



# CITY OF TOCCOA

## CITY COMMISSION

MINUTES • FEBRUARY 26, 2024

Regular Meeting

City Commission/Court Room

5:00 PM

92 North Alexander, Toccoa, GA 30577

### CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Gail Fry called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

### INVOCATION

Reverend Paul Garrison gave the invocation.

### PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

### ROLL CALL

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Terry Carter	Vice Mayor	Present	
Gail Fry	Mayor	Present	
Evan Hellenga	Commissioner	Present	
Ron Matheson	Commissioner	Present	
Michelle Jamieson	Commissioner	Present	
Fredda O. Wheeler	City Manager	Present	
John Dickerson	Attorney	Present	
Beth Rider	City Clerk	Present	

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Hellenga made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Matheson to approve the agenda and consent agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Evan Hellenga, Commissioner
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Ron Matheson, Commissioner
<b>AYES:</b>	Carter, Fry, Hellenga, Matheson, Jamieson

### REPORTS

Commissioner Hellenga stated over the past week we lost Mr. Ray Cornell who was a member of our ABC Board for many years and Thurston Estes who was a Charter Member of our HPC Board and served for many years. Please remember the families at this time.

Commissioner Matheson reported he attended the Chamber of Commerce Board Meeting and welcomed on behalf of the City Congressman Andrew Clyde. At the meeting they discussed Leadership graduation and Julie has brought in a long list of new members.

Mayor Fry stated all Commissioners serve on different boards within the community, some are held monthly and some quarterly. She asked that each Commissioner give a report after attending a meeting.

**I. CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Request for Approval of Minutes of February 12, 2024 Commission Meeting

**II. OLD BUSINESS**

**III. NEW BUSINESS**

- B. Consideration of Moratorium on Permitting and Licensing of Vape Shops

City Manager Fredda Wheeler stated this moratorium will prohibit the opening of any new vape shops for six months. This time frame will allow us the opportunity to see what is done at the State and Federal level.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hellenga, seconded by Vice-Mayor Carter to extend the moratorium for 6 months as proposed. Motion carried unanimously.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Evan Hellenga, Commissioner
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Terry Carter, Vice Mayor
<b>AYES:</b>	Carter, Fry, Hellenga, Matheson, Jamieson

- C. Consideration of Agreement with Toccoa Little League for Maintenance and Management of Alewine Park

City Manager Fredda Wheeler stated the City of Toccoa has had a good relationship with Toccoa Little League for many years. They have used the Doyle Street facility and keep it in good shape. They would like to include two fields at Alewine Park for practice fields in the Facility Contract Agreement, the field at the entrance at the top and the first field on the lower level. The fields will be maintained to the same standards as Doyle Street.

Doug McCollum stated they have had several State Tournaments in the past few years and will have the State 9 & 10 year olds this year. Doug thanked the City for allowing them to use the facilities.

After discussing the restroom and lights Mayor Fry stated we can have Public Works look at the conditions.

Mr. McCollum stated Opening Day will be March 16<sup>th</sup>.

A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Carter, seconded by Commissioner Jamieson to approve Little League Facility Contract to add Alewine Park. Motion carried unanimously.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Terry Carter, Vice Mayor
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Michelle Jamieson, Commissioner
<b>AYES:</b>	Carter, Fry, Hellenga, Matheson, Jamieson

- D. Consideration of GEFA Loan for the Water Treatment Plant Dechlorination System

City Manager stated in February of 2023 the City applied to GEFA to fund a new chemical feed system and pre-fabricated building for dechlorination system, replace existing alum

storage tank, repairs for the main filter building and repair two circular clearwell tops. The award was for \$1,253,500.00 with a 50% principal forgiveness. The out of pocket amount for the City will be \$626,750.00. This is a 20 year loan with \$39,000 annual payment. We are requesting Commissioners to approve to continue with the bid process.

Vice-Mayor Carter asked what the interest rate will be. Ms. Becky Bohannon stated 2% or less.

Vice-Mayor Carter asked Mr. Scott to explain the dechlorination process.

Engineer Alex Wiseman answered questions regarding the bidding and loan process.

A motion was made by Commissioner Jamieson, seconded by Commissioner Matheson to approve to send out for bidding. Motion carried unanimously.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Michelle Jamieson, Commissioner
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Ron Matheson, Commissioner
<b>AYES:</b>	Carter, Fry, Hellenga, Matheson, Jamieson

E. Consideration of Renewal of Withdrawal Permits

City Manager Fredda Wheeler stated EPD permits for Lake Toccoa and Davidson Creek will expire June 16, 2024 EPD is asking for more detailed and current information that will require additional work. Ms. Wheeler stated bathymetric surveys are required and the survey will cost \$36,500.00, in addition to the Engineering fees for an additional \$56,000.00. The total permitting fee for Lake Toccoa and Davidson Creek is \$89,500.00. Ms. Wheeler stated we are asking for your approval to move forward with the withdrawal permits. The last time the surveys were done was 2014 and they are good for ten years.

Alex Wiseman explained the Bathymetric Survey is sediment accumulation at the bottom of the lake.

A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Carter, seconded by Commissioner Hellenga to move forward with the project and fund it through the renewal and extension water fund. Motion carried unanimously.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Terry Carter, Vice Mayor
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Evan Hellenga, Commissioner
<b>AYES:</b>	Carter, Fry, Hellenga, Matheson, Jamieson

F. Consideration of a Resolution Authorizing AARP Grant Application

A motion was made by Commissioner Hellenga, seconded by Commissioner Jamieson to approve the AARP Community Challenge Grant in the amount of \$10,020.00 to upgrade the lighting fixtures in the Ritz Theatre. Motion carried unanimously.

**RESULT:** APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]  
**MOVER:** Evan Hellenga, Commissioner  
**SECONDER:** Michelle Jamieson, Commissioner  
**AYES:** Carter, Fry, Hellenga, Matheson, Jamieson

G. Consideration of a Resolution Authorizing South Arts Grant Application

A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Carter, seconded by Commissioner Matheson to approve the resolution authorizing the South Arts Grant application. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Gail Fry read a Resolution on behalf of Mr. Thurston Estes mourning the loss of Mr. Estes.

**RESULT:** APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]  
**MOVER:** Terry Carter, Vice Mayor  
**SECONDER:** Ron Matheson, Commissioner  
**AYES:** Carter, Fry, Hellenga, Matheson, Jamieson

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Recognition of Visitors Wishing to Speak on General Items. (Limit 3 Minutes)

**V. ADJOURN**

*Gail Fry*  
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 Mayor  
*Beth Ruder*  
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 City Clerk

