

**CITY OF EUHARLEE
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES
JULY 19, 2022**

Mayor Craig Guyton called the meeting to order, led prayer, followed with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following were present: Mayor Craig Guyton, Council Members Tim Abbott, Greg Free, David Duncan and Joe Turner. City Manager James Stephens was not present.

NEW BUSINESS

Community Development Director, Katie Gobbi shared an update on the events the city has in progress, and on tap for the Farmers Market, Food Truck Friday, and Euharlee Fall Festival.

Farmers Market Update – Katie Gobbi

Ms. Lucas did a wonderful job of getting the vendors and getting the market going. They have sixteen vendors signed up and average around twelve per event. The one for that day was cancelled due to weather and the vendors were appreciative. Some vendors have other commitments one week a month and number fluctuate for that reason. It has been a dry season, despite what the weather did today, so some farmers are just now getting produce out and excited to sell. They have seen some new vendors the last couple of weeks. The attendance is steady and growing. WBHF covered the market a few weeks ago and The Daily Tribune News will have features coming soon about the market as well. They are excited about the buzz that is being created for some increased participation. There are seven remaining events through September 6th. They have a lot to reflect on to see how they continue to grow, and they really have some great idea.

Council Member Tim Abbott shared that has not been able to attend but whatever is needed from the council to make things better do not hesitate not to tell them.

Food Truck Friday- Katie Gobbi

The city had four events this year and the very first one in April, it sleeted during the event which is difficult for an outdoor event. Next year they can review April and make it a little more reliable for that month. Sometimes it is gorgeous and beautiful and sometimes 40 degrees. The turn out has been great except for April and the cold weather. They are averaging nine vendors and many selling out. If they could remember the first season they had two vendors, and to see it grow over the last eight years is exciting. They have two events remaining and in September they will try something new with three performers with different types of music including some young groups and Joel Bridges. This is his third time performing this year and he is appreciated.

Council Member David Duncan asked who was performing next month. Ms. Gobbi said Scott Warren and Friends out of Rome, Georgia.

Euharlee Fall Festival – Katie Gobbi

The Euharlee Fall Festival will be held on October 8, 2022. They just opened applications a few weeks ago and they are much further ahead this year than last year and had a very successful event. The event will be from 10 am – 5 pm in Frankie Harris Park. They have two different sponsor levels; Supporting Sponsor at \$350 and the Friend of the Festival at \$150 with six sponsors signed up. Euharlee Outfitters signed up today and is a sponsor for the first time. Last year there were eleven sponsors in total, so they are ahead of the game. They have three types of vendors, Arts and Craft- \$40, Direct Sales - \$60 and Food Vendors

for \$75. Last year there were seventy-two vendors total and thirty-two signed up so far. They are working with local groups and artist to fill out the stage performances.

Mayor Guyton asked if the seventy-two vendors was from last year. Ms. Gobbi said yes. He asked if the number grows do they have plenty of space. Ms. Gobbi said last year they had a few less vendors than from 2019. They can accommodate up to 90 to 99 spots based on the configuration they had in the past. Ms. Gobbi shared that some of the thirty-two vendors are double spots which is about forty-five. Some food trucks will be a little bit bigger, and they are planning to put them in some of the camping sites because they are made for that size of vehicle. They are still working with it but thinks it will be safe to do so.

Council Member Tim Abbott commented about the Food Truck Friday in April and commended the staff for getting the fire rings out. It was not attended well because it was cold. They know sometimes its about marketing. One of the attendees that night was so impressed that they continued at the event, and the fire rings created a fun atmosphere. The gentleman stated this is the kind is the city he wanted to live in. Weather does matter but thank you to the staff. If it is chilly, they can market as a fun event.

Council Member Greg Free said the gentleman and his father-in-law approached them and they were really impressed that the city had that event and thought of everything. They were impressed that people showed up. They have lived in Euharlee for a year. The gentleman was at the last Food Truck Friday and was still raving about the event.

Chief of Police, Jody Matthews shared information on the Citizens' Police Academy, Traffic Safety Network, Speed Enforcement Camera update, Euharlee Police state certification and Euharlee police depart new hire.

Citizen's Police Academy – Jody Matthews

The Euharlee Police Academy will start August 4, 2022, and will run through October 6, 2022, meeting on each Thursday. He has three people signed up and would like to get at least five with a maximum for fifteen people.

Mayor Craig Guyton asked how many participated last time and Chief Matthews said eleven. Mayor Guyton suggested an added testament from one of the previous graduates, and why it was beneficial to be a part of the program. Chief Matthews said he re-posted it and two of the graduates stated they wanted to do it again. Maybe, they will get a couple more and keep it going. It is a very interesting class with a lot of positive feedback.

Traffic Safety Network – Jody Matthews

The traffic safety network is a state highway safety network with sixteen traffic networks over all the counties in Georgia. Euharlee falls under the mountain area traffic enforcement network. Each month, voluntarily an agency will host a meeting. Some agencies will do it more than one month. Euharlee host once a year and will host it the upcoming Thursday. They are expecting about fifty officers from multiple agencies. They have catered food and will be held at Euharlee Baptist Church. It is a time for comradery, and they discuss cases agencies have going on, and one hour of training from a certified speaker. They will have a safety check point that immediately after the training.

Council Member Joe Turner asked if they were going to have traffic stops or roadblocks. Council Member David Duncan said they are called safety checks not roadblocks. Chief Matthews said yes, formally called roadblocks, but are safety checks.

Speed Enforcement Camera Update – Jody Matthews

In February 2021, the first study resulted in a 5-day count 15,724 motorist went through the school zone and 3,235 were speeding eleven miles over the speed limit. They went through a public education stage through social media, radio interview and flyers that went out to the schools in October. Another 5-day study was conducted, and the number went down by 3% to 15,391 and that was a significant decrease. The speeding number went down to 467 which was 86%. In November they did a thirty-day warning and announced on social media. Individuals speeding did receive a warning notice in the mail. Before starting, the traffic count went up 10% to 16,992, but had another 8% decrease of 181 speeders in the 5-day period. From the beginning through the warning phase, they had a decrease of 94% of speeding infractions. He provided council with a spreadsheet with the numbers for each month. The numbers from the warnings went from five hundred warning citations to 146 citations in May 2022. They have seen a very large decrease in speeding infractions. They will start back up when school starts and hopefully will continue to see the decrease in speeding infractions; ultimately to zero is the goal.

Mayor Craig Guyton asked if they would put out information on social media as school begins to remind everybody. Chief Matthews said starting in August they will do another 30-day warning period to try to make people get acclimated that the school cameras are there.

Council Member David Duncan asked about the period between when the school day begins and when the school lets out for the day. How many were issued during that period. Mayor Guyton said they do not show the break down for the number during that period but asked Chief Matthews if he could get that number. Chief Matthews said yes, however there was a big decrease during that time and most of the citations are during the 25-mile speed zone.

State Certification - Jody Matthews

Chief Matthews provided council with a document explaining details to what a state certification includes. He said it was a very lengthy process and they have been working diligently to accomplish. They will have the on-site assessment on August 24-25, 2022. What was not included on the document was the mock assessment they had where two people came from different agencies and went through what the complete audit would look like for them. They made recommendations on things they could improve and the improvements were made. There was a second mock and gave them the okay to move forward.

The assessment will be a full audit. They will go through all the policies and procedures on-site. They will look at the facilities, will go to Bartow 911 and check the relationships between the two and even look at their policies. It is a very lengthy process. He pointed out there are 628 law enforcement agencies in the state of Georgia with only 135 agencies that are state certified.

Council Member Joe Turner said many years ago the city was certified, and he does not remember who it was under. He wanted to know if Chief Matthews knew what happened. Chief Matthews stated you must re-certify every three-years. Every year in that 3-year period, you must show you are following the policies and procedures. They must submit reports that shows they are following the policies. He is not certain, but he has seen some of the paperwork that GACP, the accreditation program, sent that were not being done and never fixed. Council Member Turner said it could have been between one chief to another chief.

Chief Matthews stated when he first came, if they could remember, he revamped all the policies that had already been through a state certification process, and they have made in their department. He was very confident with their policies and procedures. He said the hard part was keeping the certification and someone uploading the information that you are following your procedure. Chief Matthews said he wanted them to know where they were with the certification knowing many of them have wanted it for quite some time.

Council Member Greg Free asked if there were any other municipalities certified in Bartow County and Chief Matthews said the city of Cartersville was the only one.

Mayor Craig Guyton said assuming they pass the on-site assessment, the two following committee is that review before the award, if he had any indication on how long that takes. Are they two months away or a year away? Chief Matthews said not a year, but the auditors are going somewhere all the time, so he did not know. They were ready to do this in July, but August was the earliest they could get to them.

Euharlee Police Department New Hire - Jody Matthews

The department has one new part-time officer Grady Bagley with 30-years of law enforcement from Powder Springs and served with Chief Matthews. He retired and is a certified nurse and paramedic for EMS. Officer Bagley contacted Chief Matthews wanting to get back into law enforcement part time.

He recently hired a full-time officer, Ryan Morrow, an Adairsville native. He will start next Thursday. Mayor Guyton asked if he has completed all his certification and Chief Matthews said yes. Council Member Duncan asked how long he had served. Mayor Guyton said this would be his first position and he put himself through the academy.

Council Member Tim Abbott asked Chief Matthews he had what he needed to move forward with the state certification. He does not see him that often to ask if there is anything he needs for support. Chief Matthews said he has done a lot to try and maneuver the department around. He hired a part time evidence custodian that handle the evidence for the state certification and very familiar with state certification. He also hired a part-time officer that is specifically doing training; his name is Mike Bettikofer, former for Cartersville Captain. He is very good, and fortunate to have him on board.

There were no public comments.

With no further discussion the meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm.