Is a public safety issue and plan to take that to them.
15. Jimmy Norred - 107 Granite St. spoke of debt and money and ultimately the council has the responsibility to spend the tax payers money. He gave a cost estimate of facility and food for the recent Mayor 1 Council retreat and is concerned that the best interest of the taxpayers is not being met. Mayor stated it was a retreat and a facilitator was there where there was an opportunity to get away and talk about issues, took no action, and retreats are typical and necessary. Norred stated he does not feel stopping making color copies is helping. He further noted \$2500 was budgeted for travel and training for Mayor 7 Council but after a couple of years there is no need to continue it. He asked the Council will continue to budget training in the same manner.
16. Thomas Martin - 204 Brooks Rd spoke regarding citizen safety and a recent event where a child had a gun drawn on him. Feels we should be able to find out what happened and bothers him to know that children are not being protected. Chief Harr addressed the issue explaining from the time it was reported the Police Department, it was under investigation and being worked. Information was being obtained as soon as it was reported and will continue and not rest. "Just because there is no answer does not mean it is forgotten," said Chief Harr.
17. Valerie Jackson - Brooks Rd. spoke concerned of Norred's comments when he was involved in the retreats and the training classes while he was a Council Member.
18. Tyrone Tigner - 101 Greenough spoke concerned of storm drains not flowing properly at his property on Burden Drive. Milliron state he will have someone take a look at the problem area.
19. Patrick Terrail - 107 High Street stated we all want to live in a better more beautiful city. We should all begin cleaning our own street and front yards. If we clean our own areas it will make a difference. Will not happen with Council but will take everyone being involved. Miller

- state there is city-wide Great American Clean-up being planned that will supply materials and equipment. She is looking for committee members to help facilitate.
20. Amy Walker - 111 Granite Street is concerned of utilities and why online the rates seem to change and why bills are processed a month behind. Mayor stated modern technology allows meters to be read real-time with current time billing but the City cannot afford this process. b) she suggested more events come to town. Mayor stated we would love to see that but we need volunteers. There is so much work and effort involved in putting together these events and desperately need volunteers. There are citizens that would like to have 4 mini-festivals.
21. Residents from Hightower Rd. questioned why the City is buying restrooms if water is such a problem. Mayor explained the money for restrooms are derived from SPLOST.
22. Kerry Hammond - 1136 East Main St. spoke concerned of the residents on the West side of town and low water pressure. She noted there is a water tank on the spray field property that could be utilized.
23. Patrick Terrail stated the shopping center by Nachos is privately owned and falling apart; same with Piggly Wiggly shopping center and feels it should be the responsibility of the city to make improvements. Milliron explained the entire property of Hummingbird Station has one owner. The bank is handling the property and is being foreclosed upon. Waiting for ownership to change but the owner has lost \$1M in value due to not maintaining the property. Agreement was made to get Code Enforcement Officer on some of these issues. Randy Striblin gave an update on the Hummingbird Station property in that there is a hold on the sale at this time until an unrelated fuel leak at Love's is addressed in full.
24. Shirley Leek - 627 West Main St. asked if the water safe. Milliron indicated it is safe to drink and the City continues to test it regularly for compliance with EPD standards. He further stated he is personally unaware of any property that is lower than 40 psi water pressure and urged anyone who is experiencing low pressure to come to him.

There being no one further to come before the Mayor & Council of the City of Hogansville at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 8:09pm.

Respectfully,



Lisa E. Kelly, OMC  
City Clerk  
City of Hogansville

March 5, 2018

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