



**MINUTES • JUNE 5, 2017**

**WORK SESSION**

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**Commerce Room Commerce Civic Center**

**6:00 PM**

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**110 STATE STREET  
COMMERCE, GA 30529**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

<b>Attendee Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Arrived</b>
J. Clark Hill	Mayor	Present	
Keith Burchett	Mayor Pro-Tem	Present	
Archie Chaney	Ward 1	Absent	
Donald Wilson	Ward 2	Present	
Mark Fitzpatrick	Ward 3	Absent	
Bobby Redmon	Ward 4	Present	
Johnny Eubanks	Ward 5	Present	

**2. PUBLIC HEARING 2017-2018 CITY OF COMMERCE BUDGET-CITIZEN COMMENT**

Mayor Clark Hill opened the floor for public comment about the 2017-2018 City of Commerce Budget. Tim Redmon approached the council with the following comments:

- 1) Why was a street sweeper a necessary purchase for the city. He commented that he had not seen the sweeper in many months. James Wascher, City Manager said the city sweeper was not in working condition and a new one needed to be purchased by the city.
- 2) The amount requested for a new pumper truck by the Commerce Fire Department of \$500,000.00 was a new tanker necessary. James Wascher, City Manager the pumper truck is a necessary purchase and a grant will be covering most of the purchase price of the truck.
- 3) the \$476,000.00 for community park space, why was this amount necessary for new park space. James Wascher, City Manager explained these parks are recreation fields for multi purpose use
- 4) Mr. Redmon ask why not leave the position of building inspector open, use a private company to do the inspection of properties. James Wascher, City Manager said the fees to use the private company would be 75% of the cost and would be a loss to the city in big permits
- 5) Mr. Redmon question the budget of the Mayor and Council and ask why did the council have to have the health insurance coverage?? He made a recommendation to council to not accept the health coverage and take a salary. He said the city were part-time workers.
- 6) Mr. Redmon commented about Insurance Premium tax and Financial Institution Taxes and banks fees.

Mayor Clark Hill asked if anyone else would like to address the council concerning the 2017-2018 Budget. No one else asked to speak. Mayor Hill said the Public Hearing was closed and to move forward with the council meeting.

**3. GEORGIA TRUST INVESTMENT GROUP -- NEALE NICKLES AND BEN SUTTON**

Neal Nickles and Ben Sutton presented to Mayor and Council a proposal of marketing the Oxford Building for sale. The Georgia Trust Investment Group explained their group is to market the Oxford Building to find the buyer for the building. The firm will keep the building

in Historic Preservation and the Preservation will follow the deed of the building. Georgia Investment Group will market the building thru the Untied State and world wide to find the purchaser. The group said they would emial a presentation to the council.

**4. NEW BUSINESS**

- 1. Amendment Bond Schedule for Municipal Court -- Municipal fine amounts have been changed after reviewing and comparing them to surrounding jurisdictions in Jackson County

Zack Ardis, Commerce Police Chief presented Mayor and Council an the new requested fine schedule. Chief Ardis said the fine schedule had been reviewed by the poilice staff, an found some fines were out of line with the State of Georgia standards. He said the fines had not been reveiwed in many years and the fine schedule needed to be updated. Some fines needed to by increased, while some fines needed to be decreased. Judge Billy Chandler was in attanced at this meeting and stated he agreed with the changes in the fines.

Mayor Clark Hill adked if the Police Department should do this every five years and review the fines.

Zack Ardis, Commerce Police Chief recommeds to review the fines every five years. (Requested by Zack Ardis, Police)

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>REFERRED</b>	<b>Next: 6/19/2017 6:00 PM</b>
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- 2. Contract Courtware Contract -- Municipal Court software upgrade bringing the information up to date for more efficient court services of the city

James Wascher, City Manager said the court documentation system is all manual. The court clerk hads to hand write all warrants, dockets and adminstration of the court. The Courtware software will bring the Commerce Court Adminstration up to state mandated procedures. The fee of \$7500.00 is the cost with a \$5.00 per ticket cost.

Zack Zrdis, Commerce Police Cheif said the current system is out of date, with the Courtware software the city will be brought up to date for the adminstative functions. The system will allow real time collection of the credit and debt card payments.

Billy Chandler, Judge of the Commerce Court agreeded with the new software, as did MaryBeth Ervin, Court Clerk. (Requested by Zack Ardis, Police)

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>REFERRED</b>	<b>Next: 6/19/2017 6:00 PM</b>
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- 3. Contract CSRA Probation Services Incorporated -- new contract for probation due to probation company purchase

James Wascher, City Manager said the probation company the city now uses had been purchased by CSRA and a new contract needed to by completed. The only change to the new contract was for warrant collection. (Requested by James Wascher, Finance)

**RESULT: REFERRED Next: 6/19/2017 6:00 PM**

4. Agreement Memorandum of Understanding -- agreement with the Jackson County for Law enforcement outside the city in certain circumstances

Zack Ardis, Commerce Police Chief said Memorandum of Understanding needed to be completed with the Jackson County Sheriff Office for clear understanding of what a Commerce Police Officer should do in the call to assist Jackson County.  
(Requested by Zack Ardis, Police)

**RESULT: REFERRED Next: 6/19/2017 6:00 PM**

5. Agreement Jefferson Memorandum of Understanding -- agreement with the City of Jefferson for Law enforcement outside the city in certain circumstances

Zack Ardis, Commerce Police Chief said Memorandum of Understanding needed to be completed with the Jefferson City Police Department for clear understanding of what a Commerce Police Officer should do in the call to assist Jefferson Police.  
(Requested by Zack Ardis, Police)

**RESULT: REFERRED Next: 6/19/2017 6:00 PM**

6. Appointment Commerce Housing Authority -- Linda Potts request to be reappoint for a term of five years

James Wascher, City Manager said the Commerce Housing Authority had requested Linda Potts to be reappointed to the Housing Authority Board for a term of 60 months.  
(Requested by Sandra Haggard, City Clerk)

**RESULT: REFERRED Next: 6/19/2017 6:00 PM**

7. Consider Approval Street Closing for Fireworks on June 30, 2017 -- Street of Little, Oak and Pine request closing for the annual fireworks in downtown

Natalie Thomas, Mainstreet Director said she would like to request the closing of the following streets for the annual Fireworks Celebration. The streets would be Little, Oak and Pine. The streets would be closed 3:00 until 11:00 for the event and clean up after.  
(Requested by Sandra Haggard, City Clerk)

**RESULT: REFERRED Next: 6/19/2017 6:00 PM**

## 5. ADJOURNMENT

James Wascher, City Manager gave the City Manager report on the following:

- \*The Electric Department did a three phase transformer upgrade at Northridge Medical Center, the process was seamless. Northridge completed training during the process and was very complementary on the change and the efficiency of the Electric Department
- \*New Electric service is being installed at Dominos new location
- \*Novelty Wood needs more electric service in the location downtown
- \*The Commerce City Pool is open and doing well, he invited all to the pool
- \*Softball Field work is being completed
- \*Commerce Fire Department Recruit class of 5 is now joined the department

\*Belmont Homes to have an open house June 6 all are invited

\*The city manager spoke on the Empower College and Career Center that Jackson County is looking to create in Jefferson. This location will be a training facility of students in the technical are of studies.

Mayor Clark Hill asked if anyone had any future business, hearing none he asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem Keith Burchett made a motion to adjourn; a second was made by Councilman Donald Wilson.

The vote was unanimous to adjourn the meeting.