

July Minutes  
Mayor and Council Work Session  
Commerce City Hall Conference Room  
July 5, 2005  
6:00 P.M.

The regularly scheduled work session of the Mayor and Council was held on Monday, July 5, 2005 at 6:00 P.M. in the City Hall Conference Room, 27 Sycamore Street. Mayor Charles Hardy called the work session to order and Councilman Donald Wilson gave the invocation. In attendance were Mayor Charles Hardy, Mayor Pro Tem Archie Chaney, Council members Riley Harris, Donald Wilson, Mark Fitzpatrick, Bob Sosebee and Richard Massey, City Manager Clarence Bryant, Finance Director Steve McKown, City Clerk Shirley Willis and approximately nine (9) citizens.

Mayor Charles Hardy said there was a meeting on Friday, July 8, 2005 with the IDA in the old Grand Jury Room. There would be an executive session held regarding Partnership developer on the land investment the City just purchased.

Mayor Charles Hardy then turned the work session over to City Manager Clarence Bryant to cover the agenda items.

City Manager Clarence Bryant said there were not many items on the agenda.

1. The first item was the final budget for 2005-2006. He said when the financial statement was finalized there were two line items that were left out of the budget. The line items were the credit card machine payment and the fees charged by the credit card company. The lease payment on the machine was \$69.99 per month and an average of \$175.00 per month for fees. Mr. Bryant said those changes had been made and the final budget would be ready for approval at the July 11, 2005 meeting. Mr. Bryant told the council that the city was absorbing the fees at the current time; however, if the volume increased then they needed to look at how it would be handled.

2. Bennett Street CDBG Closeout Public Hearing

City Manager Clarence Bryant explained that the project had been completed and the close out hearing was a procedure that needed to be handled to officially declare the grant closed.

3. Georgia Power Franchise Amendment

City Manager, Clarence Bryant said that Georgia Power had updated their agreements throughout the state. GMA had become involved and meetings were held in Savannah in conjunction with the Annual Convention. The major changes were in streetscape projects and utility relocations. The amendment clarified the responsible party for the relocations.

4. Ordinance Amendment to Section 6.85 of the Code to eliminate any distance requirement in the Central Business District from Schools, Churches and Parks.

City Manager, Clarence Bryant stated the section related to the sale of alcohol in the Central Business District. The State regulates the distances; however; cities can regulate the distances within their jurisdiction. According to Mr. Bryant, the city of Duluth had just completed their amendment to the section. The amendment would only affect beer and wine.

Mayor Charles Hardy said the council would not take any action at the July meeting. It would only have the first reading and the action would be taken at the August meeting when the recommendation from the Planning Commission would be presented on amending the permitted used in the Central Business District for schools and churches.

City Manager Clarence Bryant said Attorney John Stell should have the ordinance ready by the next work session on the liquor sales.

5. Activity Reports – The reports would be included in the packages.

6. Financial Update

City Manager, Clarence Bryant said the financials for the fiscal year end were in the process of being closed out and the data would be included in the council package.

City Manager, Clarence Bryant told the council that he and Bryan Harbin were scheduled to go to Atlanta on Wednesday to meet with EPD regarding violations at the oxidation pond. Mr. Bryant said an EPD representative had visited the new WPCP plant and the oxidation pond last week and did not approve of some of the things he reviewed and subsequently had issued violations.

Mr. Bryant said one reason was that the City of Commerce was in the Savannah River Basin and any stream discharging into the basin was inspected closely. He said EPD had notified that the permit must be done versus a renewal on the permit. There was a problem the representative found regarding the disinfectant-effluent. Mr. Bryant explained some of the things the representative was not satisfied with and one of those was the curtains at the new WPCP plant. The curtains had just been installed and when the discharge is less than a certain amount some of the bulbs turn off. Another one was they favored automatic bar screen equipment at the oxidation pond. The cost without installation for that equipment was \$150,000. There was only one customer on the pond and that was Holiday Inn. Mr. Bryant said that the City of Commerce should look for an attorney to represent the City and begin to challenge some of the points the representative listed.

Park on North Side of Town

City Manager, Clarence Bryant talked about the newly established park at the triangle on Highway 98 Maysville Road at Roosevelt Boulevard. Mr. Bryant said it would be appropriate for the council to name the park and the City place a plaque designating the name. A citizen in the area had mentioned "Presidential Park" because the streets in the area are named Andrew Jackson Street, Wilson Drive and Roosevelt Boulevard.

The last item was the error on the utility bills that were mailed on June 30, 2005. A fiber optic cable of Alltel had been cut and the ADSL line for the city was down. When the data transfer occurred TBS was unable to pick up the information to print the bills. When the line was repaired and the availability to access the data the current amount of the bill was duplicated and printed as a previous balance plus the current amount, thereby doubling the amount due. At the request of the City of Commerce TBS reprinted the bills and mailed out a corrected bill with a notice to the customers.

Councilman Donald Wilson reported a house on Harmony Street that was in very bad condition with overgrowth and needed to be cleaned up.

There was no further business and the work session was adjourned.

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Charles L. Hardy, Jr., Mayor

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Shirley Willis, City Clerk