



CITY OF TOCCOA
CITY COMMISSION
MINUTES • JULY 22, 2024

Work Session

City Commission/Court Room

3:30 PM

92 North Alexander, Toccoa, GA 30577

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Gail Fry called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm

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	

II. AGENDA ITEMS

1. Discussion of Engineers Service Invoice

Alex Wiseman stated he had submitted a cover letter with an invoice attached for previous billing errors for incorrect fee amounts. Mayor Fry stated we received notice the bill was paid in full and then an \$82,000.00 bill came in, that is the question we have. Mr. Wiseman stated they sent periodic invoices on the project since they initiated the design phase. He stated they invoiced 100 percent for the design phase and 100 percent for the bidding phase; that was based on a fee of \$213,000 for the design phase and \$15,000.00 for the bidding phase. Mr. Wiseman stated he did not catch that the fees were incorrect and they should have been \$285,000.00 for the design phase and \$25,000.00 for the bidding phase. The error did not get discovered until they were moving into the construction phase. After further discussion the board agreed by consensus to pay the invoice.

RESULT: PRESENTATION

2. Discussion of GEFA Funding for Phase II of Eastanollee Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades

Alex Wiseman discussed the GEFA funding for Phase II of Eastanollee Creek Wastewater Plant upgrades. They bid the project at the end of 2022 and have moved into the construction phase and the project came in over budget than what was on the GEFA Loan Fund. He stated they have a second loan to cover the \$3,500,000.00 difference, they could not extend the loan under the original terms and offered the \$3,500,000.00 under the Georgia Fund. Mr. Wiseman stated it has a different interest rate but was able to get the 30 year procurement term. By consensus the board agreed to add the item to the regular agenda.

RESULT: PRESENTATION

3. Discussion of Water Sale Agreements

Harry Scott, Utilities Director discussed with the Commissioners Water Sales Agreement for Franklin County, Demorest and Banks County. Mr. Scott discussed the withholding fee that Georgia Power charges the City of Toccoa and possibly passing some of the fees along to Franklin, Demorest and Banks Counties. Franklin County would like to negotiate increasing their amount of water. Mr. Scott stated Demorest is doing a Pilot Program on one complete zone. They will put it on our City Water instead of their wells and if it works well they will be purchasing closer to their 1,000,000 a day. Franklin County would like to buy more water. Mayor Fry stated we don't need 30 year contracts we need to negotiate based on the cost of water and not the CPI Index. Vice-Mayor Carter suggested creating a sub-committee to meet with Harry and City Manager to meet with Franklin County to negotiate a new contract based on individual input to the committee. Commissioner Jamieson stated she would like for the sub-committee to take into consideration which direction we need to go to continue using the CPI Index or the cost of the water when negotiating contracts.

RESULT:	PRESENTATION
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4. Discussion of the Downtown Parking Study

Stacy Estes, Ginger Herring and Mary Zimmerman of First Franklin Financial discussed downtown parking and presented the board with a map of the downtown parking areas with concerns of designation of the two hour parking. Commissioners discussed the parking areas and stated the two hour parking being proposed is only in front of retail stores. Mayor Fry stated we are just discussing this today, we would like businesses to have an opportunity to talk to us and what it would mean to them.

Jeremy Ward, Planning/Development Director discussed the Downtown Parking Study and results.

RESULT:	PRESENTATION
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5. Other Items of Discussion

Vice-Mayor Carter stated the Commissioners were contacted by the Irvin Family about the possibility of installing a street clock in honor of Mr. Irvin. They like the idea of where the magnolia tree was placing a four sided clock that will have the date of 1874 and it will chime. They asked if the City would place a plaque at the bottom recognizing the family and the contributions Mr. Irvin made while in office. They have agreed to pay 100 %, it is \$31,000.00; they are asking the City to cover the foundation, electrical and install the plaque. Vice-Mayor Carter stated it is a nice way to commemorate our 150th Celebration and a very generous contribution the family is willing to make to the City. We would need to take a small amount from CRA for the foundation and electrical, in comparison of what the cost would be and the impact it would make on City Hall and all of downtown it would be a small amount.

Board of Commissioners agreed by consensus to move forward and Fredda to approve amount under \$5,000.00

RESULT: PRESENTATION

III. ADJOURN

Mayor Fry adjourned meeting at 4:55 p.m.

Gail Fry

Mayor
Beth Rider

City Clerk

