

**QUITMAN CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, February 6, 2024
6:30PM**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Zinda McDaniel at 6:30 PM. Council Members Don Morgan, Mattie Neloms, Lula Smart, and Kechia Harrison were present. Interim City Manager Dr. Nancy W. Dennard, City Clerk Lola Slydell and City Attorney Karla Walker were also in attendance.

II. INVOCATION..... Willie Freeman

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by: Mayor Zinda McDaniel

IV. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Upon motion by Lula Smart and second by Mattie Neloms to adopt agenda as presented.
Voting Yes (Morgan, Neloms, Smart, Harrison).

V. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Upon motion by Lula Smart and second by Kechia Harrison to approve Regular Meeting Minutes from January 2, 2024, Voting Yes (Neloms, Smart, Harrison) Voting No Morgan. Upon motion by Mattie Neloms and second by Lula Smart to approve meeting minutes from January 3, 2024, Voting Yes. (Neloms, Morgan, Smart, Harrison).

VI. APPROVAL OF BUSINESS LICENSES & ALCOHOL LICENSES

- a. Four C's Investments Co. D/B/A Fast Wash Coin Laundry-216 S. Court St-Laundry Mat
 - b. Wiregrass Sawdust Company-618 N. Madison St.-Home Based Business
 - c. Mutt's & Cutts LLC-1004 E. Screven St. -Dog Grooming and pet sitting (business hours).
 - d. Synergistic Human Resource Partners, Inc-508 N. Court St-Home Based Business- Name change.
 - e. Smokers Corner-Convenience Store-111 Screven St.-Retail License
 - f. Smokers Corner- 111 Screven St.- Alcohol License (Package Beer & Wine sales only)
 - g. Carter's -1104 W. Screven St.-Fast Food Restaurant- new ownership
 - h. Splash Zone- 704 E. Screven St. -Car Wash- new ownership
 - i. ABD Elite Photography-105 N. Washington St.-Photography Studio
- Upon Motion by Don Morgan and second by Mattie Neloms to approve business licenses A, C, D, G, H & I. Voting Yes (Neloms, Morgan, Smart, Harrison)

Upon motion by Mattie Neloms and second by Kechia Harrison to approve business license submitted by council member Don Morgan for Wiregrass Sawdust Company. (B) Voting Yes (Neloms, Morgan, Smart, Harrison). Upon Motion by Don Morgan and second by Mattie Neloms to table business license submitted by Smokers Corner (E & F) for further discussion. No Action Taken

VII. DISCUSSION OF MUTUAL COMPETITIVE TRUST FUND

Interim City Manager Dr. Nancy W. Dennard addressed the council on updating signatories for the Mutual Competitive Trust Fund. Upon motion by Don Morgan and second by Mattie Neloms to approve and update signatures as presented for the Municipal Competitive Trust Fund to include Mayor McDaniel and Interim City Manager Dennard. Voting Yes, (Neloms, Morgan, Smart, Harrison).

VIII. DISCUSSION OF QUITMAN/BROOKS COUNTY MUSEUM AND CULTURAL CENTER

City Clerk Lola V. Slydell expressed to the council their contribution in the past years. Upon motion by Lula Smart and second by Mattie Neloms to approve a Sustaining Partner contribution of \$500.00 to the Museum and Cultural Center. Voting Yes. (Neloms, Morgan, Smart Harrison).

IX. DISCUSSION OF BC3 PARK RESERVATION APPLICATION

The use of BC3 Park was encouraged by Mayor Zinda McDaniel. Discussion around adhering to the application guidelines was expressed by City Attorney Karla Walker. Upon Motion by Mattie Neloms and second by Don Morgan to approve application submitted for use of BC3 Park on March 16,2024 with the satisfaction of City Attorney Karla Walker around liability Insurance. Voting Yes, (Neloms, Morgan, Smart, Harrison)

X. DISCUSSION OF "PAINT THE TOWN" MURAL COMPETITION

Councilman Don Morgan explained to council about the paint the town competition and what it would bring to the City of Quitman. He expressed the participation from Chamber and the potential cost associated. No Action Taken

XI. DISCUSSION OF THE AMAZING RACE- Quitman, Ga

Councilman Morgan explained the logistics of the amazing race to council. He explained how this could potentially bring the community together to do something fun and display some of Quitman's unique character. He explained it would be minimum at no cost to the city and would provide additional attention to local businesses in our area. Allison Wider from the Chamber of Commerce also mentioned the Chambers willingness to support for this event. No Action Taken

XII. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Informational Items:

∞Dr. Nancy W. Dennard updated the council on the progress of the city's FEMA application and upcoming meetings. Dr. Dennard also explained each disaster category the city would qualify for and the deadline and progress of each. Tinsley & Sons will be assisting with the remaining clean-up and the proposed cost was discussed with council.

∞ Dr. Dennard updated council on the progress of the debris clean-up at the Recycle Center and plans on handling the final stage of clean- up.

∞Dr. Dennard also updated the council on the audit and the additional steps that are being taken internally to speed up the process. Interviews for the Finance Director were conducted but yielded no viable applicants.

∞Dennard also updated the council on Mr. Dennis Adams' decline of employment with the City of Quitman. The council was also updated on the outstanding balance between the city/ county concerning landfill.

Action Items:

∞Upon Motion by Mattie Neloms and second by Kechia Harrison to pay the County invoices dated January through June 2023 for the recyclable collection and landfill closure. Voting Yes, (Neloms, Smart, Harrison). Voting No Morgan.

∞The outstanding balance of \$15,563.65 to RPI was referred to City Attorney Karla Walker for further review.

∞Dr. Dennard advised that she has met with ESG, and they are requesting a meeting with the Council to discuss the current contract. The Council agreed upon a meeting with ESG concerning the current contract, the meeting date of February 19, 2024 @ 6:30pm at the City Hall Annex was established. Dr. Dennard asked City Clerk Lola Slydell to send out and post the public meeting notice.

∞Dr. Dennard updated the council on the proposed Town Hall Meeting to be scheduled soon. Council member Lula Smart and Mattie Neloms had concerns around having the Town Hall Meeting too early and encouraged postponing scheduling the meeting till further notice. Council woman Lula Smart expressed her concerns around additional police patrol in certain areas of the city and encouraged Chief of Police Roy Hart to consider taking additional measures to protect the citizens of Quitman. Police Chief Roy Hart addressed the council concerning patrolling and the recent shootings in the area. Police Chief Roy Hart also mentioned to the council flock safety cameras and the benefits of having this camera system in place in the future. Upon motion by Kechia Harrison and second by Lula Smart to table the town hall meeting till a further date. Voting Yes (Neloms, Smart, Harrison) No Morgan.

∞Upon motion by Kechia Harrison and second by Mattie Neloms to approve the proposed cost from Tinsley and Sons for debris disposal at recycle center. Voting Yes (Neloms, Morgan, Smart, Harrison).

XIII. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Councilman Donald Morgan stated he was concerned about the outstanding balance of uncollected funds from utility billing and drooping city lights from downtown buildings. He also mentioned the removal of a large tree log located at Rountree and Culpepper St.

Gary Christian- expressed his concern about water and mud coming from the back of the bridge near Calvary Christian Church as well as safety concerns around traffic being backed up when a train in crossing.

Andrew Wade- expressed his concern about city participation in community outreach and audit completion.

City of Quitman, Georgia

Brooks County

EXECUTIVE SESSION AFFIDAVIT

AFFIDAVIT OF PRESIDING OFFICER

Zinda McDaniel, Mayor of the City of Quitman Commissioners, being duly sworn, states under oath that the following is true and accurate to the best of his/her knowledge and belief: The City of Quitman Commissioners met in a duly advertised meeting on February 6, 2024. During such meeting, the Council voted to go into executive session. The executive session was called to order at 7:45 am/pm and the executive session ended at 8:45 a.m./p.m. The subject matter of the closed portion of the meeting was devoted to the following matter(s) within the exceptions provided in the open meeting law:

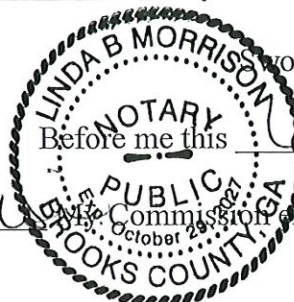
- X Consultation with the City's Attorney to discuss pending or potential litigation, settlement, claims, administrative proceeding, or other judicial actions brought or to be brought by or against the City of Quitman, any City employee or in which the City of Quitman, or any Commissioner/City employee may be directly involved as provided in O.C.G.A § 50-14-2(1); Voting on settlement of pending or potential litigation O.C.G.A § 50-14-1(b)(1)(A);
- ___ Discussion or deliberation on the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of a City employee but not when receiving evidence or hearing argument on charges filed to determine disciplinary action of a public officer as provided in O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(b)(2) & O.C.G.A § 50-17-72(a)(11). Interviewing candidates for City Manager as provided in O.C.G.A § 50-14-3(b)(2);
- ___ Discussion or voting authorizing negotiations to purchase, dispose of or lease property as provided in O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(b)(1)(B);

This 6th day of February, 2024.

Zinda McDaniel, Mayor

sworn and subscribed

Linda B Morrison



Before me this 6 day of Feb, 2024
My Commission Expires: 10-29-2027