MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE WOODBINE CITY COUNCIL
March 2, 2015
WOODBINE CITY HALL

The regular meeting of the Woodbine City Council held on March 2, 2015 was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mayor Steven Parrott, with the following Councilors present: Louise Mitchell, Randy Bordelon, and C. C. Higginbotham, Jr. Councilors absent: Robert Baird. City officials present: City Administrator Sandra Rayson, City Clerk M. Lynn Courson and City Attorney William Ashe. See sign-in sheet for others present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Parrott.

The invocation was led by Louise Mitchell.

Work Session:

Debra Carter, Director of Finance, gave an update on Finance Department activities. Everette Sapp, Public Works Director, gave an update on Public Works Department activities.

Presentations:

David Southern and Tom Canning with the Camden Roundtable addressed the Council about their nonpartisan efforts with their "Get out the Vote" group in increasing voter turnout in coming elections.

Motion made by C. C. Higginbotham, Jr., seconded by Louise Mitchell, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion was unanimously approved and so declared by Mayor Parrott.

Motion made by C. C. Higginbotham, Jr. seconded by Randy Bordelon, to approve the minutes of the February 2, 2015 City Council Meeting, and February 25, 2015 Called City Council Meeting as presented. Motion was unanimously approved and so declared by Mayor Parrott.

Public Comments – None

Old Business:

William Ashe introduced Chris Laney from Government Tax Solutions (GTS). GTS is the company that the City contracted to handle their delinquent property tax sale. Mr. Laney gave an overview of the company and the services they provide to collect delinquent taxes. Mr. Laney then explained the process in which GTS accomplishes the collections with a Two Stage Process. He further explained that fees are attached to each stage of the process in accordance with the amount and extent of work it takes to verify owners of the property. Mr. Chaney then described the details in the Stage 2 or Point of Levy process which is legally binding and described in Georgia State Law. He described the legal research that is required to assure that all owners of record and heirs be advised of the levying process. He further stated that because of the legal work and certified notices that have to be completed in this stage, the fees raise to $175.00 per parcel. Mr. Laney explained that after Stage 2, if the taxes are still delinquent, they move on to the Tax Sale. C.C. Higginbotham, Jr. verified that GTS did not include the fees in the letters that would be charged if the property owner failed to remit payment. Mr. Chaney stated that they do

not list amount owed until the property is advertised for tax sale due to changing interest and penalties. Mr. Higginbotham expressed concern that the property owners are not properly notified of the fees that will be added at each stage of the process. He further stated he believes the City should approve the reimbursement for the property owners that are requesting a waiver of fees. Mayor Parrott stated while the fees may appear high, it seems the property owners were given enough notice to pay to avoid the higher fees. The council discussed the way the customers were notified of the delinquencies and amounts that are charged. William Ashe stated that the contract and its execution appears legal, members of the Council seem to be concerned with the fairness of the fees. Motion made by C.C. Higginbotham, Jr. to approve the waiver of the Stage 2 $175.00 fee for Scott Henning, Paul Clark, and Laura Briggs. Motion dies for lack of second. Randy Bordelon asked that since Mr. Henning had been notified of the delinquency prior to the Stage 2 fees being added, he could have come and paid the delinquent taxes. Mr. Henning argued that GTS may have failed to properly research property ownership prior to Stage 2 fees being added because he did not receive a Stage 1 notice. Mayor Parrott stated that he did not receive the Stage 1 notice because the City was unaware that he had purchased the 2 parcels in question. Mr. Henning stated that while he would like all fees waived, he would accept the Stage 1 fees in place of the Stage 2 fees. Motion made by C.C. Higginbotham, Jr., seconded by randy Bordelon to reimburse Scott Henning the Stage 2 fees minus the Stage 1 fees for parcels W13-05-001 and W13-05-002 totaling $269.00. Motion was unanimously approved and so declared by Mayor Parrott.

Paul Clark stated that his circumstances are different with regards to the notices being mailed to the incorrect address. Motion made by C.C. Higginbotham, Jr., seconded by Randy Bordelon, to reimburse Mr. Clark the Stage 2 fee of $175.00 on Parcel W09-04-008. Motion was unanimously approved and so declared by Mayor Parrott.

Lynn Courson explained that Laura Briggs lives in Connecticut so not in attendance but was also asking for a refund of her fees because she stated she never received any notices until stage 2. Motion made by C.C. Higginbotham, Jr., seconded by Randy Bordelon, to reimburse Laura Briggs the Stage 2 fee of $175.00 on Parcel 077B-139. Motion was unanimously approved and so declared by Mayor Parrott.

A Public Hearing to receive public comments on an Alcohol License Application for package sale off of premise for the following:

Tulsi Associates of Woodbine, Inc. (Also known as Woodbine IGA)
908 Georgia Avenue #2

Bill Johnson spoke against granting the license.

The Public Hearing was closed at 7:53 p.m.

The Regular Meeting was reconvened at 7:53 p.m.

New Business:

Motion made by C. C. Higginbotham, Jr., seconded by Randy Bordelon to approve the Alcohol License Application for package sale off of premise. Motion was unanimously approved and so declared by Mayor Parrott.

Ashby Nix, the Satilla Riverkeeper presented a resolution opposing the study or practice of injection and storage of water in the Floridan Aquifer. Motion made by C. C. Higginbotham, Jr., seconded by Randy Bordelon to approve the resolution. Motion was unanimously approved and so declared by Mayor Parrott.

Sandra Rayson presented the Council with bid tabulations for several projects.

Everette Sapp presented maps and lists of city sidewalks that need to be improved. Motion made by C. C. Higginbotham, Jr., seconded by Randy Bordelon to approve the low bidder A.C. Blount Concrete Services, Inc. in the amount of $151,400.00. Motion was unanimously approved and so declared by Mayor Parrott.

Everette Sapp presented the bids for the Street Resurfacing Project. Motion made by C. C. Higginbotham, Jr., seconded by Randy Bordelon to approve the low bidder East Coast Asphalt, LLC in the amount of $243,600.00. Motion was unanimously approved and so declared by Mayor Parrott.

Sandra Rayson presented an Engineering Agreement for the Sidewalk Improvement and Street Resurfacing Projects with G. Ben Turnipseed Engineers. Motion made by Louise Mitchell, seconded by C. C. Higginbotham, Jr. to approve the agreement. Motion was unanimously approved and so declared by Mayor Parrott.

Everette Sapp presented an Engineering Agreement to prepare Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping of the City of Woodbine's water and sewer system with G. Ben Turnipseed Engineers in the amount of $24,500 for 3 years of hosting. Motion made by Louise Mitchell, seconded by Randy Bordelon to approve the agreement. Motion was unanimously approved and so declared by Mayor Parrott.

Sandra Rayson presented quotes to replace the City Hall tables and Chairs. The council discussed the different types quoted and their use. Motion made by C. C. Higginbotham, Jr., seconded by Louise Mitchell to approve 12 new tables from Sam's Club in the amount of $1,199.76. Motion was unanimously approved and so declared by Mayor Parrott.

Motion made by C. C. Higginbotham, Jr., seconded by Randy Bordelon to approve 3 Conference Tables from Georgia Correctional Industries in the amount of $606.00, a State Contract price. Motion was unanimously approved and so declared by Mayor Parrott.

Mayor Parrott asked staff to research a price on 30-40 new chairs for City Hall.

Lynn Courson presented quotes on a new phone system for City Hall offices. Motion made by C. C. Higginbotham, Jr., seconded by Randy Bordelon to approve the XBlue X16 Phone System from Amazon.com in the amount of $1,054.43. Motion was unanimously approved and so declared by Mayor Parrott.

Sandra Rayson presented the only bid received for hoses and quick disconnects for the 4" solids handling pump. Motion made by Louise Mitchell, seconded by Randy Bordelon to approve the bid in the amount of $2,267.43. Motion was unanimously approved and so declared by Mayor Parrott.

Public Comments:

Bill Johnson enumerated concerns about several issues he has with Captain Stan's Smokehouse.

Lenora White stated concerns with parking issues and the noise levels from Captain Stan's Smokehouse.

The meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

_____
Steven L. Parrott
Mayor

Attest: _____
M. Lynn Courson
City Clerk