

**CITY OF EUHARLEE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 5, 2018**

Mayor Steve Worthington called the meeting to order. A prayer was led by Council Member Craig Guyton followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

City Clerk Carolyn Banks called the roll and the following were present: Mayor Steve Worthington, Council Members Craig Guyton, Tracy Queen, David Duncan, Joe Turner and City Manager James Stephens. City Attorney Boyd Pettit was not present.

Council Member Craig Guyton motioned to amend the agenda to add approval of the minutes. Council Member David Duncan seconded the motion. The motion was carried with Council Members Guyton, Queen, Duncan, Turner and Mayor Worthington all voting in favor.

Council Member Joe Turner motioned to approve the minutes from City Council meeting on 05.05.18 and the City Council work session on 05.15.18. Council Member David Duncan seconded the motion. The motion was carried with Council Members Guyton, Queen, Duncan, Turner and Mayor Worthington all voting in favor.

Honorable Representative - Trey Kelley

Honorable Representative Trey Kelley said thank you to Mayor and Council for having him there and to the crowd, it was great to see each and every one of them. It is good to come to a city council meeting and see this much involvement from a community. It is great for the city, state and their district. Trey Kelley is a representative in the state legislative and house in his 3rd term. He came to present the Mayor, Council and the City of Euharlee with a Georgia flag that has flown at the state capital. He said, they just came off the legislative session and he thinks it was very productive. It was the first time in Georgia's history they were able to cut the state income tax. In 2019 everyone will see the tax cut from 6% to 5.75%. In 2020 from 5.75% to 5.5%. It is a step in the right direction. Over 80 years they have had income tax in the state of Georgia and never been able to make a cut. This year they made it happen. They did not do that by sacrificing any essential services of the state. They also funded over 150 new doctor residency programs, the highest funded ever in education and revised documents so they can get children out of the state custody into loving homes. He said thank you to everyone for allowing him to represent them. He left cards, so they would know how to get in touch with him. He said, if he can ever be a service to them on any state issue, please do not hesitate to reach out to him. He presented the flag to Mayor and Council. The city received a certificate signed by Governor Nathan Deal to certify the flag was flown at the capital in the city's honor.

Proclamation - National Garden Week Club June 3 - 8, 2018

Mayor Steve Worthington read and presented the Hoe'n in Euharlee Garden club with a proclamation that the city of Euharlee will honor June 3 – 5, 2018 as National Garden Week. Council Member Craig Guyton motioned to approve the proclamation. Council Member Joe Turner seconded the motion. The motion was carried with Council Members Guyton, Queen, Duncan, Turner and Mayor Worthington all voting in favor. Betty Jane Tilley, representative of the garden club, stated the club has been trying to keep up the spot at the library since it was built in 2008. They are now taking over the back part of it that started out as a girl scouts project. She said, any time you want to pull out some weeds please help them. They do not mind. It has been their pleasure and they will plant another rose in honor of the city this week.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Approval of PD Weapons & Rifles Policy - Mayor Steve Worthington

James Stephens, City Manager said to council, included in their package is a copy of the weapons and rifle policy with the 2 edits that were discussed at the May work session. The minimum requirement of 2 times per year is on page 1. The other edit related to the availability of shot times at a certified range is in the document. It is worded as the Chief's approval rather than certified range. He said he wanted to make sure they hear that difference.

Council Member Joe Turner said, he would like to ask the council and he may be the only one that has brought this discussion up. He was expecting the language of a certified gun range for practice. The wording said, they agree for it to be an authorized location. He does not know if they would ever do it, but they could approve somebody's back yard to be an authorized location. He would like to see certified gun range for practice. If no one else thinks it's not a problem, he will accept it as worded.

Council Member Duncan said, he agreed with Council Member Turner because they brought up other issues and they have been corrected to his satisfaction. It does say qualified or state approved instructor, but it should be added the authorized place should be authorized or certified by the state.

Mr. Stephens asked Council Member Turner what page of the wording. Council Member Turner said, first page, second paragraph. It doesn't talk about a designated location. Council Member Duncan said it is the last sentence in the second paragraph.

Council Member Craig Guyton said the language Council Member Turner is asking for would be fine with him. Council Member Turner asked if they could go ahead and approve so they can get their guns ordered.

Council Member Craig Guyton said he does not think it will be necessary. Council Member Guyton motioned to table the item until July council meeting.

Fred Werner, resident of Euharlee said he backed it up fully to give the police department the rifles because of personal things. He said you have Council Member Tracy Queen, state army trained on weapons. There was a police officer there last week marine trained and he is air force trained. No matter how much training you have on the weapons and shooting if they do not have the knowledge of these schools. He would like to see some type of training program. Euharlee and Emerson will be at that school in 2 minutes. The sheriff had their active shooting program in conjunction with campus police. The city of Emerson and Euharlee has 2 small schools. Does the officer know the full layout? If something happens who is going to be there in 2 minutes. He would like to see council adopt some type of training of the floor plans of the schools.

Mayor Steve Worthington said, he agreed but right now they are concerned with the officers and training with the rifles. There should be a training program with schools. Euharlee has two small schools. Mr. Stephens said the new school Superintendent has initiated a meeting to include the chief and other representatives from all departments of multiple law enforcement agencies. They are instituting a training session and how to organize it best with or without the students. He said, he did not add it on the agenda because it seems like a daily operation with the police enforcement.

Council Member Craig Guyton motioned to table the item. Council Member Joe Turner seconded the motion. The motion was carried with Council Members Guyton, Queen, Duncan, Turner and Mayor Worthington all voting in favor. Council Member Duncan said when he was an officer they had maps or layouts of all areas of the school. As far as the officers now, he has been gone for 4 years from the police department, and not aware if they still have them or not. He said, when Chief New attended the meeting he mentioned trying to implement things with the school. Council Member Joe Turner said, in one of the meetings Chief New said they were sending officers to the active school shooting program.

Approval of MOU Covered Bridge Soccer Club - James Stephens

City Manager, James Stephens said the council had the agreement between the city and the Covered Bridge Soccer club. He made the edit for the approval of council each year and section 24 which deals with termination of the contract for the wording discussed. Members of the Covered Bridge Soccer Club were present. There are over 50 kids that will practice on the fields that evening. Mr. Stephens is very

excited about the increase in local participation at the park as result of this organization. He believed the agreement is for approval and members of club were present if they had any questions for them.

Council Member Craig Guyton asked if it was not too late for kids to sign up. A representative of the soccer club said no, and they will take applications all summer long. They will have a recreation program this fall but hasn't started yet.

Council Member Craig Guyton motioned to approve the MOU. Council Member Tracy Queen seconded the motion. The motion was carried with Council Members Guyton, Queen, Duncan, Turner and Mayor Worthington all voting in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

Library Funding Request – James Stephens

City Manager James Stephens stated the library's fiscal year runs from July 1st to June 30th and the city's run January 1st through December 31st. They requested \$70,160 and it is consistent with what the city has funded the past 2 years. He said one portion is already approved in the 2018 budget. The request will commit for \$35,000 in 2019. He wanted to point that out. Also, if they wanted him to sign the document approving the full amount or communicate with them to approve the amount for 2018 and consider the balance in 2019. He said the city has one of the best small-town library's he believes in the state of Georgia.

Council Member David Duncan asked, if they discussed during the budget about cutting it. Mr. Stephens said they had conversations and this amount converts to 1 full mill of tax based on the Euharlee digest. The \$70,160 was approved in 2018 budget and that will cover the 1st \$35,000 of this request. He is not telling the council not to approve it all.

Council Member Joe Turner said to Mr. Stephens, he is the one that keep up the finances. He doesn't mean to put back the burden on him. Can we approve this through this year and you include in it the budget funding for next year. Mr. Stephens said this equates to a mill of tax and the current budget reflects a deficit of \$27,000 for 2018. They are operating on budget. Cash flow is extremely tight. They may have to make some considerations based on the certificates of deposits or use them as collateral for cash flow until the insurance premium comes in. He said all that to say, we are on budget, the budget is extremely tight and they passed a resolution not to get below 4 months. If he is asking him for an official recommendation, he recommended they approve the \$35,000 for the remainder of this year and table the rest. That is not saying he is going to recommend they cut the library budget next year. The budget is that tight. This council has some decisions to make regarding the funding of their current level of services.

Mayor Steve Worthington said, so you are saying we write them a check to the \$35,000 and include the balance in the next budget discussion. Mr. Stephens said, he is not recommending a cut at this time, but thinks the \$35,000 is prudent. Council Member Turner motioned to approve the \$35,000 for this year. Council Member David Duncan seconded the motion. The motion was carried with Council Members Guyton, Queen, Duncan, Turner and Mayor Worthington all voting in favor.

Pickleball on Tennis Courts at Joe Cowan Park – James Stephens

James Stephens, City Manager apologized to council. He said the item should have been on the work session. There is a contingency of people who have fallen in love with the game pickleball. It's a game crossed between badminton and table tennis. He thinks the Mayor has friends that play who attend church with him. There is a person here from the community that would be willing to address the council. He requested from council to use the courts at Joe Cowan Park. The dimension of the court is 44 feet long and 20 feet wide. He watched them play a small amount today. There is an interest in it and can be accommodated on the existing courts at JCP. After seeing the dimensions, Don Varvel supervisor of parks and recreation, recommended, if council was interested, they could mark on the existing courts

at JCP or convert the 3rd tennis court into 2 pickleball courts. Then there would be 2 tennis courts and 2 pickleball courts.

Council Member Joe Turner wanted to know if one court is enough to have 2 courts and to move around. Mr. Stephens said they are pretty comfortable they can. The pickleball player would not have a problem with the existing tennis courts. There is an adjustment that has to be made to the net and the alternative would be to convert permanently to avoid changing back and forth. There is a lady here that plays the game if you would like to hear from her.

Council Member Craig Guyton asked if converted, 1 into 2, would it still be used for tennis as well. Mr. Stephens said it would pretty much blank out the existing tennis court. Council Member Guyton said so it would take it from 3 to 2 courts over at JCP. He wanted to know if you could still use the courts for tennis also. Mr. Stephens said it would change.

Council Member David Duncan wanted to know how many people use the tennis courts. He knows people use it at night. Mr. Stephens said they use it enough. Mr. Varvel's recommendation is 2 and 2 rather than transitioning back and forth. They adjusted the net while he was there and it is simple enough for players with the equipment with them to make the adjustment.

Council Member Duncan asked Mr. Varvel to come forward. He asked if 2 tennis courts would handle the people that normally play. Mr. Varvel said, yes. They only really play on the 1st tennis court. Very rarely do you see both tennis courts being used. By converting the one on the far end, he stepped it off, you can get 2 permanent ones. The marking of pickleball on a tennis court could throw off a tennis player. It is different markings. Council Member Duncan said, would it cost that much to put up signage for pickleball.

Council Member Guyton asked if they would have to run a net behind to catch the balls and Mr. Varvel said he doesn't think so. He thinks it can run the same length of the tennis court.

Council Member Guyton said it sounds like they need to table the item until he gets a chance to give council the full amount of information. Mr. Stephens stated to mark the court for pickleball we would hire someone to do that at a price of \$1,200 to do 3 and 3, but have no numbers if we convert it.

Council Member Craig Guyton motioned to table the item. Council Member David Duncan seconded the motion. The motion was carried with Council Members Guyton, Queen, Duncan, Turner and Mayor Worthington all voting in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENTS- Residents of City of Euharlee

James Parker- Mr. Parker stated he just moved here and had great ideas to generate revenue but would not be interested to give to council unless it would be good for the citizens and not just for what the city wanted, but to benefit the city. He said when you can't walk across the bridge, improvements and things like that. He is retired and had the time. He also heard about an individual who wanted to handle all the trash in the area and he opposed to that. He believes in capitalism.

Mayor Steve Worthington said they always need people for a committee. He also said the gentleman withdrew the waste service idea. It was never really an offer it was a proposal brought to them. He said when he came aboard as a council member they talked about millage rates they were fixing to add to the citizens of Euharlee. We set out to operate without a millage rate and that is the reason the City Manger stated they are cut to the bone. It floated around that the city would make \$3,000 a quarter. A proposal was made, they said they would sleep on it and since then he has withdrawn. Mayor Worthington stated he was opposed to the idea as well.

Rhonda Adcock- Mrs. Adcock a 22 year resident in the same place stated, she and residents do not like the waste service idea at all. They would love to be a part of something but being mandatory is not what any of them want. She signed the petition over the weekend. Even though there was a withdrawal, if council is searching out it should be a lot more transparency other than how they all found out about it. Mayor Worthington stated it was posted on the website. They wanted feedback and he was glad to see them show an interest in what goes on in the community. Mrs. Adcock said she has never had a

problem with much that has gone on, but that bothered her. She said she will always have service and will choose who she will use. Her husband was there with her and they wanted their voice heard.

Council Member Craig Guyton commented on the transparency. He feels he can speak on behalf of them all. The council will not pass something like that after having one meeting. It is something they will discuss for the next few months on how to increase revenue. The city of Euharlee has never had a millage rate. They have very few services that reap money such as Adairsville and Cartersville that have the mandatory garbage pick-up. They are looking at all sorts of ideas.

Mrs. Adcock agreed other things need to come in. She feels like Lakepointe killed Joe Cowan Park. They need to be able to house people to have tournaments in Euharlee. Mayor Steve Worthington said they have tournaments every week. She said; maybe get the community to rent housing. Council Member Guyton said some of that is probably already going on. She said Adairsville is huge with the industry compared to Euharlee. All we have is the BP, Anytime Fitness and Georgia Power.

Council Member Guyton said to put her mind to ease, the council will be transparent and nothing will be passed without the community knowing it at large.

City Manager James Stephens said, the proposal was on the agenda, it was posted and there was nothing not transparent about the proposal. He will continue to bring as many ideas for revenue streams to the council in a transparent way.

Steve Parker - Mr. Parker had the signed petition and he brought it forth. He said, he lives next to the boat ramp and people are using the bathroom in his back yard. His dog goes and rolls in it and come back with human feces on him. He wanted to know if something could be done about it. There is a bathroom at all the other boat ramps. Council Member Joe Turner said, it used to be a portal potty there and the kids sent it down the river. Mr. Parker said they steal out of his back yard.

Mayor Steve Worthington said it belongs to the county and we need to give Gene Camp a call to see what can be done.

Fred Werner mentioned the plan that included a pavilion. Mayor Steve Worthington said that was in the comprehensive plan. He stated the ramp was a Bartow County project.

Richard Wordell - Mr. Wordell stated if the city needs funding they may be missing a great opportunity at the boat ramp. They should charge to park. You have to pay at other boat ramps and the lake.

Mayor Steve Worthington stated the county owns the boat ramp. It was put in by EMA; the building on the corner is the Bartow County pumping station.

Edgar Stone- Mr. Stone lives in Ferguson Fields and wanted to praise the Euharlee police department for patrolling the area and the city for putting the speed limit sign back up. People are coming in at a high speed. It is dangerous for the kids in the community. They need a slow down children at play sign. He did speak with the police department and they said they could not radar there. They need to figure something out and for the city to get people to slow down for the kids. The problem is in other subdivisions as well. It will not be for the adults but for the children. Council Member David Duncan asked if he had a homeowner association. Mr. Stone said, he did and they said the road belongs to the city of Euharlee.

He spoke with someone on the board and they stated they bumped heads with the city council. Mr. Stone said wife was almost hit by a car that did hit their dog and had to have surgery. He had seen a child hit by a car before when he worked for city school system bus barn and he never wanted to see anything like that again. They need the city's help. City Manager, James Stephens said the city charter, section 6.16 provides for council to make special assessments for public improvement such as speed bumps.

Mayor Worthington asked if they can put up signage children at play. Mr. Stephens said he did not want to sound unsympathetic, but from a liability standpoint the insurance company, the state of Georgia and Bartow County has taken the position, the signage children at play, can lead to legal issues of the government entity's responsibility to keep the kids safe. He is sympathetic, but before they add any signs they will need to speak to the attorney and insurance company.

Sandra Johnson - Mrs. Johnson said she had Council Member Turner to get 25 miles per hour signs on her street years ago. They come down the road 45 to 50 miles per hour and something needs to be done about it.

Council Member Craig Guyton motioned to adjourn the meeting. Council Member David Duncan seconded the motion. The motion was carried with Council Members Guyton, Queen, Duncan, Turner and Mayor Worthington all voting in favor.

With no further discussion the meeting was adjourned at 7:53 pm.