**Meeting Minutes September 9, 2024 Molena City Council**

**Date and Location:**  
The meeting was held on September 9, 2024, at Molena City Hall, 10 Spring Street, Molena, Georgia. It began at 6:00 p.m. and was presided over by Mayor Joyce Corley, with City Clerk Tina Lee as secretary.

Councilmember Willie McDowell, Post 2 led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance and invocation.

**Attendees:**

* **Voting Members Present:** Councilmembers Willie McDowell, Jr. (Post 2), Andrea Ashby (Post 3), Luis Vazquez, Sr. (Post 4), and Damon Riggins (Post 5).
* **Guests:** Judge David Fowler.
* **Members Absent:** None

**Approval of Minutes:**  
The minutes from the August 16, 2024, meeting and the current agenda were approved unanimously (4-0).

**Swearing-In:**  
Councilmember Damon Riggins (Post 5) was sworn in by Judge David Fowler.

**Variance Requests and Approvals:**

1. **Mrs. Erica Blakeney:** Requested a variance to place a well on her property instead of connecting to City Water due to a mistake by Pike County. The Council unanimously approved the variance and a temporary dwelling exception. Note: due to the setback of the residence, the water line would need to be brought in from Watson and is beyond our service line’s capabilities. It would be beyond the point where Council has already approved a variance for a well for this reason. The well is approved in perpetuity and is not just restricted to the current owner.
   * **Temporary Dwelling Approval:**
     + **Moved by:** Councilmember Damon Riggins (Post 5)
     + **Seconded by:** Councilmember Luis Vazquez (Post 4)
     + **Vote:** 5 Yay, 0 Nay
   * **Well Approval in Perpetuity:**
     + **Moved by:** Councilmember Damon Riggins (Post 5)
     + **Seconded by:** Mayor Pro Tempore Jennifer Riggins (Post 1)
     + **Vote:** 5 Yay, 0 Nay
2. **Mr. Matt Hand:** Requested a variance to subdivide a recently purchased lot at the corner of Hwy 18/Main Street and Allen Road. Council approved the ¾ acre lots provided all other ordinance requirements are met.
   * **Variance Approval:**
     + **Moved by:** Councilmember Damon Riggins (Post 5)
     + **Seconded by:** Councilmember Luis Vazquez (Post 4)
     + **Vote:** 5 Yay, 0 Nay

**Public Concerns:**

* **Valveese Knight:** Requested police security during the Cancer Walk in October and left advertising material. Chief Polk assured her the MPD would help.
* **Robon McKay:** Requested the city clear the mess on his property caused by the replacement of culverts.
  + Council advised Mr. Shane Martin of Molena Public Works has inspected the tree that is the major cause of concern. He has stated between the swampy conditions of the ground and the difficulty in cutting up a green tree due to moisture content he is unable to remove the tree currently. He will check on it from time to time to determine when it will be possible to remove the tree.
* **Terri H. Smith:** Expressed concerns about the clarity of her water.

**Officer’s Reports:**

* Nothing to report in departments other than grounds.
* **Councilmember Luis Vazquez (Post 4):** Discussed a quote for limb removal and removal of one tree on Watson Road. The Council voted unanimously to approve the quote and move forward with removal.
  + **Tree removal quote approval:**
    - **Moved by:** Councilmember Damon Riggins (Post 5)
    - **Seconded by:** Councilmember Luis Vazquez (Post 4)
    - **Vote:** 5 Yay, 0 Nay

**Other Reports:**

* **Chief of Police Matthew Polk:** Presented the previous month’s statistics and provided information on the mileage and condition of the following vehicles, as well as the loan balances:
  + **Dodge Charger:** 19,742 miles – current balance $26,434.58
  + **Ford Explorer:** 44,280 miles – current balance $14,280.08
  + **Chevy Tahoe:** Out of commission

**Main Motions:**

* **Signature Card Update:**
  + **Motion:** Add Damon Riggins back to the signature card at FBOP and remove Luis Vazquez.
  + **Moved by:** Councilmember Damon Riggins (Post 5)
  + **Seconded by:** Councilmember Luis Vazquez (Post 4)
  + **Vote:** 5 Yay, 0 Nay

**Executive Session:**

* The Council adjourned to Executive Session to approve the minutes of the last Executive Session.

**Adjournment:**

After reconvening from Executive Session, Council voted to adjourn the September Molena City Council meeting.

* **Motion to Adjourn:**
  + **Moved by:** Councilmember Damon Riggins (Post 5)
  + **Seconded by:** Mayor Pro Tempore Jennifer Riggins (Post 1)

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**Mayor signature**

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**Date of approval: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**