



City of Hogansville
City Council
Work Session Meeting Agenda
Monday, May 20, 2024 – 5:00 pm

Meeting will be held at Hogansville City Hall

Mayor: <i>Jake Ayers</i>	2025	City Manager: <i>Lisa E. Kelly</i>
Council Post 1: <i>Michael Taylor, Jr *</i>	2025	Assistant City Manager: <i>Niles Ford</i>
Council Post 2: <i>Matthew Morgan</i>	2025	City Attorney: <i>Alex Dixon</i>
Council Post 3: <i>Mandy Neese</i>	2027	Chief of Police: <i>Jeffrey Sheppard</i>
Council Post 4: <i>Mark Ayers</i>	2027	City Clerk: <i>LeAnn Lehigh</i>
Council Post 5: <i>Kandis Strickland</i>	2027	* Mayor Pro-Tem

WORK SESSION – 5:00 pm

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Royal Theater



05/20/2024

Meeting held at Hogansville City Hall, 111 High Street, Hogansville GA 30230

Work Session Meeting

Call to Order: Mayor Jake Ayers called the Work Session to order at 5:06 pm. Present were Council Member Michael Taylor, Council Member Matthew Morgan, Council Member Mandy Neese, Council Member Mark Ayers, and Council Member Kandis Strickland. Also present were City Manager Lisa Kelly, Assistant City Manager Niles Ford, City Attorney Alex Dixon, Police Chief Jeffrey Sheppard, and City Clerk LeAnn Lehigh.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Royal Theater

City Manager Lisa Kelly and Royal Theater Managing Director Rob Dippel discussed the items still needed to get the theater up and running. They gave Mayor and Council a spreadsheet showing expenses and funds, which shows a shortfall of \$105,234.60 needed for the additional start-up costs. The Theater will need a loading dock for loading equipment in and out for performances. Wheelchair accessible seating is planned to be added next to the sound booth in the back of the theater. Mr. Dippel also explained that the theater will need a scissor lift for the stage, furniture for offices, concession design and equipment, curtains and rigging, and acoustics. The Mayor and Council agree that some of the expenses could be paired down, such as purchasing second-hand furniture or less expensive or used concession equipment. Staff agreed that they don't expect the shortfall number to be that high once they get actual quotes and start purchasing furniture and equipment. The curtains and acoustics are on the regular meeting agenda for tonight's meeting. The curtains and rigging would cost \$48,221 and the acoustics will cost \$64,175. Staff is recommending the Council to approve the purchase of these items at the regular meeting tonight.

Mrs. Kelly and Mr. Dippel also gave the Mayor and Council a Royal Theater Budget for Sept 24-June 25. This budget was based on 12 Live Events, 6 Film Screenings, and Concessions. Council agreed they would like more than 6 films shown for the year and quarterly large acts on stage, with local entertainment on Saturdays the rest of the year. Council also expressed that they would like summer movies for kids on Tuesday matinee, and a movie for adults on Fridays each week. They all agreed that they want consistency with the scheduling of events.

Both Mrs. Kelly and Mr. Dippel explained the ideas for fundraising opportunities, naming campaigns, memberships and event sponsorships. They also discussed staffing needs for the theater once open and operational. Mr. Dippel said he will need a part-time Box-Office Manager/Administrative Assistant to help with contractors and day to day operations. He also will need a Tech Director and plans to hire that on a show-by-show basis but would eventually want it to be a full-time position.

Mrs. Kelly and Mr. Dippel talked about the opening Gala, that will be a fundraising event to start the Royal Theater events. The Gala will be a black-tie event sometime the beginning of November 2024.

Council was asked to consider how they would like the theater to eventually be governed in the future. City owned and operated, City Owned and operated, but appoints a Commission to Advise, or City Owned – non-profit operates. The City Attorney would be consulted regarding liquor sales. There is no timeline for the decision of the operations of the theater, but Council was asked to begin thinking about how they would prefer it to be operated in the future.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Ayers adjourned the Work Session at 6:53 pm.

Respectfully,

LeAnn Lehigh
City Clerk