

City of Bowdon
Mayor and Council Meeting
March 11, 2019
7:00PM

I.-IV. Agenda Items:

The Mayor and City Council met during a regular session on Monday, March 11th, 2019, 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 Wes McEntyre
Councilmember Noah Steed

Staff present: City Manager Gary Bullock
City Clerk Susan Pierce
Police Chief Mark Brock
Main Street Director Jan Gibbs

The Invocation was led by Mayor Pro-tem Jan Johnson and was followed with the Pledge of Allegiance.

V. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of Mayor & Council Meetings of February 11th, 2019 were read and presented for approval. Motion by Mayor Pro-tem Jan Johnson to approve the minutes as presented; second by Councilmember Wes McEntyre; motion carried unanimously.

VI. Certificate of Appreciation

Mayor Jim Chaffin recognized Bart Cater for his service as Chairman of the Carroll County School Board and presented him with a framed Certificate of Appreciation.

VII. Public Comments

1. Aubrey Cross – Expressed concerns once again about Kids Peace. She brought 911 records of disturbances, including kids on the roof, kids running away, shoplifting, stealing cars, fighting, as well as other incidents. She and other citizens would like to know what can be done to prevent these incidents.
Mayor Chaffin said that Lou, the administrator at Kids Peace, was in process of improving the doors with stronger magnets to prevent the runaways. He also noted that he was unaware of any physical assaults outside the facility. He asked the City Attorney, David Mecklin, what recourse the City has concerning the facility. Mr. Mecklin indicated the City was doing the right thing by communicating with the local citizens and communicating with the national organization to make sure they are providing all the support to the local facility

- that they can. He mentioned that the City needs to communicate very aggressively that we consider this to be an issue and that we are expecting their full attention to address the problems. Mayor Chaffin noted that when he was at the facility last Monday there were about 3 people from their headquarters in Pennsylvania working in the facility. Ms. Cross asked why the facility couldn't hire their own security instead of using our police officers to pursue the runaways.
2. Gail Cobb – Ms. Cobb also expressed her concerns for local citizens as well as the kids who are running away. She has a security system and saw them on her camera. Her son works for GBI and carries a gun, so it could have been dangerous for those kids.
 3. Dot Wigginton – former teacher who taught special needs kids. Ms. Wigginton said she feels for the children, but also noted that the children themselves could be in danger if they run away.
 4. Kregg Webb – last week one runaway was caught near his house. He carries a gun also.
 5. Taylor Austin – worked at Kids Peace for 2 years. He has had 13 stitches in his head from a head butt, a concussion from being hit over the head with a textbook, has been bitten, spit on, his desk has been turned over and bookshelves have been pulled down. When he began working it was mostly DFCS kids with a few DJJ kids, but when he left the ratio had turned the opposite way, with more DJJ kids than DFCS kids. He tried to help the kids but said he did not get support from administration. He also stated that the facility was understaffed and underequipped to deal with the number of kids they housed there. He feels the best thing for the facility is to build a fence for the safety of the kids and the local residents.
 6. Clifford Hitt – Mr. Hitt owns property close to Kids Peace with cattle. He has a bull who can be very unfriendly. If the runaways were to go across his pasture, they risk being hurt by the bull, and if they try to break into his place, they risk being hurt by a rifle. They also walk along the road in dark clothing, so they risk being hit by a car.
 7. Laura Strickland – Mrs. Strickland lives alone. Her property backs up to the outdoor basketball courts at Kids Peace. She said she can not go into her backyard any more because the kids call her ugly names and make ugly gestures to her. She also said that she couldn't sell her property for that reason. She has no problem with children being helped, but she can't get help from Kids Peace for her problem. She wants Kids Peace to put up a barrier.
 8. Shannon Herrin – Ms. Herrin worked as the nurse manager at Kids Peace for 7 years. While there, she presented different ideas to management for improvements to keep the kids, staff and community safe, but they were never implemented. She was told it was a funding issue, and that there was no funding available in the budget. She also said that the current Program Director came from the Mesabi Academy, a Kids Peace facility, which was closed for regulatory deficits that have occurred there. She said she is not sure if the board of directors were aware of everything that has happened at Kids Peace, but she feels that they have a responsibility to the community to ensure that the executive director is clear about safety and about the plans going forward to take care of the issues.

Mr. Webb and Mrs. Wigginton spoke again, both saying that Kids Peace needs a fence around the property to protect the kids as well as the surrounding community.

Mayor Chaffin asked if any of the Council members wanted to comment. Noah Steed said that he thought he was told last year that the doors could not be locked per the Fire Marshall. City Manager Gary Bullock said they got approval from the Fire Marshall now to lock the doors, and

only the staff members can unlock the doors. They are in process of changing all the exterior doors to a stronger magnetic door as well. Mr. Bullock said that we will continue to monitor the situation.

Ms. Cross mentioned that the kids have stolen door keys in the past, and that they could possibly still do so. She feels a fence is a better solution to the problem.

Mr. Austin spoke again and said that the staff doesn't care if keys or other things are stolen.

Mrs. Strickland said that when the kids were outside playing basketball, there was no staff watching them. She also said that before the facility was built, neighborhood meetings would be scheduled for community comments, but would be cancelled with no notice, so the public had no input into the building location.

Mr. Austin informed everyone that the Mesabi Academy was in Minnesota, if anyone wanted to look it up to see why it was closed.

VIII. Business Session

Motion by Mayor Pro-tem Jan Johnson to amend the Agenda to include the approval of the appointment of the last two members to the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee; second by Councilmember McEntyre; motion carried unanimously.

- A. Resolution Opposing House Bill 302/Senate Bill 172, Preemption of Local Building Design Standards – Mr. Bullock verified that the bill did not make the crossover, so will not be voted on, but there is a possibility that the language could be attached to another bill, so we want to communicate our opposition to our representatives.

Motion by Mayor Pro-tem Jan Johnson to approve the resolution opposing House Bill 302 and Senate Bill 172, Preemption of Local Building Design Standards, as presented; second by Councilmember Steed; motion carried unanimously.

- B. Resolution Opposing House Bill 465, Water Customer Bill of Rights – Mr. Bullock stated that this bill was restrictive, and it also did not cross over, but we still need to express our opinion in case the language for this bill is attached to another bill. The Georgia Municipal Association is also opposed to this bill.

Motion by Mayor Pro-tem Jan Johnson to approve the resolution opposing House Bill 465, Water Customer Bill of Rights, as presented; second by Councilmember McEntyre; motion carried unanimously.

- C. Development Authority Board Appointments –Mr. Bullock noted that we have Development Authority Board members whose terms have expired. He reported that Mike Steed has agreed to serve for a term which expires December 2021; Pat Hannon agreed to be re-appointed for a 4-year term which expires December 2022; Mark Jensen agreed to serve for a 4-year term which expires December 2022. There is one more position to fill, as Mike Mallory has declined to serve another term.

Motion by Councilmember McEntyre to approve the appointments of Mike Steed and Mark Jensen, and the re-appointment of Pat Hannon, to the Development Authority as presented; second by Mayor Pro-tem Jan Johnson; motion carried by a 3-0 margin, with Councilmember Steed abstaining.

- D. Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee appointments – Mr. Bullock reported that we needed two people to complete the committee, one of which is required to be an elected official. Jan Johnson and Robert L. Thomas have agreed to fill the two remaining positions on the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee.

Motion by Councilmember Steed to approve the appointments of Jan Johnson and Robert L. Thomas to the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee; second by Councilmember McEntyre; motion carried by a 3-0 margin, with Mayor Pro-tem Jan Johnson abstaining.

- E. City Manager Reports – Mr. Bullock reported that we are into our regular schedule of dam inspections at Lake Tisinger. The Emergency Action Plan has been completed and approved. The doors and security system are in place at the Water Treatment Plant. We have completed the water meter change-out program. Our Public Works Department will make any necessary repairs. We have had some issues with the work done by the contractors; about 20% of the meters installed by them did not pass inspection by a third-party inspection service. We will be back-billing the contractor for any losses incurred by the City. The Carroll County Service Delivery Strategy has been approved by the Department of Community Affairs (DCA). We have completed our installation of a high-speed internet system in the Industrial Park. All of our lift station SCADA equipment has come in, so we will be in process of updating the lift stations.
- F. Department Reports – Councilmember McEntyre asked how all the rain affected our sewer system. Mr. Bullock reported that Public Works Director Tim Keeton has stayed on top of the situation. We have some equipment ordered for items that need to be replaced. Mayor Pro-tem Jan Johnson wanted to commend Public Works worker Adam Ivey who detected a water leak while they were picking up limbs close to her house.

IX. Financial Session

- A. Reviewed Property Tax Unpaid Balance Summary.
- B. Reviewed February financial reports – Mayor Pro-tem Johnson asked about the business license revenue being in two line items. Rick Hartley, our accountant, confirmed that the line item was corrected today. Mr. Bullock noted that Mr. Hartley composed an extra financial report on the Recreation Department today confirming that their expenses, like other city departments, must be supplemented by property tax funds. He added that the Gymnastics Department was doing very well. He also reported that we have two young ladies in the Gymnastics program who are among the Top 100 gymnasts in the country.
- C. Cash balances as of March 8, 2019

There being no other business, Mayor Chaffin asked for a motion to adjourn.

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

X. Adjournment

Mayor Jim Chaffin

City Clerk Susan Pierce