

March 11, 2025

6:00 pm

The Council met in regular session with Mayor Jenny Smith and Council members Hodges, Dixon, Polhill, Atkins, and Reaves are present. Also in attendance, City Administrator Ricky Sapp, Tosha Hohmann, City Attorney John Murphy, Louisville Police Chief James Miller, and Utilities Director Chris Goodwin. Other attendees were Marsha Morgan, Tim Russel, Holly Sanders and Jacob Davis.

Minutes from the Council meeting of February 11th were presented. A motion was made by Council member Atkins, with a second by Council member Reaves to approve as presented. Voting in favor of the motion were Council members Dixon, Atkins, All. Motion passed.

1. Report of Officers:

a) Clerk's report

- i. February 2025 General Fund report presented with no questions or issues raised.
- ii. February 2025 Utility Fund report was otherwise presented with no questions or issues raised.

b) Police Chief's Report

- i. The Municipal Court disposed of 134 cases during February 10, 2025, term of Court. Total fines collected were \$24,551. The Louisville Police Department handled 517 calls through 911.
- ii. Mayor Smith inquired with Chief Miller about staffing. Chief Miller stated the recent Soperton applicant was a no-show. Officer Surrency will remain on a probationary period for six months. No additional questions or issues raised.

2. Old Business ~ None

3. Resolutions, Orders and Ordinances ~ None

4. New Business

- i. Rural Workforce Housing Initiative ~** MOU between W&W Properties and the City of Louisville has been reviewed by City Attorney, John Murphy and One Georgia. The City of Louisville has received the Georgia Department of Community Affairs Grant Award for \$2,215,000.00. The City of Louisville will waive fees for impact, permits and inspection, in addition to a contribution of \$377,000.00 for natural gas infrastructure. The developer has agreed to install 4 natural gas burner tips in each unit. Project is expected to reach completion by the selling of the last unit or by May 30, 2028, whichever shall come first. A motion was made by Council member Polhill, with a second by Council member Hodges to approve the Rural Workforce Housing Initiative agreement as presented. Voting in favor of the motion were Council members Dixon, Reaves, Atkins, Hodges and Polhill. Motion passed
- ii. HB581 ~** Mayor Jenny Smith announces the City of Louisville and Jefferson County has opted into the Homestead Exemption HB851, Property Tax relief and Reform for Georgians. Discussions amongst council reveal the Jefferson County BOE is one of three in the state to opt in. HB851 caps property taxes at the rate of inflation and/or current market value. The anticipated growth of Louisville and local option sales tax (TSPLOST/SPLOST) and voter approved FLOST will help offset the impact of HB851. Mayor Jenny Smith states this is for informational purposes only, there is no motion to approve.
- iii. FEMA Reimbursable Quotes for Gear Boxes ~** Environmental Instrumentation & Calibration provided an estimated costs of \$81,000 to rebuild or \$149,000 to replace the gearbox for wastewater treatment plant damaged by Hurricane Helene.

Costs are 75% FEMA reimbursable. Utilities Director, Chris Goodwin estimates an 8–12-week turnaround time for rebuilding or an 18-month turnaround time for a new unit. Director Goodwin recommends the rebuilding. A motion was made by Council member Dixon, with a second by Council member Atkins to approve the cost associated with rebuilding. Voting in favor of the motion were Council members Atkins, Dixon, Polhill, Hodges, and Reaves. Motion passed

- iv. **FEMA Reimbursable Quotes for SCADA Rehabilitation** ~ Utilities Director, Chris Goodwin explains the logistics of the SCADA and the accompanying alarm system, stating any system aged over 10 years system is outdated and does not have the ability to communicate with today’s technology. To have a new system installed he estimates a cost of roughly \$400,000. A Sole Source Quote for rehabilitation of the system provided by JK DUREN SCADA SYSTEMS \$77,576.00, with 75% Reimbursement expected from FEMA. A motion was made by Polhill, with a second by Council member Hodges to approve the cost associated with the SCADA rehabilitation. Voting in favor of the motion were Council members Hodges, Dixon, unanimous. Motion passed

- v. **Asset Management Water Requirements** ~ City Administrator, Ricky Sapp brought forth the need of a 5-year **CIP** (Capital Improvement Plan), as a method to meet the requirement mandated by the EPD. Administrator Sapp proposes releasing an RFQ to identify a company to assist in the development of the CIP and Asset Management Plan. The estimated cost is currently unknown. However, it is notable that water permits will not be issued without meeting the Asset Management Requirements as mandated by the EPD. This will primarily impact city operations of water, sewer, and gas. Administrator Sapp would like to incorporate as much of the city into this plan as possible.

- vi. **Announcement** ~ City Administrator, Ricky Sapp announces GMA 2025 Convention June 20-24. Any interested parties should let him know in the coming days.

5. Reports from Council members ~ None

- 6. **Mayor’s Report** ~ Mayor Simth announces two CHIP Grant Homes have been completed and an open house will be held on March 27, 2025, from 5-7pm. Interested parties may obtain an application and speak with Project Manager, Sidney Stouffer on site. However, income limitations, buyer eligibility and approval for a home mortgage loan are determining factors in the approval process.

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned.

Jennifer Smith, Mayor

Saralyn Flonnory, City Clerk

Richard Sapp, City Administrator