

THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE EAST DUBLIN MAYOR AND COUNCIL

June 12, 2023

The regular meeting of the East Dublin Mayor and Council was called to order by Mayor George Gornto.

Invocation was led by Councilman Tanner followed by pledge to the flag.

A motion was made by Councilman Williams and seconded by Councilman Brown to approve the minutes as read of the previous regular meeting. All voted in favor with none opposed.

A motion was made by Councilman Tanner and seconded by Councilman Williams to approve the bills for payment. All voted in favor with none opposed.

A motion was made by Councilman Williams and seconded by Councilwoman Roberson to approve the financial statements. All voted in favor with none opposed.

A motion to add to the agenda “Juneteenth Holiday” was made by Councilwoman Roberson and seconded by Councilman Williams. All voted in favor with none opposed.

A motion to approve Juneteenth Holiday for all employees for the 2023 year only was made by Councilwoman Roberson and seconded by Councilman Williams. All voted in favor with none opposed.

A motion was made by Councilman Brown and seconded by Councilwoman Roberson to purchase an international dump truck for the public works department in the amount of \$49,000. It was noted that the truck will be purchased with SPLOST funds in the new fiscal year 2024 to begin 7/01/2023. All voted in favor with none opposed.

Agenda item “Bank Account” was presented to the Council as follows:

- Purchase three certificates of deposit from the Bank of Dudley in the amount of \$500,000 each;
 - one purchased from general funds
 - one purchased from water funds
 - one purchased from SPLOST funds
- Authorize City Clerk Melissa Bassett to close the City of East Dublin Water and Sewer Extension Bank Account with the Capital City Bank and deposit the funds into the general & water fund bank account.

After discussion, motion was made by Councilman Williams and seconded by Councilwoman Roberson to approve the purchase of the three certificates of deposit from the Bank of Dudley in the amount of \$500,000 each and authorize City Clerk Melissa Bassett to close the City of East

Dublin Water and Sewer Extension bank account located at the Capital City Bank and deposit the funds from the closed account into the General & Water Fund Bank account. All voted in favor with none opposed.

Agenda item “Elections” was presented to the Council as follows:

- Resolution that includes:
 - Name Melissa Bassett as Election Superintendent
 - Name Melissa Bassett to do Election Qualifying
 - Name Susan Rooks, Early & Absentee voting
 - Polling place change
- Agreement with Laurens County Registrar Susan Rooks to handle Early and Absentee Voting for the City of East Dublin
- Agreement with Probate Judge Genola Jackson to move East Dublin’s polling place from City Hall to the Smith Precinct Building, located at 100 Broad Street, East Dublin

After discussion of the resolution, a motion was made by Councilman Tanner and seconded by Councilman Sheppard to approve the Elections Resolution. All voted in favor with none opposed. (See Attached Resolution)

After discussion of the Agreement with Laurens County Registrar, a motion was made by Councilman Brown and seconded by Councilwoman Roberson to approve the agreement with Susan Rooks, Laurens County Registrar to handle Early and Absentee Voting for the City of East Dublin. All voted in favor with none opposed. (See Attached Agreement)

After discussion of the Agreement with Probate Judge Genola Jackson to move East Dublin’s polling place from City Hall to the Smith Precinct Building, located at 100 Broad Street, East Dublin, a motion was made by Councilman Williams and seconded by Councilman Brown to approve the agreement to move East Dublin’s polling place from City Hall to the Smith Precinct Building. All voted in favor with none opposed. (See Attached Agreement)

The public hearing on the proposed Fiscal Year 2024 budget was opened. No one spoke in favor or against the proposed budget; therefore, the hearing was closed. A motion to adopt the Fiscal Year 2024 budget was made by Councilman Tanner and seconded by Councilman Sheppard. All voted in favor with none opposed. (See Attached Copy)

A motion was made by Councilman Williams and seconded by Councilman Brown to approve the Fiscal Year 2023 Amended Budget. All voted in favor with none opposed. (See Attached Copy)

At this time, Mayor Gornto opened the floor for Recognition of Citizens.

Elizabeth Cordy of 509 Sunset Lane, East Dublin addressed the Mayor and Council about the City not having any Christmas Lights along the main street. Mayor Gornto advised Mrs. Cordy that Councilwoman Roberson looked into new lights last year and found that they were quite expensive so Mayor Gornto suggested that Mrs. Cordy team up with Councilwoman Roberson to ask East Dublin businesses make donations to help off-set the cost. Mrs. Cordy agreed.

Antonio Gibbons of 509 Sunset Lane, East Dublin, addressed the Mayor and Council with the need to bring in more businesses, like franchised restaurants, that would offer jobs for East Dublin's youth. Mayor Gornto advised Mr. Gibbons that the franchised businesses usually go on amount of traffic in a location and all though East Dublin has a lot of traffic, it isn't enough to draw in the franchised businesses to East Dublin. Mr. Gibbons stated that he would like to see that change.

Rosie Jackson of 304 West Drive, East Dublin, addressed the Mayor and Council with several items. First, she asked what was the purpose of the stop sign located at Attaway and Jordan Streets. Mayor Gornto advised her that another citizen in her area asked that the stop sign be placed in that location to help stop speeders coming through the area. Mrs. Jackson said that the stop sign hasn't stopped the speeders.

Next, Mrs. Jackson issued a complaint about people in her neighborhood riding dirt bikes and 4-wheelers without safety helmets. Police Chief Bill Luecke advised her that the East Dublin Police are aware of the issue and are dealing with them on a regular basis.

Mrs. Jackson then asked if there was something that could be done to help Mrs. Emma Cross who lives at 304 Joyner Street, East Dublin with her garbage service since she is unable to get her cart to the curb for pick-up. Mayor Gornto advised Mrs. Jackson to contact the Clerk's office to have Mrs. Cross placed on the handicap list for garbage pickup. Mrs. Jackson said she would.

Mrs. Jackson then asked what could be done about stray dogs having multiple litters of puppies at a vacant house on Attwood. Mayor Gornto stated that Laurens County was still working on getting their animal shelter going and hoped it would be soon.

Mrs. Jackson then asked what could be done about the red light at Buckeye Road and Central Drive. She stated that when she comes to the light to make a left turn off of Buckeye onto Central and the light is red, the light stays red way too long before changing. Mayor Gornto stated that the Georgia Department of Transportation used to handle the maintenance on traffic signals, but now subcontracts out all traffic lights and the company that does it cannot seem to get the light corrected.

Mrs. Jackson then went on to tell the Mayor and Council thank you for the upgrades done at the Buckeye Park. She really did appreciate all that was done at the park.

Being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Williams and seconded by Councilman Sheppard. All voted in favor with none opposed.

Approved: 7/10/2023

Mayor

City Clerk

Attending:

Mayor George H. Gornto
City Clerk Melissa Bassett
City Attorney Charles Butler

Council Members:

Braxton Brown, Jr.
Brenda Roberson
John Sheppard
Len Tanner, Jr.
Al Williams, Jr.