

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
April 10, 2023
7:00 PM, Temple Senior Center
MINUTES

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM by Mayor Pro Tem Richard Bracknell in the absence of Mayor Michael Johnson.

Council Members present: Howard Walden, Tom Wallace, Casey Russom

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Mayor Pro Tem Richard Bracknell

Approve the published agenda of this date's City Council meeting, as presented: There was a motion by Council Member Walden to approve the published agenda as presented, second by Council Member Wallace. Vote 3-0.

Approval of Minutes:

March 6, 2023 Council Meeting: There was a motion by Council Member Walden to approve the March 6, 2023 minutes, second by Council Member Russom. Vote 3-0.

March 27, 2023 Special Called Meeting: There was a motion by Council Member Walden to approve the March 27, 2023 minutes, second by Council Member Wallace. Vote 3-0.

Public Comments : N/A

Announcements: City Administrator Bill Osborne explained that two weeks ago there were five items on the consent agenda, but it has been determined that you have already taken action on the item dealing with GFL and their cost to the City. Later in the agenda tonight there is an item concerning the surcharge for administrative work, billing, etc. He also mentioned that both John McClure and Kristin Walton resigned from the Planning Commission.

Consent Agenda:

There was a motion by Council Member Walden to approve the consent agenda (items 1-4 listed below), second by Council Member Wallace. Vote 3-0.

1. Authorize the City's Recreation Director to issue a Request for Proposals for the purchase and installation of a HVAC system in the City's Recreation Center/gymnasium, with the set of specifications to include commercial load calculation with a single duct design and two 25-ton Trane units and with the scope of work to include removal of four current suspended heaters and the gas lines to them.

2. Authorize the payment of \$20,000 in 2021 SPLOST funds to the Carroll County government for use in the purchase of a mobile crisis response unit, to be assigned to Carroll County Crisis Response Team.

3. Authorize the City Administrator to initiate the process of granting merit increases to eligible City of Temple employees, based on the evaluation criteria used for the past several years and with each eligible employee to receive his/her increase in accordance with their respective anniversary dates in their current positions.

4. Adopt a resolution identifying the City of Temple as an active participant in the Georgia Municipal Association's "Embrace Civility Initiative".

New Business

1. Announce the resignation of City Councilmember Hiley Miller, which was effective March 28, 2023, due to her new residential address being outside the boundary of Ward 3, which she represented
This announcement was made by Mayor Pro Tem Richard Bracknell.

2. Comments by City of Temple elected officials concerning the service to this community rendered by former City Councilmember Hiley Miller.

Mayor Pro Tem Richard Bracknell stated that Ms. Miller was dedicated, dependable, and it was a pleasure to work with her. Council Member Walden stated that Ms. Miller did an excellent job and that since she is still in the City limits he hopes that she will get involved again.

3. Report on the Temple City Code provisions for filling a vacancy on the City Council when the current four-year term of office for that particular Ward is to conclude in less than one calendar year
City Attorney Rob Monroe stated that if there is less than 12 months in the term remaining, the Charter states that the Council has the authority to appoint someone for the remainder of the term.

4. With there being less than one calendar year remaining in the current four-year term for Ward 3, the remaining City Council members take action to appoint an eligible Temple resident to complete the remainder of the current City Council term in Ward 3.

There was no one ready to make a nomination; this will be discussed at a Special Called meeting in the future.

5. Announce the resignation of Planning Commission members Kristin Walton and John McClure
This announcement was made by Mayor Pro Tem Bracknell.

6. Appoint a new member to the Temple Planning Commission, to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Kristin Walton.

There was a motion by Council Member Wallace to move current planning commission member Troy Curtis from the "at large" member to the ward 3 member, second by Council Member Walden.

Vote 3-0. There was a motion by Council Member Wallace to make Terron Bivins the "at large" member of the Planning Commission, second by Council Member Walden. Vote 3-0.

7. Appoint a new member to the Temple Planning Commission, to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of John McClure.

Mayor Pro Tem Bracknell nominated Karen Powell to fill the vacancy by John McClure. There was a motion by Council Member Wallace to appoint Karen Powell to be the Ward 5 member of the Planning Commission, second by Council Member Russom. Vote 3-0.

8. Appointment by the City Council of Joshua Smith as the City's new Public Works Director.

There was a motion by Council Member Wallace to appoint Joshua Smith as the City's new Public Works Director, second by Council Member Walden. Vote 3-0.

9. Announce Police Chief Creig Lee's promotion in the Police Department of veteran officer Chris Parrish to the rank of Lieutenant, placing him as second-in-command following the retirement from full-time employment of former Police Lieutenant James Hollowood .

This announcement was made.

10. Announcement of the resignation of City Finance Director Ken Abidde, to be effective Friday, April 14

This announcement was made.

11. Report on the interim operation of the City's Finance Director's Office, including work with the CPA firm of Will Robinson which recently started work on the City's 2022 Audit

City Administrator Bill Osborne explained that the Council recently voted for the City's new audit firm to be Will Robinson in Carrollton. He said that he and other staff have met with him and his partner, Donna. Rick Hartley has worked with them and a number of other local governments. The plan is for Rick Hartley to pull things together to get ready for the audit and Mr. Abidde is also helping with that. The auditors are expecting to come on site in the middle of May to start work on the audit and hope to have it complete in mid July. This will be the top priority of Rick Hartley.

12. Report on the continuation of the City of Temple's current agreement with budget and finance consultant Rick Hartley, including some additional services to be provided until the City of Temple has a new Finance Director in place.

City Administrator Bill Osborne explained that Rick Hartley and Ken Abidde have had a couple of meetings and they will be meeting again next week. Mr. Hartley will not be working as the acting finance director but will be taking care of a lot of the key things.

13. Authorize the Mayor, the Chair of the City Council Budget and Finance Committee, and the City Administrator to initiate the process of recruiting for a new Finance Director, with a short list of two or three candidates to be developed for City Council consideration and selection

City Administrator Bill Osborne explained that there are a couple of things that this group will do. He said they will be working with Rick Hartley to do a cost benefit analysis of whether or not the City should recruit a Finance Director or possibly do a less expensive arrangement with an accountant. Rick Hartley will be here to assist during the transition. Once you decide what you are recruiting for, we will start the process.

There was a motion by Council Member Russom to authorize the Mayor, The Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee, and the City Administrator to initiate the process for recruiting for a new Finance Director, second by Council Member Wallace. Vote 3-0.

14. Report on the proposed budget for the City of Temple's receipt and expenditure of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.

City Administrator Bill Osborne explained that the ARPA budget was a finding of the audit. Finance Director Kenneth Abidde stated that during the last meeting a proposed budget was presented to the Council. The Council was going to review it and decide whether or not we would go ahead with it.

15. Adoption of a balanced budget for the City of Temple's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.

City Administrator Bill Osborne explained that at this time they are just asking you to approve the funding for the City Hall expansion project. The current proposed budget is \$150,000 and there is almost 1.5 million in the budget at the moment.

There was a motion by Council Member Walden to adopt the balanced budget for ARPA, second by Council Member Wallace. Vote 3-0.

16. Followup report from the March 27 City Council committee work session concerning the additional number of new water meters to be purchased for the citywide Water Meter Replacement Project, including the identification of some available funding within the project's current scope and with other funding from the City's Water Fund

Assistant City Administrator Lisa Jacobson explained that we went back through the RFP and the dates of correspondence. The RFP was prepared in March of 2021 and at the time it did have less than 2,000 meters; this project has taken several years. We have given them numbers over 2,000 multiple times, there was a change in staff with Keck and Wood and with City Hall staff. With the length of time that this drug out, we don't know exactly where the error occurred. We reviewed the GEFA loan account with Keck and Wood and there is still money to absorb some of the cost and the remainder is to be allocated from the water fund. Council Member Walden asked if the \$120,000 was all that would be needed and Ms. Jacobson confirmed that it was.

17. Recommend that the City transfer \$120,000 from its Water Fund into the FY2023 Capital Fund budget, being identified for use in the Water Meter Replacement Project

There was a motion by Council Member Wallace for the City to transfer \$120,000 from the Water Fund to the 2023 Capital Fund Budget for use in the water meter replacement project, second by Council Member Russom. Vote 3-0.

18. Review and discuss options for monthly rates to be charged to residential and commercial customers in the City of Temple starting July 1, 2023, with GFL Environmental continuing garbage collection and disposal within this municipality and with the City of Temple government continuing to be responsible for related administrative services

Assistant City Administrator Lisa Jacobson explained that there is a spreadsheet in regards to GFL and what the rates are going up to and what the City is currently charging: 8.1% residential, 7% commercial, \$17.30 for residential and the commercial depends on the yardage of the cart. Council Member Walden asked how many residential containers there are and Ms. Jacobson stated around 2,300. Council Member Walden said that would be about \$3,000 we are adding a month and asked if it was needed. City Administrator Bill Osborne explained that this was a continuation of what we have done in the past and recommends that we continue it. He said that when we are fully operational with the new water meters we might be able to do some sort of reduction; he speculated we will see an increase in revenue with the new meters.

There was a motion by Council Member Walden to adopt the monthly garbage collection rates beginning July 1, 2023, second by Council Member Wallace. Vote 3-0.

19. Concluding report from Finance Director Ken Abidde.

Finance Director Ken Abidde said that he wanted to thank the council for the opportunity to serve as Finance Director for the almost past 5 years. He stated that he really liked his job and saw that things were turning around for the better and the City was expanding but unfortunately he had to turn in his resignation a few weeks ago. He stated that unfortunately he was not able to discuss with the finance committee the issues he was going through. He felt that the job was getting a little too turbulent for his liking and he didn't want to have any type of confrontation or any ugly issue to arise. He apologized to the Council for not bringing these issues to their understanding. He didn't want to create an ugly scene and that is why he felt it was time to move on. He stated that he turned in the report on Local

Government Finances for FY 2020 and 2021. The 2022 report has not been done yet and is to be completed within 3 months after the audit.

City Administrator Bill Osborne let everyone know that on Wednesday at City Hall, from 9:00am-10:30am, there would be a farewell breakfast for Kenneth.

20. Staff reports concerning the composition of the City of Temple's new Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee and the scheduled first meeting of this committee at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, April 13, at the Temple Senior Center on Rome Street, following by the first public hearing at 6:30 p.m. on this date as the committee begins its work

Mayor Pro Tem asked if anyone wanted to add to the committee. City Administrator Bill Osborne explained that there are currently 15 members and he thinks it's a good group although we are lacking representation in a couple of parts of the City. He stated that Three Rivers Commission will be working with the City on this. He said that the notice for the public hearing was not advertised in time for the 15 day deadline. There will still be the public hearing at 6:30pm on April 13th, however the official kick off public hearing will be on May 1st in advance of the regular voting meeting for the month of May.

21. Consider the possible appointment of up to four additional citizens to the new Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee in order to include members from all sections of the City of Temple.

This was discussed in item #20.

22. Final report concerning the 2023 session of the Georgia General Assembly, including the anticipated impact of certain approved legislation on the City of Temple

A session recap was provided to the Council.

Closing Comments

Howard Walden- continue praying for the Mayor. We will miss Hiley and Mr. Abidde.

Executive Session, if needed- N/A

Adjournment: There was a motion to adjourn by Council Member Walden, second by Council Member Wallace. Vote 3-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:46PM