**CITY OF BOWMAN**

**Bowman City Hall**

**Monthly meeting**

**December 11th, 2024**

**MEMBERS Present**

Mayor, Scott Harpold

Council Member, Mary Clark

Council Member, Henrietta Williams

Council Member, Leah Carey

Council Member, Betty Jo Maxwell

Council Member, Jeff Spratlin

Attorney, Adam Nelson

**STAFF PRESENT:**

City Clerk, Tifany Verdell

Assistant City Clerk, Kendra Jones

Mayor Scott Harpold called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Councilwoman Williams was asked to do the prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The mayor briefly discussed the correct protocol for the agenda. The correct way to get items added, and the importance of giving the public enough time to be able to view the agenda before the meeting.

**Approval of minutes:**

Council member Spratlin made a motion to approve November 13th minutes, 2nd by Councilwoman Williams. The mayor called for a vote by show of hands vote was 2-3, and the motion failed. The mayor allotted time to review the minutes to do a revote. The mayor asked for discussion and called for a motion. Councilwoman Williams made a motion to approve the November 13th minutes, 2nd by Council member Spratlin. The mayor called for a vote by show of hands 2 yes, 3 no’s. motion failed. A motion was made by Councilwoman Maxwell to table the November 13th minutes until the next council meeting, 2nd by Councilwoman Carey. The mayor called for a vote by show of hands 3 yes (Maxwell, Carey, and Clark) 2 no’s (Spratlin and Williams). Motion passed 3-2.

**2nd reading of GMA Retirement Plan**: Motion was made by Council member Spratlin to approve the GMA Retirement Plan 2nd by Councilwoman Williams. The mayor called for a vote by show of hands. The motion passed unanimously.

**ARPA Funds:** Speaker Sheri Bailey spoke on the importance of obligating these funds by December 31st, 2024. Mrs. Bailey stated the funds must be under contract or spent by December 31st, 2024. With contracts in place that money must be spent by 2026. Councilwoman Maxwell asked about getting a grant to fund the generator and use the funds elsewhere. A discussion was had regarding several options for generators, cleaning the ducts at the elementary gym, senior luncheon, Bowman youth on the move, Wi-Fi and cameras in the park, repainting of the tennis and pickleball court, audit fees, accountant fees, electrical work at the park, text my gov, painting of a mural, and well #4 upgrade. Final decisions for ARPA Funds:

1. Generator at well #5- $50,00.00
2. Redoing electrical work on the stage in the park – $2,500.00
3. Redoing the roof of well house #4 and adding additions to the other well houses -$14,000.00
4. ductwork at the gym-$3,518.00
5. fix the plumbing at well #4 - $8,309
6. Senior luncheon- $5,000.00
7. Security and wi-fi (yearly at $1200.00 the park)- $6,260.00

The mayor called for a motion to accept these items. Councilmember Spratlin made a motion to accept the items agreed upon and the amounts to be taken out of the ARPA funds to meet the deadline of December 31st, 2024, second by Councilwoman Williams. The mayor called for a vote by show of hands. The motion passed unanimously.

**Water and Gas rates:** Council member Spratlin and city workers met with the Gas Authority regarding the rates and revenue for the City of Bowman. Council member Spratlin got recommendations from the Elberton public works manager about changing the rates from 9.50 to 16 dollars for residential and from 9.50 to $20 for commercial. With these two changes, revenue would go up 18,000 dollars a year. Councilwoman Clark asked how soon this is needed and was told as soon as possible. The mayor suggested bringing the changes back up next month for a vote.

**Interjection:** The mayor asked for a motion to accept the need for authorization of contract for the attorney fees $30,454.11 and account fees $3,925.00 which have already been paid. Councilmember Spratlin made a motion to accept authorization for a contract between the Attorney and another with the Account, seconded by Councilwoman Williams. The mayor called for a vote by show of hands. The motion passed unanimously.

**Employee Christmas Bonus:** The mayor expressed that in all previous years, employees have received a $500.00 bonus and asked for any changes. Councilwoman Williams made a motion to give all full-time employees a $500.00 Christmas bonus. Councilwoman Clark asked the question what will the part-time employees receive? City Clerk Verdell explained that in the following year the part-time employee received $500.00 as well no difference. Councilwoman Williams amended her previous motion and changed it to all employees full or part-time would receive the $500.00 Christmas bonus, seconded by Council member Spratlin. The mayor called for a vote by show of hands. The motion passed unanimously.

**Renewal of Business Licenses:** The Mayor read out all the businesses that had turned in business applications they included: Bowman Mini Mart, Corner Beer & Wine Shoppe (2), Arzo investments, Nadia Bowman, L.G.’s diner and bakery, Med link Georgia, Bowman Market. Councilwoman Williams made a motion to give business licenses to all the businesses, seconded by Spratlin. The mayor called for a vote by show of hands, motion passed unanimously.

**Renewal of Beer and Wine Licenses:** The Mayor read out all the businesses that had turned in Beer and wine renewal applications they included: Corner Beer & Wine Shoppe, Bowman Mini Mart, and Bowman Market. Councilwoman Maxwell made a motion to grant licenses to all the businesses for beer and wine, 2nd by Councilwoman Williams. The mayor called for a vote by show of hands, motion passed unanimously.

**Mayor Report:** The mayor discussed that he is still working on setting up the court system for Bowman. He will also be redoing the committees in January. He spoke on his conversation with the accountant regarding the 2025 budget. The suggestion from the account was to roll over the current budget in use until after the audits are complete. Councilwoman Clark asked which budget is currently in use. The mayor stated the current budget in use is the year 2023.

**Council member Reports**

**Council woman Carey:** Spoke on several issues that were concerning to her and other citizens of bowman and how she felt personally and professionally.

**Councilwoman Williams:** Spoke on the success of the mistletoe market and the great turnout they received. She stated the parade would be on December 14th at 1 pm. She spoke on the new fees for the community center and expressed the changes that are being made are very minimal. Asked everyone to review the information for the next meeting. She also spoke words of gratitude to Mrs. Tammy Dalton for all her hard work, and dedication to the various communities she has served on in Bowman.

**Councilman Spratlin:** He spoke on public works finishing up gas inspections for the year. They passed all the inspections and got no fines. Regarding the roads, the city workers have found manhole risers from Ferguson Waterworks, which totals $2300.00

**Councilwoman Clark:** passed around an email confirming that she had notified the mayor of her absence from the work session and another email showing where she requested items be added to the agenda and it didn’t happen. She then spoke on the MLK events that are taking place in January. Highlighting the parade, banquet, and movie. She asked for participants in the parade and banquet.

**Councilwoman Maxwell:** expressed her enjoyment on being on the development committee and how she would like to continue to be on this committee.

**Attorney Report**: nothing to report.

**Hospital Authority:** Tammy Dalton representing the hospital explained the monthly reports would be emailed to everyone on the council and the mayor. She announced the Casino Night on January 25th, 2025, tickets are $45.00 per person. The event will be held in the Rock Gym. Congratulations to Nancy Seymour on her hard work and dedication to the hospital even after retirement by bringing in over 2 million dollars in revenue.

**Speaker:**

**Teri Lunsford:** Spoke her concerns on how the mayor is addressing certain council members and his attitude towards his job. She also asked the attorney about some concerns she had regarding voting.

**Mark Carey:** Spoke on his request for a variance and how he feels he is being mistreated by the city.

**Christoper Royster:** asked the question about being able to sell alcohol on Sundays in Bowman, since the County had passed the law to sell on Sundays. He was directed to speak with the lawyer after the meeting for an answer.

Councilwoman Carey made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Council member Spratlin. The mayor called for a vote by I’s. I’s have it vote passed unanimously.

**Meeting Adjourned**

**Approved: January 8th 2025**

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**Mayor City Clerk**