

LaFollette City Council

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday December 6, 2022 5:30 p.m.

The City of LaFollette Mayor and Council met in a regular monthly meeting on December 6, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. at the LaFollette City Hall. Mayor Cliff Jennings called the meeting to order. Mr. Terry Sweat led the prayer and pledge. Mayor Jennings asked for the roll call, which was as follows:

Mr. Phillip Farmer.....Present

Mr. Wayne Kitts.....Present

Mr. Chuck Queener.....Present

Mrs. Stephanie Solomon.....Present

Mayor Cliff Jennings.....Present

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 2022 MEETINGS.

Mayor Jennings asked if there was a motion and a second to approve. Mrs. Solomon made the motion to approve. Mr. Farmer made the second. Mayor Jennings asked all in favor of approving the minutes from the November 2022 meetings say aye. All Council Members approved with aye no nays were recorded.

REPORTS FROM BOARDS, COMMITTEES, & DEPARTMENTS

Mayor Jennings asked if there was a motion and a second to approve. Mrs. Solomon made the motion to approve. Mr. Farmer made the second. Mayor Jennings asked all in favor of approving the various reports say aye. All Council Members approved with aye no nays were recorded.

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

Mayor Jennings asked if there was anyone present that would like to address the Council. Ms. Tammy Meritt from Congressman Fleishman office approached Council and offered services from their office.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Jennings asked if there were any announcements. Mr. Foust announced the employee Christmas luncheon on December 14th, Christmas in the park on December 16th, and the lighting of the Christmas Tree following the Council meeting. Mr. Foust also announced the city had been awarded the CDBG grant of \$630,000.00 for the renovation of the old jail to a new dispatch center and the purchase of a new first responder vehicle. Mr. Foust advised Council they would need to adjourn in session for the final approval of ordinance 2022-14. Mr. Foust asked if December 12, 2022 at 10:00am would be okay with everyone. Mr. Foust advised the Council that the Finance Director would like to update the grant and the Dossett Bridge grant as well. Discussion occurred between Mr. Sweat and the Council regarding the two grants. Mr. Sweat advised the Council that since they had discussed the \$389,258.00 to CSX railroad in the workshop and he had gathered additional information, he recommended that they act to keep the grant moving forward. Mr. Kitts stated that he felt they needed to go ahead and approve in the meeting to keep the project moving. Mr. Troutman asked was it the approval on \$8,500.00. Mr. Sweat replied they could send the \$8,500.00 he was referring to the \$389,258.00 for approval. Mayor Jennings asked Mr. Kitts if he would like to introduce that as a form of a motion. Mr. Kitts said he would like to make that as his motion. Mayor Jennings said there was a motion on the floor, was there a second. Mrs. Solomon made the second to the motion. Mayor Jennings asked for any discussion there being none. Mayor Jennings requested roll call, which was as follows:

Mr. Phillip Farmer Yes

Mr. Wayne Kitts Yes

Mr. Chuck Queener..... Yes

Mrs. Stephanie Solomon Yes

-Motion Carried-

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS

*** Resolution 2022-25- Amending the 2022/2023 Budget.**

Mayor Jennings asked, what is the pleasure of the Council on Resolution 2022-25. Mrs. Solomon made the motion to approve Resolution 2022-25. Mr. Kitts made the second. Mayor Jennings asked if there was any discussion. Mayor Jennings requested roll call, which was as follows:

Mr. Phillip Farmer Yes

Mr. Wayne Kitts Yes

Mr. Chuck Queener..... Yes

Mrs. Stephanie Solomon Yes

-Motion Carried-

*** Resolution 2022-26- Amending the 2022/2023 Budget.**

Mayor Jennings asked, what is the pleasure of the Council on Resolution 2022-26. Discussion occurred between Mr. Queener and Mr. Foust regarding the \$2,541,115.00 certificate of deposit regarding how the funds would be allocated. Mayor Jennings asked if there was any other discussion. Mr. Farmer made the motion to approve Resolution 2022-26. Mrs. Solomon made the second. Mayor Jennings asked if there was any discussion. Mayor Jennings requested roll call, which was as follows:

Mr. Phillip Farmer Yes

Mr. Wayne Kitts Yes

Mr. Chuck Queener..... Yes

Mrs. Stephanie Solomon Yes

-Motion Carried-

*** Resolution 2022-27- Resolution for Consultant selection policy for projects funded in whole or in part with funds provided by Federal Highway or the Tennessee Department of Transportation.**

Mayor Jennings asked, what is the pleasure of the Council on Resolution 2022-27. Mrs. Solomon made the motion to approve Resolution 2022-27. Mr. Kitts made the second. Mayor Jennings asked if there was any discussion. Mayor Jennings requested roll call, which was as follows:

Mr. Phillip Farmer Yes

Mr. Wayne Kitts Yes

Mr. Chuck Queener..... Yes

Mrs. Stephanie Solomon Yes

-Motion Carried-

*** Ordinance 2022-14- Ordinance to amend the 2022/2023 fiscal budget for the electric fund and water/sewer fund for LaFollette Utility Board.**

Mayor Jennings asked, what is the pleasure of the Council on Ordinance 2022-14. Mrs. Solomon made the motion to approve Ordinance 2022-14. Mr. Farmer made the second. Mayor Jennings asked if there was any discussion. Mayor Jennings requested roll call, which was as follows:

Mr. Phillip Farmer Yes

Mr. Wayne Kitts Yes

Mr. Chuck Queener..... Yes

Mrs. Stephanie Solomon Yes

-Motion Carried-

ADMINISTRATION

*** Discussion on landscaping bulb-outs on Central Avenue downtown.**

Discussion occurred between Mr. Foust and Council regarding a request from Mayor Jennings about the flower beds that were placed along Central Avenue. Mr. Foust advised Council he had spoken to Evan Sanders and he had contacted the state regarding the safety hazards after the installation of the bulb out. Mr. Foust advised the city had the blessing of the grant writer and the state to remove the bulb outs at the expense of the city. Mr. Foust also advised that the city would not have to reimburse the grant according to Mr. Sanders. Mayor Jennings stated he would like to see the Council make the motion to take the flower beds out due to all the hazards they have caused and he thinks the public would appreciate it. Mr. Kitts made the motion to approve of taking out the bulb outs. Mr. Queener made the second. Mr. Kitts stated that if the city didn't have anything pressing start taking them out the next day. Mayor Jennings asked for any discussion then requested roll call, which was as follows:

Mr. Phillip Farmer Yes

Mr. Wayne Kitts Yes

Mr. Chuck Queener..... Yes

Mrs. Stephanie Solomon Yes

-Motion Carried-

*** Appointment of Vice Mayor.**

Mayor Jennings asked, what is the pleasure of the Council. Mrs. Solomon made the motion to appoint Mr. Wayne Kitts as Vice Mayor. Mayor Jennings asked if there were any other motions. Mr. Farmer made the second. Mayor Jennings asked if there were any further discussion. Mayor Jennings requested roll call, which was as follows:

- Mr. Phillip Farmer Yes
- Mr. Wayne Kitts Yes
- Mr. Chuck Queener..... Yes
- Mrs. Stephanie Solomon Yes

-Motion Carried-

*** Appointment of E911 Board Member.**

Mayor Jennings asked if the Council didn't have a problem with it, he had asked Mr. Queener to serve on the E911 Board. Mayor Jennings stated it would be his recommendation that Mr. Queener serve. Mayor Jennings asked, what is the pleasure of the Council. Mr. Kitts made the motion to appoint Mr. Queener to the E911 Board. Mr. Farmer made the second. Mayor Jennings asked if there was any further discussion. Mayor Jennings requested roll call, which was as follows:

- Mr. Phillip Farmer Yes
- Mr. Wayne Kitts Yes
- Mr. Chuck Queener..... Yes
- Mrs. Stephanie Solomon Yes

-Motion Carried-

*** Approval of contract on hiring a Community Planner for the LaFollette Regional Planning Commission.**

Mr. Foust advised in the Councils packet there was a contract for the Council to review from East Tennessee Development District for the Council to review. Mr. Foust advised the contract had been prorated from \$8,000.00 to \$6,000.00. Mr. Foust recommended that the city hire the community planner. Mayor Jennings

stated you have the recommendation of the Administrator. Mayor Jennings asked, what is the pleasure of the Council. Mrs. Solomon made the motion to approve. Mr. Kitts made the second. Mayor Jennings asked for any further discussion. Mayor Jennings requested roll call, which was as follows:

- Mr. Phillip Farmer Yes
- Mr. Wayne Kitts Yes
- Mr. Chuck Queener..... Yes
- Mrs. Stephanie Solomon Yes

-Motion Carried-

*** Approval to decline the grant funds for the LPRF grant for the LaFollette Recreation Department Amphitheater.**

Mr. Foust explained to Council he had spoken with Community Development Partner and they advised if the grant was declined the city would not be penalized. Mr. Foust recommended to Council to decline the LPRF grant. Mayor Jennings asked, what is the pleasure of the Council. Mr. Farmer made the motion to approve. Mrs. Solomon made the second. Mayor Jennings asked for any further discussion. Mayor Farmer requested roll call, which was as follows:

- Mr. Phillip Farmer Yes
- Mr. Wayne Kitts Yes
- Mr. Chuck Queener..... Yes
- Mrs. Stephanie Solomon Yes

-Motion Carried-

*** Approval of soliciting bids for the materials and labor for the construction of a stage, restrooms, and concession building in the rear parking lot of the municipal building.**

Mr. Foust explained it was discussed in the workshop it would be much affordable for the city to build in the rear parking lot in house than continuing with the amphitheater. Mayor Jennings asked, what is the pleasure of the Council. Mr. Queener made the motion to approve. Mr. Kitts made the second.

Mayor Jennings asked for any further discussion. Mayor Jennings requested roll call, which was as follows:

- Mr. Phillip Farmer Yes
- Mr. Wayne Kitts Yes
- Mr. Chuck Queener..... Yes
- Mrs. Stephanie Solomon Yes

-Motion Carried-

POLICE DEPARTMENT

*** Approval of promoting Vickie Conner to a full-time Police Dispatcher at a salary of \$29,120.00 effective December 17, 2022.**

Mayor Jennings asked, what is the pleasure of the Council. Mrs. Solomon made the motion to approve. Mr. Farmer made the second. Mayor Jennings asked for any further discussion. Mayor Jennings requested roll call, which was as follows:

- Mr. Phillip Farmer Yes
- Mr. Wayne Kitts Yes
- Mr. Chuck Queener..... Yes
- Mrs. Stephanie Solomon Yes

-Motion Carried-

*** Approval of transferring Frankie Dople to a full-time Animal Control Officer at a salary of \$32,636.66 effective December 12, 2022.**

Mayor Jennings asked, what is the pleasure of the Council. Mr. Kitts stated since both Department Heads agree he made the motion to approve. Discussion occurred between the mayor and a citizen regarding the salary difference between a dispatcher and animal control. Mayor Jennings advised the citizen he accepted her response. Mrs. Solomon made the second. Mayor Jennings asked for any further discussion. Mayor Jennings requested roll call, which was as follows:

- Mr. Phillip Farmer Yes
- Mr. Wayne Kitts Yes

Mr. Chuck Queener..... Yes

Mrs. Stephanie Solomon Yes

-Motion Carried-

*** Approval of bid of \$13,500.00 to Integrity Canine, LLC for Police Canine.**

Mayor Jennings asked, what is the pleasure of the Council. Mrs. Solomon made the motion to approve. Mr. Kitts made the second. Mayor Jennings asked for any further discussion. Mayor Jennings requested roll call, which was as follows:

Mr. Phillip Farmer Yes

Mr. Wayne Kitts Yes

Mr. Chuck Queener..... Yes

Mrs. Stephanie Solomon Yes

-Motion Carried-

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

*** Approval of promoting Quinton Busher to a full-time Sanitation Worker at a salary of 28,601.04 effective December 17, 2022.**

Mayor Jennings asked, what is the pleasure of the Council. Mr. Queener made the motion to approve. Mr. Farmer made the second. Mayor Jennings asked for any further discussion. Mayor Jennings requested roll call, which was as follows:

Mr. Phillip Farmer Yes

Mr. Wayne Kitts Yes

Mr. Chuck Queener..... Yes

Mrs. Stephanie Solomon Yes

-Motion Carried-

RECREATION DEPARTMENT

*** Approval of bid of \$65,500.00 to JCR Construction for the constructing of a 60 X 100 metal building on the tennis court located on South Fifth Street.**

Mr. Foust explained the building was purchased for the recenter to be erected on the tennis court on South Fifth Street. Mr. Foust recommended approval to the Council. Mayor Jennings asked, what is the pleasure of the Council. Mr. Kitts made the motion to approve. Mrs. Solomon made the second. Mayor Jennings asked for any further discussion. Mayor Jennings requested roll call, which was as follows:

Mr. Phillip Farmer Yes

Mr. Wayne Kitts Yes

Mr. Chuck Queener..... Yes

Mrs. Stephanie Solomon Yes

-Motion Carried-

*Mayor Jennings introduced the LaFollette Planning Commission Members.

Matt Grodeman

Melanie Nance

Lynn Letner

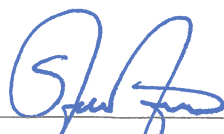
Stephanie Solomon


Mayor Cliff Jennings

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Jennings asked for a motion to adjourn in session until December 12, 2022 at 10:00am. Mr. Kitts made the motion to adjourn in session. Mr. Farmer made the second.

Attest: _____, Clerk


Stan Foust


Cliff Jennings Mayor