

***Molena City Council***  
***PO Box 247 10 Spring Street Molena GA 30258***  
***Meeting Minutes***

**January 11, 2021**

**I. Call to order**

Mayor Joyce Corley called to order the City Council meeting of the Molena, Georgia City Council at 6 p.m. after calling for public comments.

**II. Roll call**

City Clerk Tina Lee conducted a visual roll call. The following persons were present: Mayor Joyce Corley; Mayor Pro Tempore Jennifer Riggins, Post 1; Councilmember Damon Riggins, Post 2; Councilmember Allison Turner, Post 5; and City Clerk Tina L. Lee.

**III. PLEDGE/INVOCATION**

Councilmember Damon Riggins led the pledge and invocation.

**IV. Approval of minutes from last meeting**

Current agenda and minutes from the previous meeting and workshop were provided to all council members. Councilmember Damon Riggins moved to approve the current agenda with a second by Councilmember Allison Turner. Councilmember Damon Riggins also moved to approve the minutes. This was again seconded by Councilmember Allison Turner. Both motions were passed unanimously.

**V. Chief of Police Novin Darsey**

- a) Chief of Police, Novin Darsey reported on the number of calls and citations as follows:
  - i) There was a fire at 105 Grubbs Street. The apparent cause was a smoldering cigarette dropped on a sofa. There is no ongoing investigation.
  - ii) Chief of Police Novin Darsey provided the status of the police vehicles as well as the mileage. The Tahoe is at 132810 and the Impala is at 132027. The Impala is still in the shop.
  - iii) The City truck has a possible gasoline leak. Therefore, it is being parked outside of the shop for the foreseeable future. Chief Darsey asked Council to

consider replacing the truck as soon as it is feasible and reminded Council of its many issues while stating it would most likely be more costly to repair than the value of the vehicle.

iv) Chief of Police Novin Darsey and City Clerk Tina Lee discussed the request by T-Mobile Sprint to place a phone or hotspot in the patrol car at no cost to first responders. Council agreed to the two-week test period.

Chief of Police Novin Darsey played a recording of the 911 call from the recent fire for Mayor Corley and Council. Throughout the call, the 911 dispatcher was unable to discern what Chief Darsey was conveying and had to ask him to repeat most of what he said. Chief Darsey stated his concern that this is dangerous to responders and to those being served and could, at some point, cost in lives instead of dollars. He discussed options such as putting up a repeater owned by Zebulon Sheriffs Office, additional equipment, and updating software. Council agreed that something should be done and asked Chief of Police Novin Darsey to find the best solution to present to Council at a future date.

## **VI. Reports from council and committees**

- i) Buildings, Streets, and Grounds - Allison Turner - reported Dyke McMichael has changed the gates at the park and the water tower to facilitate mowing.
- ii) Public Safety - Damon Riggins - nothing to report.
- iii) Ways & Means - Glenn Beckham - nothing to report.
- iv) Water - Jennifer Riggins - nothing to report.
- v) The Mayor's report - nothing to report.

## **VII. Old/Unfinished Business**

- a) Mayor Corley read following ordinances for the second time:
  - i) Water Deposits - moved for approval by Councilmember Damon Riggins and seconded by Councilmember Allison Turner.
  - ii) Abolition of the Court Cost Fee - moved for approval by Councilmember Damon Riggins and seconded by Councilmember Jennifer Riggins.
  - iii) Increased Water Rate Schedule - moved for approval by Councilmember Damon Riggins and seconded by Councilmember Allison Turner.
- b) Council voted to adjust the 2020 budget to accommodate additions including, but not limited to window, extra repairs, metal building, Crawford Grading

\$28,437.00, and Arcadia \$37,703.82. - moved for approval by Councilmember Damon Riggins and seconded by Councilmember Jennifer Riggins.

- c) Amended ordinances were signed.
- d) COVID-19 personnel policy was verbally agreed to.
- e) COVID-19 general policy was verbally agreed to. Both COVID policies were moved for approval by Councilmember Damon Riggins and seconded by Councilmember Jennifer Riggins.

#### **VIII. New business**

- a) Council voted to appoint the existing officers to the same positions:
  - i) Jennifer Riggins, Mayor Pro Tempore
  - ii) L. Scott Mayfield, City Attorney
  - iii) William Novin Darsey, Jr. Chief of Police
  - iv) Tina L. Lee City Clerk
- b) Councilmember Damon Riggins moved to set fees for real estate related applications at \$50. Councilmember Allison Turner seconded.
- c) Discussion of Jay Matthews' visit was tabled for a later time.

#### **IX. Roundtable**

- a) During roundtable discussion, City Clerk Tina Lee asked Council about the Crawford Grading and Pipeline bill to replace the meter on Allen St run over by Pike Propane. The question was whether to bill the homeowner directly and allow them to bill Pike Propane or pay the bill to assure timely payment and then bill the homeowner who will then bill Pike Propane. Council moved to pay Crawford and then bill homeowner. The motion was made by Councilmember Damon Riggins and seconded by Councilmember Allison Turner.

#### **X. Adjournment**

Mayor Joyce Corley adjourned the meeting at 6:38 p.m. following a motion by Councilmember Damon Riggins and a second by Councilmember Allison Turner.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: City Clerk Tina L. Lee

Minutes approved by: \_\_\_\_\_