

**City of Temple
Monthly Council Meeting
February 5, 2018, 6:30pm
Temple City Hall**

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 6:32PM by Mayor Michael Johnson.

Council Members Present:

Terron Bivins, Richard Bracknell, Todd Rothwell, Howard Walden, Thomas Wallace

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

The invocation and Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Michael Johnson.

Approve the published agenda of this date's City Council Meeting, as presented:

There was a motion by Councilmember Bracknell to move item number five in new business to come before old business, second by Councilmember Wallace. Vote 5-0.

Public Comments:

Mr. Keith Dockins - Was present to discuss the water and sewer operations in the City of Temple. The Mayor stated that he would have three minutes to speak. Mr. Dockins responded that he had eight items he wanted to talk about and he needed at least ten minutes and he could wait until the end of the meeting if needed. The Mayor asked if the council had any comments on his request. Councilmember Rothwell stated to let him speak during public comments unless anyone was against it. Mr. Dockins proceeded to give a presentation based on some research he had been doing regarding the water and sewer rates. Some suggestions he made were raising the rates on the water and sewer base and doing away with the senior discount. He also suggested putting this on the November ballot for citizens to vote on. He also suggested that the City needed to hire two people, one to help out Samantha in the water department, and to help Jason with the meter readings. He stated that the billing is the most important job, and his observation while at City Hall was that Samantha gets interrupted constantly and she needs time to focus on the billing.

Mayor Johnson then asked if Mr. Tarpley was here to speak during the public comments. He was not and there were no other citizens who asked to speak.

Approval of Minutes:

January 8, 2018, Regular Council Meeting

There was a motion to approve by Councilmember Walden, second by Councilmember Bracknell, vote 5-0.

January 25, 2018, Special Called Meeting

There was a motion to approve by Councilmember Bracknell, second by Councilmember Walden, vote 5-0.

Old Business:

1. Consider action pertaining to the possible extension of an 18-inch diameter storm drain pipe from its current termination in the back yard of 974 Creek Run Place for a distance of some 160 linear feet toward the creek adjacent to this part of the Windy Mill residential subdivision, and pertaining to what portion of the project's estimated cost of \$9,275.00 might be paid by the City of Temple.

City Administrator Bill Osborne explained that this was a situation that was brought to the council months ago. The question is what Temple might do, if anything. He asked the City Attorney to make comments regarding this situation. City Attorney Mike McCrae stated that he does not think that the City has any responsibility to put the pipe in; he also stated that we do not know what is happening downstream. If work was done it is possible that you might not eliminate the problem, just change the nature of it. He said we need to see what has been done downstream and Howard Ray, City Engineer, is looking into that. The City Attorney suggested that once we find out what is going on down stream, and what happened around Ms. Ransom's house, to report back to the council.

2. Report on the surface water problems in the yards and adjacent sewer easement area behind several houses fronting on Creek Run Place in the Windy Mill residential subdivision.

City Administrator Bill Osborne stated that there is nothing to add on this item, because it was covered in item number one. He will report back to the council on this item.

3. Updated staff report concerning the staffing and operations of the City of Temple's Code Enforcement services, including possible action to approve employment of an individual to fill the position of Code Enforcement Officer.

City Administrator Bill Osborne explained that Ricky Watts, candidate for the Code Enforcement Officer, declined accepting the position. He stated that Mr. George Skala, the other candidate from last year, was still interested in the position. His references have been checked and Mr. Skala agreed to accept the position at \$14 an hour. Mayor Johnson stated that he recommended Mr. Skala for the position. There was a motion by Councilmember Bracknell to accept Mayor Johnson's recommendation of George Skala for the position of Code Enforcement Officer, second by Councilmember Wallace. Vote 5-0.

4. Tabled from January 25, 2018, City Council Special Called Meeting: Consider, in separate actions, the approval of bids for the purchase and installation of fencing and a scoreboard for the new ballfield facilities in the City's park.

There was a motion by Councilmember Bracknell to take this item off the table and put it back on the agenda, second by Councilmember Walden, vote 5-0. After some discussion, there was a motion by Councilmember Bracknell to accept the bid from Advanced Fencing because of the five year warranty, second by Councilmember Walden. Vote 5-0. There was a motion by Councilmember Walden to go with Electrotech for the scoreboard, second by Councilmember Bivins. Vote 5-0.

New Business:

1. Approve the use of 2008 SPLOST funds to pay for the cost of the purchase and installation of the fencing and a scoreboard for the new ballfield facilities in the City's park.

City Administrator Bill Osborne stated that the City will be paying for this out of the 2008 SPLOST; we got \$100,000 back from the state after we completed work in the fields. Councilmember Bracknell made a motion to take the fencing, scoreboard, and cost of installation out of the 2008 SPLOST, second by Councilmember Wallace. Vote 5-0.

2. Authorize the Mayor to sign a Roadway Lights Authorization agreement with Georgia Power Company to replace approximately 293 current street light fixtures with new LED roadway lights at a monthly cost not to exceed \$3,778.95.

Public Works Director Dwayne Eberhart explained that it will be approximately \$1,000 more a year to replace the streetlights with LED lights. The benefits are that these lights will last longer, also Georgia Power will be automatically notified if a light is flickering or goes out. This includes all of the street lights operated by Georgia Power. There was a motion by Councilmember Walden to approve the agreement with Georgia Power and replace the light fixtures with LED lights, second by Councilmember Bracknell. Vote 5-0.

3. Consider adopting a resolution urging the State of Georgia legislature and the Georgia Department of Transportation to move forward without delay in developing plans and securing funds for construction of a railroad grade separation crossing in Temple, in order to resolve public safety and traffic access problems which currently hurt this community.

Mayor Michael Johnson read the resolution. There was a motion by Councilmember Walden to approve the resolution, second by Councilmember Bivins. Vote 5-0.

4. Authorize the Mayor to sign an agreement with Intertech Security and Investigations, Inc., Probation Division, for probation services for individuals who have been found guilty in Temple's Municipal Court, with said agreement automatically renewing on a year to year basis unless the City of Temple takes action in accordance with its provisions to terminate said agreement and with the specific provisions of this agreement basically continuing the services and arrangements that have been in place for the past several years.

City Administrator Bill Osborne recommended that the City continue using the service of Intertech. Chief Lee stated that they are doing a good job and he sees no reason to change. There was a motion by Councilmember Bracknell to authorize Mayor Johnson to sign the agreement with Intertech, second by Councilmember Bivins. Vote 5-0.

5. Approve a proclamation to recognize and honor Temple High School for being only one of ten schools in Georgia in 2017 to receive a Platinum Award from the Governor's Office for Student Achievement for earning a three-year average College and Career Ready Progress Score that ranks in at least the 93rd percentile in the State, with the Platinum Award going only to those Georgia schools ranking in the 99th percentile.

Mayor Johnson read the proclamation. There was a motion by Councilmember Walden to approve the proclamation to honor Temple High School, second by Councilmember Bracknell. Vote 5-0. The proclamation was presented to Temple High School's principal, the superintendent of Carroll County Schools, and a member of the Carroll County School Board.

6. Report concerning the 1998 Girls Softball team the Hot Shots from the Temple 'Recreation Department on the upcoming 20th anniversary of becoming the USSSA World Champions and concerning a possible project to refurbish and improve the signage in the City park which calls attention to this team and its many accomplishments.

Councilmember Walden reported that it is the 20th anniversary of the 1998 Girls Softball team, the Hot Shots, becoming the USSSA World Champions. He would like to honor them some time in the spring and to also refurbish the championship signs that are in front of the Recreation Department.

7. Approve the purchase of two American flags, 4' x 6' in size, and then to present one flag to the Temple Elementary School and the other flag to the Providence Elementary School for placement in each school's gymnasium.

Councilmember Rothwell explained that at a recent meeting at Temple Elementary school, he noticed there was no flag in the gym when it was time for them to do the pledge of allegiance. He also contacted Providence Elementary who stated they do not have a flag in the gym either. Councilmember Rothwell made a motion for the City to purchase flags for the two elementary schools, and also for the middle school if they do not have one, second by Councilmember Bivins. Vote 5-0.

8. Authorize the Mayor to sign an agreement with the Three Rivers Regional Development Commission (RDC) for assisting the City of Temple in 2018 in an update of its State-required Comprehensive Plan, at no cost to this local government for the RDC's services on this project.

City Administrator Bill Osborne explained that it is time for the City to do an update of the state required comprehensive plan; if you don't maintain it, you lose your qualified government status and are not eligible for state loans, grants and permits. He said that he and the Mayor met with a representative from the RDC last week; we have to do the updated plan and it has to be finished by the middle of this fall. He thinks the City needs an advisory committee and asked the councilmembers to be thinking about who they would like to appoint. There was a motion by Councilmember Bracknell to authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement, second by Councilmember Walden. Vote 5-0.

9. Set the maximum percent increase which a City of Temple employee could receive in calendar 2018 in his/her annual salary based on that employee's merit evaluation and set the percent increase in said employee's annual salary which he/she would receive on his/her anniversary date as a cost of living increase.

City Administrator Bill Osborne explained that last year the Council decided that on an employee's anniversary date, depending on their evaluation, they could receive up to a 3% merit increase and a 1.5% cost of living increase is applied to each employee when they successfully complete a year. After some discussion, it was decided to wait and take action on this later. City Attorney Mike McCrae stated that they don't need to table it, it can just be brought back up at a future meeting.

10. Report on the plans for remembering and honoring former City of Temple employee Gerald (Red) Henry on the late employee's birthday of Tuesday, February 20, in accordance with the resolution adopted by the Mayor and City Council on December 4, 2017.

City Clerk Kristin Etheredge reported that she and Jason Thompson have been planning the Red Day celebration for February 20th. At 4:00pm at City Hall there will be a reception to honor Red and all he has done for the community. The resolution will be read and presented to Red's family, there will be light refreshments including Red's favorite, banana pudding. There is also a plaque being made which will hang at City Hall to remember Red.

11. Report concerning the Rockmart Farmers Market's and a consideration of the "Rockmart model" by the City of Temple, with comments by City Attorney Mike McCrae.

Councilmember Bracknell reported on the Farmers Market and how the Rockmart market would be a good model to follow. He suggested having the market at the Rec Department so that restrooms would be available. He also suggested each councilmember finding someone in their district who would be interested in bringing this together and forming a committee. City Attorney Mike McCrae suggested that everyone look at Rockmart's model and determine how Temple is going to do it and what parts do you want to change. He suggested giving ideas for changes to the City Clerk and to let the committee that you form have a board, appoint a chairperson, etc. and don't have it as a formal part of City

government. He also suggested that we see what kind of interest there is in the community for the market, and then see where you want to go.

12. Authorize the City of Temple's participation in the 2018 Georgia Cities Week celebration and activities, to be held on April 22 – 28 and sponsored by the Georgia Municipal Association with the theme of "Georgia's Cities in the Spotlight."

City Clerk Kristin Etheredge requested that the City of Temple participate in Georgia Cities week again this year. There was a motion by Councilmember Bracknell to participate in Georgia Cities week, second by Councilmember Bivins. Vote 5-0.

13. Announcement by Mayor Johnson of appointments of City Council members to the committees included in the Temple City Charter, including appointment of the chair of each committee.

Mayor Johnson announced the committee appointments; the city administrator and mayor will be on all committees. The committee meetings will take place on the last Monday of the month before the regular meeting. These will be public meetings, notice has to be given and posted and minutes will have to be taken at each meeting. The committees are as follows:

Personnel: Chairperson Richard Bracknell, Member: Howard Walden

Budget/Finance: Chairperson Terron Bivins, Member: Howard Walden

Parks & Rec/Senior Center: Chairperson: Richard Bracknell, Member: Todd Rothwell

Public Safety: Chairperson: Howard Walden, Member: Terron Bivins

Public Works/Wastewater: Chairperson: Tom Wallace, Member: Richard Bracknell

Community Development: Chairperson: Todd Rothwell, Member: Tom Wallace

14. Report concerning development and approval of a policy governing the use of cell phones owned by the City of Temple and assigned to various City employees.

Councilmember Walden stated that the City needs to have an updated computer and phone policy. He reported about an employee's cell phone bill which had excessive usage for two months. During that time, the city's bill was \$2,900 a month and has now gone down to \$1,700 a month. He stated this shows the importance of having and enforcing a policy. He said that this was an isolated incident.

15. Report on the schedule for City Council activities on Tuesday, February 13, starting at 6:00 p.m. and including the subjects of water and sewer, zoning and future land use maps, and other matters to be identified by Mayor Johnson in the call to be issued later in the week.

City Administrator Bill Osborne reported that there will be a Special Called Meeting on February 13th at 6:00PM to discuss several agenda items including a report by Phillip Read. The agenda for this meeting will be finalized on Thursday.

Closing Comments:

Joe Wilson, Rec Dept- He asked what time of year the Farmer's Market would be as it could affect traffic/parking when the Rec Department has games in session. It was stated that they would like to have the farmers market year round.

Tom Wallace- none

Todd Rothwell- Thanked everyone for being there.

Richard Bracknell- Told everyone to have a good day.

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Terron Bivins- none

Mike McCrae, Attorney- Let's go home

Adjournment: There was a motion by Councilmember Bracknell to adjourn, second by Councilmember Walden, Vote 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:48PM.

Mayor Michael C. Johnson

City Clerk