



CITY OF TOCCOA
CITY COMMISSION
MINUTES • MARCH 11, 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 regular meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

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

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

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

REPORTS

Commissioner Hellenga thanked Alec, Harry, Jake and Jeff for a really good tour of the Wastewater Treatment Facility. There was a lot of good information shared and thank you for the time.

Vice-Mayor Carter stated the DDA meeting was postponed last week; the Historic Preservation Committee met at the Terrell House. Two COA's were approved for signage, one for a Construction Company coming in downtown and one for R & R Prime for signage on Doyle Street. Vice-Mayor Carter stated they had training for 45 minutes and had not had a meeting since May. They agreed to meet monthly and use that time for training if they have no COA's.

Vice-Mayor Carter welcomed Michael O'Hearn, new Editor at The Toccoa Record.

Commissioner Matheson stated at the end of February he was in Athens for the Newly Elected

Officer Training, it was very informative. He also attended the Georgia Mountain Regional Commission meeting.

I. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- A. Request for Approval of Minutes of February 26, 2024 Work Session
- B. Request for Approval of Minutes of February 26, 2024 Commission Meeting

II. OLD BUSINESS

III. NEW BUSINESS

- C. Consideration of Approval of Alcohol Beverage Licenses

A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Carter, seconded by Commissioner Jamieson to approve the Alcohol Beverage License for Safa Yam786 LLC, dba Big A Tobacco and New Fernside Package Store. Motion carried unanimously.

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

- D. Consideration of Project Award for Eastanollee Creek WPCP Phase II

City Manager Wheeler stated bids were received for Phase II of the Eastanollee Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant improvements. The low bidder was from Heavy Constructors for \$13,555,292.00. This amount exceeded the funding budget of \$8,501,000.00. Carter & Sloope has worked collaboratively with City personnel and the contractor to try and identify cost saving measures and reducing the project cost. The recommendations are to eliminate the maintenance building and asphalt paving that would be a cost savings of \$1,501,917. 00 for a total project cost of \$12,053,375.00. All other items in the project are process and must be kept in the project in order to stay compliant with our Georgia Environmental Protection Division permit. We have a GEFA Loan for this in the amount of \$8,501,000.00 and will need to submit a loan modification to cover the new amount. The annual payment amount will be \$489,525.00 and additional origination fee of \$38,164.00.

Vice-Mayor Carter had some questions regarding loan amounts and stated the Governor has \$250,000,000.00 in this year’s budget for water and wastewater. This project may be too far along with deadlines we have to meet, but may be an opportunity for some funds for Toccoa Creek project.

Mayor Fry stated the two loans total over \$700,000.00 a year and we are having to consider

to rebuild our Water Treatment Plant which is a huge step. Mayor Fry stated with the Governors \$250,000,000.00 that he will distribute to communities for water renovations and construction, we would certainly fall into that category. We will definitely be looking for funding for the Water Treatment Plant.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hellenga, seconded by Commissioner Jamieson to approve bid from Heavy Constructors and complete Phase II.

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

E. Consideration of Purchase of F150 Truck for Public Works

City Manager Wheeler stated we received bids from Mike Jones Ford and Lake Hartwell Chevrolet for a work truck for the Public Works Department. The low bidder was Mike Jones Ford in the amount of \$44,561.88.

After discussion with Public Works Director regarding the age of his fleet and the current vehicle situation, Commissioners agreed to revisit the vehicle purchase at budget time.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hellenga, seconded by Commissioner Matheson to accept the bid from Mike Jones Ford. Motion failed 2-3, Mayor Fry, Vice-Mayor Carter, Commissioner Jamieson voted unfavorable.

RESULT:	DENIED [2 TO 3]
MOVER:	Evan Hellenga, Commissioner
SECONDER:	Ron Matheson, Commissioner
AYES:	Hellenga, Matheson
NAYS:	Carter, Fry, Jamieson

F. Monthly Financial Report

Finance Director Becky Bohannon presented the February 2024 monthly financial report.

RESULT:	PRESENTATION
----------------	---------------------

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

No Public Comments.

V. ADJOURN

Mayor Fry adjourned the regular meeting at 5:26 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk

Gaib Fry
Beth Rudee