

**City of Bowdon
Mayor and Council Meeting
May 14, 2018
7:00PM**

I.-IV. Agenda Items:

The Mayor and City Council met during a regular session on Monday, May 14th, 2018, in the Mayor and Council Chambers, 182 Grammar School Road, Bowdon Georgia. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Jim Chaffin at 7:00PM.

Roll call was conducted by City Clerk Susan Pierce.

Members present: Mayor Jim Chaffin
Mayor Pro-tem Jan Johnson
Councilmember Marty Johnson
Councilmember Noah Steed
Councilmember Wes McEntyre

Staff present: City Manager Gary Bullock
City Attorney David Mecklin
City Clerk Susan Pierce
Police Chief Mark Brock

The Invocation was led by Councilmember McEntyre, and was followed with the Pledge of Allegiance.

V. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of Mayor & Council Meeting of April 9th were read and presented for approval.
Motion by Councilmember Marty Johnson to approve the minutes; second by Councilmember Wes McEntyre; motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Chaffin presented the Bowdon Middle School STEM Team with a certificate of recognition for their achievements in the University of West Georgia's "Think You Can STEM?" competition held on Saturday, March 3rd. The five-member team had to design and build a water filtration system and analyze water samples using lab equipment, as well as create and design a marketing logo and advertising board. The BMS team included 8th Graders Aidan Astin, Cody Wood, Sam Windom, Jake Duke and 7th Grader Sarah Bearden. The STEM Team is under the leadership of Mrs. Kelly Ogles.

VI. Business Session

- A. **Public Hearing** – Rodney K. Smith Jr. Zoning Change Request. Mr. Smith was not present for the Public Hearing or the Council meeting, neither were any of his representatives. Mr. Smith's proposal to the Planning Commission was to change the zoning for property located in the Bevis Street/"Dixie Street" area from R-2 to R-3 in order to build duplexes. There being no comments for or against the proposal, Mayor Chaffin asked for a motion to act on

the recommendation from the Planning Commission, which was to deny Mr. Smith's request.

Motion by Councilmember Steed to accept the recommendation from the Planning Commission to deny the proposed zoning change; second by Councilmember McEntyre; motion carried unanimously.

- B. Main Street Board Appointments – On February 12, 2018, Council voted to allow an increase in the Main Street Board from seven members to nine members. Director Jan Gibbs and the Board recommended the addition of Judy McWhorter and Keith Barker. Lyn Farmer is coming off of the Board, as her term expired in April, leaving one open slot to be filled upon Council approval by July 1, 2018.

Motion by Councilmember McEntyre to approve the appointment of Judy McWhorter and Keith Barker to serve on the Bowdon Main Street Board as stated above; second by Mayor Pro-tem Jan Johnson; motion carried unanimously.

- C. Library Board Appointments – The Board of Trustees of the Warren P. Sewell Memorial Library of Bowdon met Tuesday, May 8, 2018. The purpose of this meeting was to appoint Board members whose terms had expired. The Board voted to nominate Lynne Ozier for reappointment to the Board and to nominate Julia Fordham to be appointed to the Board in Mary Williams' position.

Motion by Councilmember McEntyre to approve the appointment of Julia Fordham and the reappointment of Lynne Ozier to the Library Board; second by Mayor Pro-tem Jan Johnson; motion carried unanimously.

- D. City Manager's Report – The Emergency Action Plan for Lake Tisinger has been approved by the Department of Natural Resources. Our meter replacement project started April 30. The Rebecca Morris lift station is in, and we are receiving bids for the installation.

- E. Department Reports – A number of our Recreation Department teams are doing very well in competition. This is a good feeder system for our school system. The Library Storytime Live program has a lot of views, not just in Georgia but in other states as well. Things are going well in all departments.

City Manager Bullock and Mayor Chaffin met with county and city officials concerning the T-SPLOST program and have identified some projects in Bowdon. If the T-SPLOST is approved we hope to be able to get some of our streets repaved.

Mayor Pro-tem Jan Johnson went to see Barr Gardens and is excited about the work in progress. We still need to notify BBI employees not to park there because it impedes the access for the park construction personnel/equipment. Councilmember Steed inquired about the spraying of the invasive species, and noted that the pedestrian bridge looks very nice. Gary stated he will check to see if the spraying has been done.

VII. Financial Session

- A. Reviewed Property Tax Unpaid Balance Summary.
- B. Reviewed April financial reports.

- C. Cash balances as of May 11th, 2018.

VIII. Public Comments

1. **Wanda Wessinger** – 264 N. Jonesville Rd. – She and other citizens have met with Kids Peace officials twice concerning runaways from the facility. They understand there is a need for the facility, but would like to have some kind of solution for the protection and safety of citizens as well as the children housed there. Kids Peace does not seem to want to compromise on a fence, alarm system or a calling tree to notify surrounding citizens when there are runaways. The citizens are seeking advice from Council on how to solve the problem.
2. **Gail Cobb** – 831 E. College St.– She is also concerned since she lives alone and lives in close proximity to Kids Peace. She cares about kids, but has had them hide around her house, and is concerned for her safety. Her children may purchase a camera system for her home so that she will have proof of who is causing the problem. Ms. Cobb also asked about a calling system to warn residents when there are runaways.
3. **Aubrey Cross** – 250 N. Jonesville Rd. – Ms. Cross also lives in the area. She has two small children and is concerned about their safety should they be outside when Kids Peace has runaways.
4. **Mike Steed** – 205 Rebecca Morris St. – Mike is here on behalf of the Hospital Authority with appointment recommendations for three members whose terms have expired. He also announced that the Authority has granted eight \$1000 scholarships to local students who are entering Allied Healthcare Studies. He also reported that during the February citizen meeting with Kids Peace, there were proposals for a possible fence, alarm system, and calling tree, but that during a meeting last Tuesday, Kids Peace officials felt like a fence was not the best option. He has no official position with Kids Peace but is very supportive of what the organization does for the kids.
5. **Holly Langley** – 50 Margaretha Dr. – Holly stated she feels a fence would be safer for the kids in the facility as well as surrounding citizens. Daycare centers and schools have fences for the protection of the children. It could be a “nice” fence, which would not be harmful to the children. They are just looking for some kind of solution.
6. **Wanda Wessinger** – Her car was stolen, and they have DNA sent to the crime lab, but are fairly certain that it was the runaways from Kids Peace who committed the crime. She and other citizens are scared of what could possibly happen when the kids escape.

City Manager Gary Bullock reported that he and the Mayor met with the Kids Peace Director today and asked what kind of vetting process they went through for accepting kids to the facility. The Department of Juvenile Justice and Department of Family and Children Services screen the kids. Last year there were 700 referrals sent to Kids Peace. Three people there go through the applications again; out of the 700, 106 applications were accepted. Out of the 106, only about 80 kids were treated during the year. They do not want to accept any kids who are violent. To our knowledge, there have been no incidents of physical violence toward the citizens, although there has been a car stolen and some property has been damaged. Kids Peace does not always accept the

runaways back to the program. None of the kids are over the age of 17. One student has received a college scholarship.

Wanda Wessinger gave some information she obtained from 911 concerning the number of calls concerning the Kids Peace facility. Mr. Bullock said he thought most of those were internal incidents.

Holly Langley stated that if the kids were capable of that inside the walls of the facility, they may also be capable of violence outside during an escape. They just would like to feel safe on their own property.

Mr. Bullock assured the citizens that the City understands their concerns, and the Mayor said that a call system might be an option. He and Mr. Bullock will discuss the matter and talk with the Director about possible solutions.

Mayor Chaffin reiterated that the Council was concerned about the citizens' unease. He said that we all have a desire to see Kids Peace work because it is a good thing and has had a lot of good kids come out of the program. He also said that while it may be difficult to totally eliminate the kids escaping, he didn't see why we couldn't implement a calling system. He then mentioned that he had spent some time at Kids Peace this week helping work on a ropes course for the kids, and enjoyed getting to know some of the students and learning their backgrounds. He is always glad to see kids in these situations being rehabilitated. As for the fence, he maintained that the City has no authority to direct Kids Peace to do anything, but that he can speak with the director again concerning possible solutions to the problem.

Mr. Bullock then recognized Keith West from the Main Street Board, and Jay Williford, Carroll County Fire Marshal.

There being no further comments, the Mayor asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion by Councilmember Steed to adjourn the meeting; second by Councilmember Marty Johnson; motion carried unanimously.

X. Adjournment

Mayor Jim Chaffin

City Clerk Susan Pierce