

Euharlee City Council 2021

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**CITY OF EUHARLEE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 5, 2021**

Mayor Pro Tem Joe Turner called the meeting to order. A prayer was led by Council Member David Duncan and followed with the Pledge of Allegiance.

City Manager James Stephens called the roll, and the following were present: Mayor Pro Tem Joe Turner, Council Members David Duncan, Tim Abbott, and Greg Free. Mayor Steve Worthington was not present.

Council Member David Duncan motioned to approve minutes for City Council Meeting /Public Hearing 12.01.20, Public Hearing 12.08.20 and Called City Council Meeting/Public Hearing 12.15.20. Council Member Tim Abbott seconded the motion. The motion was carried with Mayor Pro Tem Turner, Council Members Duncan, Abbott and Free all voting in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

Frankie Harris Park Rental - James Stephens

Mayor Pro Tem Joe Turner stated for those that didn't know people occasionally rent Frankie Harris Park for events. He asked Mr. Stephens in the absence of Mrs. Kristy Montgomery, ACT I, Inc. representative to share her charity event request to rent the park.

James Stephens, City Manager stated she was prepared to be there but then chose to watch on Facebook. She works with or represents ACT I, Inc. It is a youth theatre non- profit entity group. He was informed, they have had performances at Frankie Harris Park in the past. The city's standard non-profit policy, he had before him, authorized him to approve a one day rental to a non-profit for \$25 per day. The entity is hoping to rent the facility for 5 days. Because of that he had it on the agenda and strongly supports the activity. It is an event that will invite some adults and youth from Bartow County and for Euharlee itself, will highlight the Frankie Harris venue. In the email in correspondence to her, the last time the city rented the park it was to the group that floated the whole state of Georgia. They were there for 6 days and paid \$1500. The reason was they used the water, bathrooms and brought in mobile showers. They covered the expense of the water bill so they really were not charged.

He stated again he supports the \$25 and because he is a very black and white City Manager and it states he can authorize 1 day and they requested 5 days, he presented it to the Council. If they wanted to give him the guidance going forward and say extend that to multiple days he would be glad to take those marching orders. She represents an entity that highlights young actors, people in the arts, and he thinks it's a good opportunity. She was certainly aware of the circumstances with COVID. In her correspondence, they were sensitive to the fact and will comply with the executive orders from the Governor's office. He recommended approval for \$25 per day or less.

Mayor Pro Tem Turner stated he knows the young lady, they have done things with them before and they have given breaks to the 501©(3) charitable events. He would be comfortable with the expense of the electricity and maybe what little water they may use. He would like to go with \$20 per day, \$100 for the 5 days or even less.

Council Member Greg Free asked if she seemed okay with the \$25 per day. Mr. Stephens said yes, it is the actual posted amount for a non-profit one-day rental. If it was a little higher it would not rule her out. Council Member Free said if he read it correctly, they are taking care of parking and their own security. Mr. Stephens said yes and he believed she understood that the city requires a very affordable insurance clause. He stated, as the City Manager he would support no charge for the rental.

Council Member David Duncan said he is part of the POW WOW and they had to have a million dollar insurance policy. Mr. Stephens said he will not recommend a waiver and they would have to have the insurance for the rental. The Council could waiver, but it was not his recommendation.

Council Member Tim Abbott asked if she understood that and, it would not be a challenge or a barrier. Mr. Stephens said it is not in the email correspondence, but pretty sure she understands. They would have to provide that at other facilities so he thinks she understands. The city has an insurance contact they can use. They don't require them to use, but one is available to assist them to obtain the coverage.

Mayor Pro Tem Turner asked the Council if they would be willing to charge \$100 for the 5-day rental. Council Member Abbott said yes. Council Member Free asked if they would be going against the policy. Mr. Stephens said no because it is a multiple day rental.

Council Member Tim Abbott motioned for the rental of \$20 per day and to secure the insurance policy. Council Member David Duncan seconded the motion. The motion was carried with Mayor Pro Tem Turner, Council Members Duncan, Abbott, and Free all voting in favor.

Mayor Pro Tem - Mayor Pro Tem Joe Turner

Mayor Pro Tem Joe Turner said there are a couple of new members on the council and as they could see, he was there in the position that night because the Mayor was not able to be there. They would need a motion or a discussion for Mayor Pro Tem for 2021.

Council Member Tim Abbott motioned to table the item for a future meeting. Council Member Greg Free seconded the motion. Mayor Pro Tem Turner asked why.

Council Member Abbott stated it was mentioned that they were new and he wasn't sure why it was on the agenda; if it was a matter of procedure and if they do it every year. He would like to talk with the Mayor, Mayor Pro Tem Turner and Council Member David Duncan about this, so he made the motion to table it and Council Member Free seconded it. He said, there was not a problem with Mayor Pro Tem Turner in the chair, did not think they were at risk, and for him to stay in the chair until they had a chance to talk about it.

Mayor Pro Tem asked Mr. Stephens about the city charter. Mr. Stephens said the city charter reads the Mayor Pro Tem is elected by the majority of the City Council. It may be implied that it occur in January, but it does not explicitly say it has to be in January. It also does not include verbiage specific to a term. For example, for many of the committee's it state, the chairman will remain until his successor is approved and that verbiage is not in that section of the charter. If a decision was not made that night on the new Mayor Pro Tem, Mayor Pro Tem Turner will remain in the position. Mr. Stephens agreed with Council Member Abbott's interpretation, what is in the charter, what's not in the charter and Council Member Turner would continue as Mayor Pro Tem. He did not think they were violating their charter because it is not explicit it has to occur in January.

Council Member Greg Free said those were his thoughts as well. Also, as Mayor Pro Tem Turner mentioned he is new, and there are some things he wanted to make sure he understood properly. He doesn't have a problem with Mayor Pro Tem Turner being in that seat. He said, 2020 was an unusual year from them all and 2021 is shaping up to be the same. He would like to have the conversation with everybody, what that looks like and what best serves the council and the citizens through doing that. The discussion would be better instead of trying to move on a vote at that time.

Mayor Pro Tem Turner said they can add it on the work session to ask questions and asked if that was acceptable. Council Member Abbott said yes and they were okay with him and the gavel in the next meeting. After discussion, the motion was carried with Mayor Pro Tem Turner, Council Members Duncan, Abbott, and Free all voting in favor to table the item.

Council Member Tim Abbott motioned to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Greg Free seconded the motion. The motion was carried with Mayor Pro Tem Turner, Council Members Duncan, Abbott, and Free all voting in favor.

With no further discussion the meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.

**CITY OF EUHARLEE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 02, 2021**

Mayor Steve Worthington called the meeting to order. A prayer was led by City Manager James Stephens and followed with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following were present Mayor Steve Worthington, Council Members Tim Abbott, David Duncan, Greg Free, Joe Turner and City Manager James Stephens.

Council Member David Duncan motioned to approve minutes for City Council Meeting 01.05.21. Council Member Joe Turner seconded the motion. The motion was carried with Mayor Worthington, Council Members Abbott, Duncan, Free, and Turner all voting in favor.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mayor Pro Tem - Mayor Steve Worthington

Mayor Steve Worthington said the charter does state the position of Mayor Pro Tem but does not have to be voted on at the beginning of each year. However, over the years have made it a practice to do so. The Mayor Pro Tem position from his 26 years of experience on the council, the job is 99.5% to just sit in the seat in the absence of the Mayor. There has been no other responsibility for the position.

Council Member David Duncan motioned to nominate Council Member Joe Turner as Mayor Pro Tem. Council Member Greg Free seconded the motion. The motion was carried with Mayor Worthington and Council Members Abbott, Duncan, Free and Turner all voting in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

Report from Virtual GMA Summit – Greg Free

Council Member Greg Free said the virtual meeting was very well run. He appreciated the opportunity. It was very informative and he learned a lot.

The topics discussed included:

- COVID-19 and businesses in towns and how they helped businesses survive during the pandemic. There were several that shared the way they promoted to help businesses which was thinking outside the box, being creative and listening to the residence in their city.
- Tourism and travel were down by 8% in the state of Georgia. They talked about tourism as it related to public safety that included travel with accidents. Over 1500 people were killed in the state of Georgia due to car crashes. They discussed small towns having crosswalks that are well lit, sidewalks with pedestrian friendly environments for people to connect in the community but also to help with traffic congestion. He is a runner and having to cross over Euharlee road he understands the need for crosswalks. It was good information and a good take away for him the way traffic and tourism merged together.
- They discussed legislative and some of the things that are going on this year at the state level. A lot was surrounded on the EPD. They discussed the importance of paying tire fees and ensure the money goes where it needs to go. This year it is fully funded at the state level and had not been the past couple of years. They discussed the issue in Cobb County where ethylene oxide was released from a plant. The EPD and EPA regulations are being looked at to be revamped from a state level. The same thing with solid waste and landfills. Landfills are not being built and how do they get creative with the space they already have and not negatively impact the citizens.

- They discussed how towns engaged with their citizens, taking business out of it and things they were doing before the pandemic such as festivals, outdoor concerts and all these different things that were taking place. Some cities said they were going back to what they were doing. Obviously, it is not going to look completely like it did before. They have started to ease up some of the restrictions they had in place and safely navigate. The theme was thinking outside the box, being creative and challenging them to think differently and think about the bigger picture.

Mr. James Stephens, City Manager said they city needs to stay aware of the changes at the state level through EPD because they have the river running through. The city has a big asset and a big responsibility to protect it.

1st Reading of Campaign Sign Ordinance - James Stephens

James Stephens, City Manager stated he was filling in for Mr. Reese. The council had before them Section 11.4.5 an amendment the Planning and Zoning Committee put together. They actually completed this work in the late summer and early fall. Mr. Stephens held it from the agenda until the local elections were completed because he didn't want to give any appearance that he was getting involved in any elections. They now can get clarification with this year's elections. The only change they defined was what the election cycle means. The previous ordinance stated campaign signs should not be put out prior to 60 days of the election. They now have early and absentee voting and the planning and zoning commission thoroughly defined it and made the change to say 60 days prior to early voting or primary. This would be good to get squared away with the upcoming elections. It is not a significant change but clearly an enhanced improvement that is not vague and can be interpreted one way.

The ordinance had not been amended since 2014 and it was outdated. The campaign signs can't be in the right away and is mainly site distance and safety. Campaign signs are on private property.

Even though this clarifies you can start 60 days before the early voting, not 60 days before the November 3rd or the 2nd Tuesday in November and it makes it clear. In reality there is still limited enforcement mobility. It is up to candidates and property owners to comply. With something to think about, do they go with the improvement or take everything out that is not enforceable and stick with no signs within the right away.

Council Member Tim Abbott stated the resolution is enforceable on city owned property. Mayor Worthington said in the road right away. Council Member Abbott said they don't believe it is enforceable on private business or residential owned property, do they care and is there a problem to address. If they do not have a problem to address, he does not want to create one.

Mr. Stephens said in the absence of the amendment there were candidates that disagreed on the intent, so it would clarify it. Euharlee is not currently covered with campaign signs. He received calls about why he wasn't enforcing it. He spoke with legal counsel and protected the city. If they delete the campaign signs as part of the sign ordinance altogether if they are not in the right away, his main concern is public safety. He recommended if they do not totally take-out campaign signs, to pass the amendment proposed. Mayor Worthington stated signs in the past have been put out in July and August. If the signs stay out longer than 90 days they are damaged by the weather and then it becomes a litter problem worst than they already have. He was for the 60 days.

Council Member Greg Free said rules are good and maybe include a map. But what if someone goes outside of the rule on personal property how can you enforce it. Mr. Stephens said that was the question he asked. He was not uncomfortable to go ahead and keep the 60 days and remember to a large degree it is not incumbent upon the candidate or the property owner. Council Member Free said he liked the clarification. The 2nd Reading was scheduled for March meeting.

Director of Parks & Recreation Equipment Request – Don Varvel

Don Varvel, Parks & Recreation Director had several requests for replacement of equipment. The first was a John Deere W52R walk behind mower with a deck so it can be used as a zero turn. He requested permission to purchase, basically for the hills, to cut them safely without spending 8 to 10 hours weed eating. The mower comes with a lot of safety features. If you were walking behind it and fell, the mower would shut off which is a benefit if you are on a hill. They have tried many times to cut field 3 with a zero turn and can only do about half the hill safely. Marshall Aiken, volunteer has cut it for them several times with the bobcat, but it ties up the bobcat from doing other work. The item also listed is the platform that connects to the walk behind so it can be used as a zero turn. The third line is a zero turn John Deere to replace the original Toro that was purchased in 2013 for the park. It was the only mower they had at the park for the first 4 years and cut 66 acres alone which has a lot of hours on it. The items totaled \$15,510.00. The second page item was a John Deere Gator. They do a lot of transporting field dry, pumps, hoses and equipment out to the fields. They are currently carrying them by hand and no drive the truck on the fields and make runs. It will help them transport and spray the park with a tank. The total cost \$7,989.99.

James Stephens, City Manager said the request was to come out of the current SPLOST funding not the general fund if approved.

Mr. Varvel responded to several questions from the council in reference to the mower, the last time equipment was purchased, mowing the hills, safety, maintenance, and mowing around the pond. He was asked to consider some of the options discussed in reference to the type of maintenance for the hills and also the mowing around the pond.

Council Member David Duncan motioned to purchase the equipment from current SPLOST funds. Council Member Greg Free seconded the motion. The motion was carried with Mayor Worthington, Council Members Abbott, Duncan, Free and Turner all voting in favor.

2020 Police Department Annual Report – Chief Jody Matthew

Chief Jody Matthews provided council with a power point document which outlined the 2020 year-end review for the Euahlee Police Department that included the following information and shared the following information:

- ***Mission Statement*** – “Serve and protect through dedication, professionalism, active cooperation with community, and respect for human rights and dignity”.
- ***Our Focus*** – To protect and serve the citizens with a high level of integrity. To utilize a community policing philosophy. To strive for excellence in all they do. To become less incident driven and more proactive in preventing crime.
- ***Statistics for 2020 during the pandemic exceeded the call volume from 2019***
 - Call Statistics for 2020**
 - Total Calls for Service: 3,085
 - Total Case/Incident Reports: 414
 - Total Accident Reports: 50
 - Total Arrest Reports: 58
 - Total Traffic Stops: 1,296
 - Total Citations/Warnings: 535/651= 1,186
 - Crime Statistics for 2020**
 - Assault: 2
 - Burglary: 7
 - Child Abuse/ Neglect: 4
 - Domestic/Family Violence: 61

- Entering Auto: 9
- Homicide: 1
- Larceny/ Theft: 13
- Motor Vehicle Theft: 3
- Rape: 0
- Robbery: 0
- Juvenile Investigations: 14
- **Department Staffing**
 - 11 Full-time Sworn Police Officers, 5- Part-Time Sworn Police Officers and 1 Non-Sworn Civilian
 - 1 of the Full-time sworn positions is a cadet in the police academy scheduled to graduate in mid- February, and they have 1 employee on workers compensation.
- **Promotions**
 - Cliff Yeager to the rank of Lieutenant over the Field Operations Bureau.
 - Tim Merrell to the rank of Sergeant in the Uniform Patrol Division.
 - Allen McNelis to the rank of Lieutenant over the Administrative Services Bureau.
- **New Hires in 2020**
 - Officer Linda Tibbitts
 - Officer Reginald Heathington
 - Officer Andy Page
 - Officer Billy Walker (PT)
 - Officer Derrick Wilson (PT)
- **P.O.S.T. Training**
 - Officers received 622 hours of training approved by the P.O.S.T Council.
 - They currently employ three POST certified Instructors with a variety of teaching expertise. Those instructors occasionally supplement as Adjunct Instructors for North Central Georgia Law Enforcement Academy in Austell, GA.
- **Chief's Day at the Capital**
 Chief Matthews attended the event in March of 2020. This day is set aside to show appreciation for Georgia Chiefs as Governor Kemp sign a resolution declaring March 10, 2020 as the "Police Chiefs/Heads of Law Enforcement Agencies Appreciation Day".
- **Community Outreach**
 During the challenging times many people and businesses stepped up to help achieve the mission in a safe manner. They received many donations throughout the year that spoke volume about the love and community support in Euharlee.
- **Faith & Blue Weekend**
 The Euharlee Police Department participated in two events during the Inaugural Faith & Blue weekend. There were only 140 total events throughout Georgia. They partnered with Oakland Heights Baptist Church and Euharlee Baptist Church to host events.
- **Networking**
 The Euharlee Police Department participates with the Mountain Area Traffic Enforcement Network (MNTEN) through the Governor's Office of Highway Safety serving all 159 counties in Georgia. The networks serve as a catalyst for traffic enforcement officers to voice their concerns and share ideas with their counterparts from other agencies in their region.
 They host multi-jurisdictional (16 traffic network jurisdictional) safety check in December 2020, which netted 4 arrest and 23 traffic violations identified in a two-hour time period.
- **Public Safety Appreciation**
 A special thank you to the citizens of Euharlee, and the surrounding area for all the kind appreciation notes written for Public Safety Appreciation Week and the treats.

The council thanked Chief Matthews and his staff for an awesome job.

Police Department Fleet Update and Request – Chief Jody Matthews

Police Chief Jody Matthews said he was not in a position last year to lose any patrol vehicles and unfortunately, they lost 2 to traffic accidents. They had a 2020 Explorer and a 2014 Charger both totaled and paid off. After insurance reimbursements for the vehicle and payoff for 1 vehicle the department received \$31,244.29. The request was for a replacement vehicle, a 2021 Ford Explorer in the amount of \$33,300 that will only cost the department after insurance \$2,055.71. The additional quotes for the vehicle were attached. One quote would take 12-14 weeks for delivery. The quote for \$33,300 is in stock and is the same company they bought Ford Explorers from last year. They were also the lowest bidder and again, the vehicle is in stock.

The next quote the council received was for a 2021 Explorer, a vehicle request for Chief Matthews. Since his time at Euharlee, he has never had a vehicle and has driven whatever was available. Losing two vehicles put them in a bind and he is now driving his personal vehicle and has for the last couple of months. He spoke with the City Manager and they are in position where he can get a vehicle. He has been in touch with the dealerships looking for a vehicle that had an administrative package, which means it has a console and is not set up for a cage but nobody had one. Hardy has offered to pull a civilian vehicle off the lot and sell at the price of a police vehicle. There are two versions, one is \$32,125 that is on the lot and one for \$29,340 that includes a fleet adjustment of \$4,130.

The City Manager also needs a vehicle. He currently drives the 2009 Ford Ranger which is a loaner from the police department. They have both vehicles on the lot, they are offering at a fleet price with \$4,000 off the sticker price and are civilian models. He has called around and no one else had an admin package and nor willing to take a civilian model off the lot and do a fleet price. It is a total of (3) vehicles, (2) for the police department (1) for the City Manager and the Ford Ranger goes back to the police department for use.

Chief Matthews responded to the questions about the structure of the civilian vehicles and if it could be used for a police car. He stated it will not be used as a patrol car, but it can be. The police vehicles are not that different from the civilian models. The civilian model is more like an admin model. It will still have the blue lights, but will not have the cage. It will be striped and used as an admin vehicle.

James Stephens, City Manager gave a summary of the what Chief Matthews explained about the insurance reimbursements and the cost of the vehicles. He also stated that if the police department did not need their truck, he would continue to drive it. The vehicle prices were so advantageous he said to put it on the agenda. The request was to be paid from 2020 SPLOST. He explained the last 6 years up until March 2020, the SPLOST funds went toward debt service payments. Last March when the last payment was made, they have been accumulating these SPLOST funds. They bought one recreation vehicle out of SPLOST last year. They receive \$40,000 a month for SPLOST. If he makes a request from SPLOST funds know these funds have accumulated. They have \$40,000 times 10-months built up plus what they will collect every month going forward.

Council Member David Duncan motioned to purchase the (3) vehicles from SPLOST funding. Council Member Joe Turner seconded the motion. The motion was carried with Mayor Worthington and Council Members Abbott, Duncan, Free, and Turner all voting in favor.

Westminster Annexation – James Stephens

James Stephens, City Manager stated before he arrived to the city of Euharlee, the Planning and Zoning Commission and the council had been looking at ways to possibly annex Westminster Subdivision.

By state code there are (3) different methods of annexation. The council had before them a resolution that would initiate the process of the option that goes through the local law that will be introduced at the state level by Representative Matthew Gambill or Representative Trey Kelly. The resolution is the first step to that process. He had been in touch with the city attorney, Mr. Pettit and depending on the fate of the resolution at the meeting, they could start the process because they are in session.

He was under the impression during his 5-year tenure it was a goal they have wanted to pursue. This is an opportunity to start the process.

He shared information related to calls for service from Bartow County verses the city of Euharlee. Their response time is significantly less than Bartow County. The documents were included with the resolution. The police department make calls outside the city limits due to a mutual aid agreement. Therefore, there are time when the city will service Westminster even though it is not in the city limits. There are not a lot of calls but the response time is significantly better than the county.

Should this go forward, the impact on the tax levy would be about a \$10,000 tax increase for 2022. The documents to support that amount was not included, but was accurate and not an estimate.

Mr. Stephens responded to Council Member David Duncan's question in reference to having to get signatures from homeowners, a process that took place years ago. He mentioned (3) methods that annexation can take place. What Council Member Duncan described is one of the options. Mr. Stephens stated based on what he understood, the property owners were renting out property in that community which is why there was not a large response. The method he presented to council, if the resolution pass, they would approach the local delegation which will be done by the city attorney; they would draft the actual document to be introduced at the state level, there would be an advertisement in legal organ prior to them taking it up at the state level. They introduce it and pass it. Once passed, there would be a referendum on the ballot for the city election this year. One reason it is advantageous to do it this way, they are already having an election and will not have to pay the cost for a separate referendum to see if the citizens want to pass it. Before it is finalized it would be voted on by citizens. To start this process, they are asking the state to give permission to start this referendum.

Council Member Duncan asked if Westminster citizens could vote. Mr. Stephens said based on what he has read the Westminster citizens would vote. The way it reads they would be the only one to vote on it but that is not the way it is historically interpreted. He has asked for guidance on who all would vote. Certainly, the people that would be coming in would have the opportunity to vote yay or nay.

Council Member Duncan is in favor and Council Member Greg Free is a believer in giving the power to the people and letting them have a say. The city will start the process the end results will be the people voting to accept it. The council was sent there for the will of the people and they will have the final say. He has lived in the city 28 years and just learned the other side of the store was not in the city limits. Mayor Worthington shared that people that live there think they are in the city limits of Euharlee.

Council Member Joe Turner motioned to pass the resolution. Council Member Greg Free seconded the motion. The motion carried with Mayor Worthington and Council Members Abbott, Duncan, Free, and Turner all voting in favor.

Council Member motioned to adjourn the meeting. Council Member David Duncan seconded the motion. The motion was carried with Mayor Worthington and Council Members Abbott, Duncan, Free and Turner all voting in favor. With no further discussion the meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

**CITY OF EUHARLEE
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES
FEBRUARY 16, 2021**

Mayor Steve Worthington called the meeting to order. A prayer was led by Charles Reese and followed with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following were present Mayor Steve Worthington, Council Members Tim Abbott, David Duncan, Greg Free, Joe Turner and City Manager James Stephens.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Campground Discussion- Steve Gray

Mayor Steve Worthington stated the campground discussion is something they have been talking about for some time. It is nothing written in stone and they have not decided to go forward with it. Planning and Zoning Commission have been working on it diligently. He invited Steve Gray up to make the presentation.

Steve Gray, member of the Planning and Zoning Commission presented information about the campground on the 17-acre city owned property. He stated the Planning and Zoning Commission had been working on it for some time. He provided council with a page with 10-bullets outlining(attached) the steps for the Eric Smithey Campground with a projected date of May 2021. The questions have been asked, what are they going to do and how soon will they open. The presentation was a proposal for what they believe they can do. The objective that he came up with he called **ERIC** which stands for the following:

Enhancement - **Bullet #3 & Bullet #5** Mulch campsites, parking area and property perimeter and fallen trees in the parking area and to use Georgia Forestry Commission to install control line and do fuel reduction by fire with local assistance.

Recreational - What are they doing recreationally using the river to get people to come to Euharlee? The campground is one thing.

Interest - What are they doing interesting for people to stop and stay in the city of Euharlee? By putting the campground in they will have people spending the night in Euharlee and hopefully they will use the vendors.

Camping - Everybody loves camping.

The reasons above are why they believe the proposal presented will work. He referred to the bullets as he further discussed the proposal and discussed in detail. He stated that he and Eric Smithey met with contractors to see if the items they came up with were durable and the prices were accurate.

He also provided council with a map of the property. He pointed out the location of the parking areas, porta potties and fire ranges. The option for the porta potties could be for 6-months or a year. The total projected cost for the information discussed came to \$18,000. They continued to discuss the process in detail step by step and did not discuss any other phases of the campground plans.

Council Member David Duncan asked if there will be 2 or 3 porta potties. Mr. Gray stated 2 regular and 1 handicapped. Council Member Duncan asked about the ramp with steps and wanted to know if they had spoken with core of engineers. Mr. Gray said the ramps will not be on the river.

Council Member Tim Abbott stated there is plenty access up and down the river and the core of engineers knows exactly the requirements. He stated it was a well laid out plan how honorable and respectful Mr. Gray's heading the Eric Smithey Campground. He said they are not blazing any new trails but trying to establish something in Euharlee that the citizens and the people who come there can enjoy more than

they already enjoy. Once the core of engineers is contacted, they have been through this rodeo before, and will know exactly what is right or wrong. He said good job.

Council Member Free asked if the poles for the ramp will be concreted. Mr. Gray said as natural as possible. It may have aluminum steps to help get up the bank without a struggle. Council Member Free asked how far is the ramp from the river. Mr. Gray stated 200 to 250 feet from the river.

Council Member Turner said the ramp is near the rocks and he doesn't think people will want to drag the canoe across the rocks. The only point he wanted to make by taking a series of pictures and sharing the location on the pictures, because they will have to get in touch with the core of engineer before they even scratch the bank, the river, the creek or anything. He showed the pictures to make the point of the core of engineers.

Mr. Stephens asked for confirmation the proposal does nothing within a 100-feet along the river bank. The ramp will be on the Euharlee creek and they will reach out to the core of engineers.

Mayor Steve Worthington stated they were there to hear the plan and not act on it. Before he would act on it, and the four of them could override him, there will be at least 2 Public Hearings. He will ask Planning and Zoning to have at least 1 or 2 if needed. After the hearings they will present to Council based on the Public Hearings. Then the Council will have a Public Hearing. It will not start tomorrow. They are correct, you will have the core of engineers, EPA and several more entities involved. There will need to be a total price projection. All they have is an estimate for information. There will be a lot of planning to go into this. They are spending taxpayers' money and he will make sure they get the most bangs for the buck. Don't let the cart come before the horse. He appreciated all the conversation.

Council Member Tim Abbott stated it was a great presentation and all the things mentioned were not new. He suggested the council had not moved fast and it is not the first time it has been before the council and the city. The plan has been in place since 2017 and 2018 when developed and it is probably the closest, they have been. It's incumbent for the council to do something. They can vote no when it is time. He would ask the council to show something for the land they own, the 2 million dollars spent for the sewer system and to move a little faster than they are. He thinks it is a good plan. Eric started and Steve is bringing it home.

NEW BUSINESS

Street Evaluations - Leeroy Shepherd

Leeroy Shepherd, Public Works Streets and Roads, gave a presentation on the streets and roads in the city of Euharlee. With the number of streets in Euharlee they are in good shape. They do have a few that need some attention. He and Mr. Stephens, City Manager went out and looked at them and have plans to move forward to repair them. Most of the streets are in subdivisions. Other than some minor repairs that need to be made the roads and streets are in pretty good shape. Council Member Joe Turner asked about re-striping the streets. Mr. Stephens said they have a price to re-mark Five Forks that was recently re-surfaced. They have received the 2021 LMIG funding just over \$40,000. Mr. Shepherd have completed street evaluation forms and any of the council can call and make an appointment to review them or receive a copy. They were not asking them to do their work. The council might receive calls and get information from citizens that do not call the office directly. They do have streets that need striping. After the decision is made on what they will use the current LMIG funds they will look at doing additional striping. He thinks Mr. Shepherd's recommendation would be to re-surface Covered Bridge Road. He did not recommend the ultra-static paint for striping that was used previously. It has already worn. Mr. Stephens asked if they receive any calls from citizens please share the information with city hall.

Egg Hunt & Food Truck Friday Discussion- Katie Gobbi

Katie Gobbi, Museum Director presented recommendations for public events held annually in the city of Euharlee. She provided council with a document with information about the Euharlee Egg Hunt and Food Truck Friday event. She shared the history of the egg hunt in Euharlee and the recommendations to cancel the event for 2021. The event was cancelled in 2019 due to rain and in 2020 due to COVID. The Special Events Committee worked hard last 2-years on the egg hunt and the event was not able to take place. The Special Events Committee made the recommendation to cancel the event for 2021 due to COVID. The event is hands-on and difficult to distance and increased school age transmission. Mitch Tripp, who is part of the Masonic Lodge and a large contributor to the egg hunt, said they would not participate this year. A representative from the school system suggested due to progress made, not to scale back protocols too fast. Bartow County still has a higher rate compared to some of the other school systems in the state.

Mayor Steve Worthington concurred with the recommendation and appreciated it. Council Members Joe Turner and David Duncan also agreed with the recommendation.

Council Member Greg Free said there is a lot data that gets thrown around from million different sources and one can believe about 10% of it. He said his wife is a school teacher in one of the largest school districts and they still send kids to class. There have been some exposed, even personally, so they need to be objective to the data. They can't take it to heart. It has been said that Cartersville Medical was at full capacity and he went to the ER a week ago and it was empty. COVID is a serious issue and is never going away. His viewpoint, they can't disappear with it and people will go somewhere else. They need to be careful and cautious. He works for a large company and they have protocols to keep everyone safe. It comes down to how you manage the event.

Council Member Tim Abbott asked about the history of the Egg Hunt. He also shared does it always have to be an all or nothing; it made sense in the first year of COVID. Council Member David Duncan stated the Covered Bridge Players were the first to start the egg hunt and years later the Euharlee police department hosted the event. Currently the special events committee plans for the egg hunt. City Manager James Stephens stated it is a great event but is not a city budgeted event. He received guidance from council to cancel the event.

Ms. Gobbi shared information on Food Truck Friday. The events are held the 2nd Friday of each month starting in April - September. The event was cancelled one year due to the sewer project and last year due to COVID-19. It is a great event. They have discussed the only way to prevent COVID-19 is to not hold events. However, due to Food Truck Friday being an outdoor event and less active as the egg hunt the recommendation was to postpone until June 2021, implement social distancing and other mitigation efforts. They will continue to monitor community transmission; school will be out of session and there will be a higher vaccination rate specifically for the typical audience 65 and under. It will be overall safer. In the month of April, Food Truck Friday would be held on the last day of spring break which can mean less or more people, plus people have been traveling which could create a higher risk for transmission. In May, there is graduation, end of year celebrations and gatherings which also is a risk for higher transmission. With the new variance, it will give time to monitor if the right mitigation is in place. They continued the discussion about the event's activities, food vendors, mitigation and protocols.

Council Member Tim Abbott said thank you for all the extra thoughts, efforts and extra work in order to try to get back to some of the normalcy Council Member Greg Free talked about. He was glad to see Food Truck Friday, the recommendation to start in June but he would like to go a month earlier. He thinks people are ready to go if they cancelled the egg hunt. He is not about putting rules in place that can't be

enforced and you legally can't force people to do; put rules in place but not something that can't be enforced.

Mr. Stephens stated they were trying to comply with the Governor's executive orders, which may not be legally enforceable. By the Georgia code, the city is an extension of the state government as a local government. It's complicated. He originally did not keep the boat ramp opened because of the items provided by the Governor's Executive Orders.

Council Member Greg Free said he had 17 responses on Facebook if people would support Food Truck Friday. There was not one that said no. He thinks they all agree that it is something the town needs. If people are not comfortable going, they shouldn't go. He appreciated the hard work.

Mr. Stephens needed a consensus from council on when to start the Food Truck Friday events. Mayor Steve Worthington said he thinks they should stick with the recommendation for the month of June. They cancelled the Mardi gras, \$100 million due to COVID.

Council Member Abbott recommended May. Council Member Free recommended May and said if the ball tournaments are not cancelled, they can't cancel Food Truck Friday and he felt strongly about it.

Council Member Joe Turner stated Food Truck Friday's have been schedule on that 2nd Friday for the last 7 to 8 years. Changing the date will make it harder on Mrs. Gobbi to get stuff out.

Ms. Gobbi stated the only reservation with that; all of the branding on the signs has the 2nd Friday. It was cheaper than getting them printer every month. They continued the discussion about the cost of the event, the date to start, as well as, where the people travel from to attend the event.

Mr. Stephens told Ms. Gobbi to prepare for a May - September season unless there is an objection. Mayor Steve Worthington stated he was not for May. Council Member Duncan said he did not have a problem going in May, but he trusted the recommendation for June. Mr. Stephens said the June recommendation was based on time for the vaccine to get throughout the community and school season come to a conclusion. The May 14th date is so close to the end of the school year, he was not overly uncomfortable with May. They will not have an April event and it will be back on the March agenda for a vote.

Public Works Equipment Request

Seth Gobbi, Public Works Supervisor presented council with documentation of equipment he wanted to purchase for the department. The following was submitted:

- 725K Grasshopper 61 " - **\$9,850**. This is the exact same model they use now that has blown a hydraulic pump which will cost \$1,350 to replace. The current mower is 5-years old and has 1,152 hours on it. The drive shaft was replaced last year and hydraulic pump has just gone out. They are looking at a significant overhaul for the equipment.
- Prowler - Heavy Duty Swing Arm Mower - **\$7,345**. - This mower will fit on the front of the skid steer. They will be able to go around the trail and trim high areas. They can use this to open up visibility at Frankie Harris Park. It was not the original piece of equipment desired. The skid steer had 530 hours in June 2019 and currently has 732 hours on it. They have replaced a lot of pieces on the equipment. They went with the other piece of equipment because of multiple attachments and to aid the wear on the skid steer.
- John Deere - Martatch Attachments - **\$800** - This heavy piece of equipment will fit on the skid steer or the tractor.

- Harper DB3600 - **\$5,800** - Blower will fit on any tractor they have. It is a large debris blower. They can use this blower down Euharlee, routinely blow the debris at the Pioneer Cemetery and also increase the curb appeal to name a few.
- Bush Hog - **\$2,900** - **Tiller** - Heavy Duty tiller they can use on side of the roads and at Joe Cowan Park.

Mayor Steve Worthington asked for additional quotes for each piece of equipment. Mr. Gobbi said he would get additional quotes. Council Member Tim Abbott said he didn't know a lot about the equipment but he was trying to track if Mr. Gobbi was settling or this equipment does the job. He wanted to make sure they were not getting the bare minimum and two years later and have to do something again.

Osborne Park - Becky Pruitt

Becky Pruitt, Park & Recreation Assistant presented information about Osborne Park and the upgrades that are currently needed. She presented council with a document that included park information and improvements needed listed below:

- Basketball Court; 2 Tennis Courts, Restroom Building; Electrical Box Building; large Baseball Field and Small Softball Field; Playground Area; 2 Swing Areas; 2 Slides Areas; Merry-go-round.
- Woodland Middle uses Tennis Courts in the spring, large field for Baseball in spring and small field for softball in the fall.
- The city uses baseball fields for rental for practice, overflow for tournaments. Generated about \$8000 last year with tournaments and practices and trying to use the fields more.

Upgrades Needed

- Tennis Courts resurfaced **\$8,000-\$10,000.**
- Playground Equipment Replace and Ground Re-leveled - **\$150,000.**
- Scoreboards - Donated by Coke and ordered.
- Lighting at Both Baseball and Softball Fields - Currently no quote.
- Scorekeepers Box- Seeking Donation - **\$7,000.**
- Fencing around both fields - **\$119,565.**
- Bathrooms & Concession need updating- Immediate Fix Replace Toilets - **\$800.**
- The Electrical Box Building need updated - Repair - **\$300.**

Council Member Greg Free asked if they got additional quotes for the fencing. Ms. Pruitt stated Bartow Fence was the only to come out and bid.

Mayor Steve Worthington said the school requested to use the tennis courts at Osborne so they didn't have to cross the street to Joe Cowan Park.

Council Member Free asked for an average of the overflow concession funds for the last 5 years. Ms. Pruitt estimated \$8,000 based on her 3-year tenure.

Council Member Tim Abbott asked the distance between Joe Cowan and Osborne Park. Ms. Pruitt said ¼ a mile. Council Member Abbott asked why a city their size would maintain 2 parks within ¼ a mile of each other. If the usage was so high, they could serve the number of people that come through, then they have a case, but to continue to maintain 2 parks and pour money in and they have prime property that could be perfect. It is a beautiful picture and they should pay attention to what the vision is for the future.

James Stephens, City Manager asked Ms. Pruitt, in addition to the \$8,000 made at Osborne if the middle school activity moved to Joe Cowan Park, would they lose capability to host current tournaments and she answered and said no.

Council Member Abbott stated he pays attention to Bartow County School Board and they re-negotiate agreements all the time. Th council needs to sit down and discuss the concerns with the school board.

Mr. Stephens stated the middle school has been offered to use the tennis courts at the Joe Cowan Park and declined.

Council Member Free stated it comes to approximately \$300,000 and where does that come from. Mr. Stephens said with SPLOST funds. Council Member Free said that about tops it with the figure mentioned last meeting. Mr. Stephens said if they do it all at one time. They did pay for the roofs out of the budget.

Council Member Joe Turner said they need to keep their word with the school system. He asked if they could re-surface the tennis courts and do the rest later.

Mr. Stephens thinks they need to approach the school system and definitely continue to be a government of integrity. He would professionally hate to see the money put in the tennis court without having a delegation to approach the school or the school system.

Council Member Free asked if they could approach the school board with the city's plan to upgrade and ask for assistance with the upgrade if they continue to use the facility.

Code Enforcement Reactive or Proactive Approach - James Stephens

James Stephens, City Manager said the Planning and Zoning Director has one line of a 2-page job description that states he will open investigation on code violations.

The police department has assisted with code enforcement. The police department staff numbers were down at one time but are now back up to full staff. Code enforcement has been about complaints that they received, rather than patrolling or going out and initiated code enforcement circumstances.

If they become more proactive is the council prepared for the complaints they may receive. Since the overlay is in place it is a good time to make more of a proactive approach rather than reactive.

He asked council to consider authorizing him to hire a code enforcement officer for 3-days a week which is over and above what the zoning director does. He believes it will be a vast improvement of the appearance of the city. He would like to structure it as an economic development function rather than a law enforcement officer. He would like for the enforcement officer to report to him and not the police chief. There is an ordinance in place to get more active with the resources they have put forth since his tenure at Euharlee.

He asked if they wanted to be more proactive on code violations or just continue to respond to complaints. If proactive, he has an experienced individual that will be available 3-days a week and would make a drastic improvement in the appearance of the city. It will require a budget amendment.

There will be some personnel changes forth coming that he is not at liberty to speak about and he can accommodate the position without an overall increase in salary.

Council Member Tim Abbott would like to bring it back to a work session for further details.

School Zone Cameras

Police Chief Jody Matthews recognized and shared the news the uncertified officer, Taylor McDonald had graduated from the Police Academy and recognized as a Distinguished Student with the 2nd highest average in the class. He was welcomed to Euharlee.

Chief Matthews passed out booklets to council that supported the school zone speed cameras. He said some of them had received a similar presentation in 2019 before he started. The company since then has expanded and changed since that presentation. They have added a lot of agencies in Georgia and Tennessee to the program. Chief Matthews pointed out the 3-step process. They educate for 30 days. They will send information out through the schools, radio and internet. The company will offer 30 days of warning citations. Before the March meeting they will present statistics from the reader that is currently installed.

During 2019, the study showed over 4,450 vehicles passed through the school zone and over 2,000 were over the speed limit at 40 and over which was 46% speeding. The goal is to bring numbers down. Fulton County using the system in one school zone lowered speeding by 82%.

There have been several serious accidents on Euharlee Road not necessarily during the school hours but they were speeding. The goal is safety for the children and families, and motorized vehicles passing through Euharlee. There is no cost to the city and they provide all the equipment and signage. The package also comes with (2) standardized license plate readers. The benefit is the officer automatically receives the alert.

Council Member Joe Turner asked how much the company would receive. Chief Matthews said 35%. It is an administration citation a \$100 for the first ticket and no points on license.

Council Member Abbott stated it will get people to thinking whether you know them or not. He also asked if the school system was in agreement. Chief Matthews said for the first 30 days the schools will be educated.

Council Member Joe Turner said the speed limit is 25 and what is the speed limit the camera picks up. Chief Matthew said state law requires 10 miles over the speed limit, but is currently set at 15 miles over the speed limit for 40 and higher.

Council Member David Duncan said the largest number of speeding is from parents trying to get their kids to school.

Country Store Lease Discussion- Greg Free

Council Member Greg Free stated he wanted to see the Country Store lease. He believed Mr. Stephens mentioned the lady that operates the business is still concerned about COVID so her in person operations are not going at this time. He asked if she was conducting business remotely. Mr. Stephens said she takes orders online and via-phone once a week. She would like to renew the lease and is waiting for the vaccination to become more prominent.

Council Member Free just wanted to know her plans and he would not want to disrupt a regular paying tenant.

Council Member Tim Abbott said it is not about one person running one place and COVID does make things wildly different, but it is about the store fronts that are open to the public. He thinks forward about businesses they have and they are good citizens of that business but do not open to the public. He doesn't know how to wrangle that but it is an important matter for the future.

Council Member David Duncan motioned to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Joe Turner seconded the meeting. The motioned carried with Mayor Worthington, Council Members Abbott, Duncan, Free and Turner all voting in favor.

With no further discussion the meeting adjourned at 9:17 pm.

**CITY OF EUHARLEE
CALLED CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 26, 2021**

Mayor Steve Worthington called the meeting to order. A prayer was led by David Duncan and followed with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following were present Mayor Steve Worthington, Council Members Tim Abbott, David Duncan, Greg Free, Joe Turner and City Manager James Stephens.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Osborne Park – Delegation

Mayor Steve Worthington stated they could vote on whom to delegate or he could appoint someone. He recommended sending James Stephens, City Manager and Council Member Greg Free as the committee to speak with the school system. There is nothing written in stone, and they have made no changes to the ballfield park, but they can check out the options.

Council Member Greg Free said he appreciated the Mayor allowing them to get together and talk about it which was his intent. Go to them and find out what their future looks like, what they may or may not want to do with the ballfields and they may give them options to think about for the future too. He was sure they have built the relationships over the years. Some of the hands have changed over there and he thinks it will be a good time to have a conversation.

Mr. Stephens asked if they were going to address Principal Blankenship or try to reach out to the Superintendent. Mayor Worthington said he would go to Blankenship first and Satterfield the Athletic Director and thinks he may be the Assistant Principal as well. Mr. Stephens said Satterfield was from Euharlee and a friend to the city.

Council Member Tim Abbott said he would want them to understand the city issue they are facing with the amount of money they have to put into Osborne and the decisions they have to make. He would count that as thought in the decision of discovery. Before any decisions are made it is courteous to talk about the decisions the city will have to make.

Mr. Stephens said for the last 4 years at annual city Christmas event and lighting the Christmas, the school band and the chorus have performed. It is a great event. Currently, there is a display of art work at the Museum from the kids at the school. They have a good relationship and want to continue the relationship.

Council Member Joe Turner said the council offered Osborne Park to the school many years ago. To him, Joe Cowan Park is a sports park with no playground equipment and Osborne Park is a family park. He will not vote to change the promise made to the school kids' years ago and not move them off the ball fields or the tennis courts. He would rather they spend money and re-surface the tennis courts and get it over with. He will not go back on his word with the school.

The council continued the discussion about Osborne Park and the needed repairs with fencing, ball fields, playground equipment, tennis courts and the cost to repair. They came to a consensus on what should be communicated to the school system and the need to strategically plan for Osborne Park, Joe Cowan Park and the outdoor destinations for the city of Euharlee.

Council Member Joe Turner motioned and delegated City Manager James Stephens and Council Member Greg Free as the committee to speak with the school system on behalf of Mayor and Council. Council Member Tim Abbott seconded the motion. The vote was carried with Mayor Worthington, Council Members, Abbott, Duncan, Free, and Turner all voting in favor.

With no further discussion the meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

**CITY OF EUHARLEE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 02, 2021**

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

The following were present Mayor Steve Worthington, Council Members Tim Abbott, David Duncan, Greg Free, Joe Turner and City Manager James Stephens.

Council Member David Duncan motioned to approve minutes for City Council Meeting 02.02.21, City Council Work Session 02.16.21, and Called City Council Meeting 02.23.21. Council Member Greg Free seconded the motion. The motion was carried with Mayor Worthington, Council Members Abbott, Duncan, Free, and Turner all voting in favor.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Chief Jody Matthews recognized Officer Reginald Heathington for his hard work in gathering supplies for his high school friend and other soldiers stationed in combat zone in Syria. Because he chose to help his friend it became a large event with thousands of people donating more than he ever expected. It started because of his heart and he has put in a lot time and effort to send packages addressed to each soldier. Chief Matthews said Officer Heathington was an asset to the police department for the city of Euharlee.

Speed Cameras - Chief Jody Matthews

Chief Jody Matthews stated he hoped all the questions from the council were answered in reference to school zone traffic cameras. He provided council with a 4-half day traffic study conducted from 7:00 am until 4:30 pm while school was in session. He astounded that over 15,000 vehicles went through the school zone during that period with 30% were speeding. He added there was no cost for the city except the power bill for the cameras. Also, the project had to be reviewed and approved by the Bartow County School Board.

James Stephens, City Manager stated that he and Council Member Greg Free would be meeting with the school board and they can cross that line if desired. Blue Line Solutions has worked with the school board with jurisdictions in Bartow County and he did not anticipate any push back from the school but they can also put it on the agenda when they meet with the school board next week.

Chief Matthews said it is a lengthy process and the contract had to be signed by the superintendent.

Council Member David Duncan motioned to accept the contract with Blue Line Solutions for the school zone traffic cameras. Council Member Tim Abbott seconded the motion. The motion was carried with Mayor Worthington, Council Members Abbott, Duncan, Free, and Turner all voting in favor.

Code Officer - James Stephens

James Stephens, City Manager reminded council from the previous work session for input to continue a reactive process with the code ordinance enforcement or more proactive approach. The resume showed the gentleman he wanted to hire for code enforcement was extremely qualified for the position. He stated that most of them knew that he served as the City Manager in Cedartown, Georgia and the gentleman did not work for him, but he served as the Code Enforcement Officer at Cedartown. The contacts at that location indicated they were extremely pleased with his work.

The reason it was on the agenda, personnel does not fall under the council, was because of the qualifications of the candidate and he is related to the city of Euharlee Police Chief. He is the paternal father of Chief Matthews. In the work session he stated he would like for the position to report to the city manager. He knew Mr. Reese was close to receiving an offer from another local government. Many of Code Officers report to the Police Chief and many to the Community Director which was Mr. Reese position. He wanted the position to report to him until he filled the position and will delegate back to that position. Mr. Stephens read the nepotism policy from the personnel handbook. He wanted to be totally transparent so that they would not be accused of violating the city's nepotism policy. If structured as he asked, it will not be violated. He said to council, if they feel like it is too grey of an area and with someone with the qualifications they walk away from, he would certainly respect them. He would like to hire him for three days a week at \$15.00 per hour and provide him with a cell phone. Mr. Stephens stated he was also qualified in storm water management and it would be extremely helpful, but he had not discussed any other parts of the job with him.

Council Member Tim Abbott motioned to accept the proposal from the City Manager to add the Code Officer for 3 days per week. Council member David Duncan seconded the motion. Council Member Tim Abbott seconded the motion. The motion was carried with Mayor Worthington, Council Members Abbott, Duncan, Free, and Turner all voting in favor.

Public Works Equipment Request - Seth Gobbi

Seth Gobbi, Public Works Supervisor stated after the previous work session he received 3 quotes for every piece of equipment except for the blower. He received a quote from Haney but it was a chicken house blower and not as efficient as the Harper blower that goes behind a tractor. He received quotes for the zero-turn mower. He recommended the less expensive and the best price for that particular mover which is much more fuel efficient than the one they currently have.

Mr. Stephens said there was a balance of \$62,000 remaining in the 2014 SPLOST fund after all the debt service was paid. If approved it will be funded out of the 2014 SPLOST fund and the items are compliant with what the referendum included.

Council Member Joe Turner asked if the total cost were all the lowest bidders or did it go over the lowest bidders. Mr. Gobbi said he went over on the Franklin coyote tractor. It is \$4,000 more expensive. The Mathis equipment for the tractor can trim trees well and they do not sell that piece of equipment. Council Member David Duncan stated if they went with his recommendation and the Ag Pro tractor it is roughly \$6,000 more.

Mr. Gobbi explained the equipment items in detail and showed a comparison in not just price, but as well as the performance. He explained economically his thinking was financially oriented.

Mr. Stephens stated with the package he picked out, they will be able to spend more time on the trails and will improve the appearance of the city parks tremendously.

Council Member Greg Free wanted to know the cost to rent when the mowers and tractors are down. Mr. Gobbi said it had been down twice and it cost \$3,200 each time over the past two years.

Council Member David Duncan motioned to purchase all the equipment requested and upgrade to the Ag Pro tractor out of the 2014 SPLOST. Council Member Greg Free seconded the motion. The motion was carried with Mayor Worthington, Council Members Abbott, Duncan, Free, and Turner all voting in favor.

17-Acre Land Improvement- mulch and Burn – James Stephens

James Stephens, City Manager stated the items to be discussed were below the threshold that he is authorized to expend under the line item budgets. However, since he is asking for maintenance improvement to be conducted on the 17-acres he included it on the agenda to be totally transparent in public. He recommended the council approval of the mulching on the 17-acres and follow up with the fire burn. The mulching price was \$2,000 and the fire burn \$1,000. The gentleman that will perform the mulching was present at the meeting. Mr. Stephens wanted to be clear in front of the council and the media, it is no way the beginning of a campground construction but improvement to the 17-acre tract.

Council Member Greg Free stated it was essential to clean and tidy up the property they own and to make it a little more presentable.

Council Member Joe Turner wanted to know what all can be done with the mulcher and what the gentleman had been instructed to do.

Mr. Stephens stated they were going to fall some trees. Steve Gray, P&Z Commission member which was present, had identified it would be good if that was done first. Mr. Stephens asked him and Mr. Womack to come forth and address Council Member Turner's questions.

Mr. Gray introduced Jacob Womack the gentleman that would be doing the work. He mentioned also meeting with Seth Gobbi. Mr. Womack said they can pretty much do anything with the mulcher. They can cut up to a 9-inch tree safely and mulch it completely up. They have done city work all over the state of Georgia and are well over insured. Anything that needs to be done on the 17-acre, he had walked the property, they can handle.

Council Member Turner asked about the dead trees that are already down. Mr. Womack said they can mulch the tree up as long as the tree is completely dead even if it is a 42-inch tree. If there is still a solid center, they can mulch but will take a little longer.

Council Member David Duncan said the trees that are going to fall, will take longer to do them.

Mr. Womack said they would limb them up, mulch all around the trees, section them off, and stack them along the border of the property so there will be a barrier between the city property and private property. It will make the property ecstatically pleasing if they do the campground or not. Mr. Womack also made the recommendation for the burn; not only will it improve the habitat; it will look better once spring comes.

Council Member Free said that was his thinking, if people are already exiting the river and coming up on that property now, burn all the under-brush, clean it up and it would be less of a fire hazard.

Council Member Turner asked if he was doing the burn and Mr. Womack said he would assist with it if needed. Mr. Gray stated Georgia Forestry hopefully can assist. They are limited with personnel at this time. They wanted to get the local forestry and other fire resources to assist.

Mayor Steve Worthington said they can vote or allow Mr. Stephens to move forward since he is authorized up to \$2,000 and it is two different entities.

Council Member Tim Abbott reiterated, Mr. Stephens included the item on the agenda for transparency to what is going on but does not need a motion, however, he wanted the council informed and if there were any objections. Mr. Stephens stated that was correct. He wanted the council to know he was not starting any unauthorized projects and he wanted the public to know as well.

2nd Reading Sign Ordinance – James Stephens

James Stephens, City Manager stated it was the 2nd reading modifying the sign ordinance specifically section 11.4.5 Class 2 Temporary Signs. The amendment to the ordinance inserts in the definition of the election cycle period will be starting 60 days prior to any early voting for primary, special election, general election, or run-off in the precinct(s) containing the city of Euharlee. He recommended the adoption of that amendment.

Council Member David Duncan motioned to accept the amendment. Council Member Greg Free seconded the motion. The motion was carried with Mayor Worthington, Council Members Abbott, Duncan, Free, and Turner all voting in favor.

Food Truck Friday Start Date – James Stephens

James Stephens, City Manager said the Food Truck Friday events are budgeted in the 2021 general fund budget. The staff is looking for guidance to start in the month of May or June and prepared to follow the directive of the council. Council Member David Duncan asked if Ms. Gobbi had anything lined up for May. Mr. Stephens bands and food trucks lined up if that is their guidance. Council Member Tim Abbott said he stated his preference last meeting for May.

Council Member Tim Abbott motioned start in May. Council Member David Duncan and Greg Free seconded the motion. The motion was carried with Mayor Worthington, Council Members Abbott, Duncan, Free, and Turner all voting in favor.

Council Member Tim Abbott motioned to adjourn. Council Member David Duncan seconded the motion. The motion was carried with Mayor Worthington, Council Members Abbott, Duncan, Free, and Turner all voting in favor.

With no further discussion the meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

**CITY OF EUHARLEE
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES
MARCH 16, 2021**

Mayor Steve Worthington called the meeting to order. A prayer was led by Mayor Worthington and followed with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following were present Mayor Steve Worthington, Council Members Tim Abbott, David Duncan, Greg Free, Joe Turner and City Manager James Stephens.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Planning and Zoning Public Hearing Update – Steve Gray

Steve Gray, P & Z Commission Member stated they had a very good meeting at the last planning and zoning meeting and the public hearing. Several people came with concerns and asked good questions. The atmosphere after answering the questions was incredibly positive and why have they had not started yet. After the meeting he had the pleasure of meeting members from Troop 54 and currently present. They helped him design and approved the two group sites on the map the council received through email. He stated the maps were accurate in distance. They also approved the watercraft extraction. It will be 140 feet up creek from the intersection of the river. He stated that he and Seth Gobbi, public works staff member, walked the property line and the property line is flagged for the mulching when the weather is proper for him to come in with equipment. The campground has been flagged and the park. He opened the floor for questions.

Council Member Turner asked if he said the extraction point for the kayaks had been approved and by whom. Mr. Gray said no one approved it, the watercraft extraction point is 140 up the creek from the river. On the map you will see it moved the location from the original location. He spoke with Euharlee Creek Outfitter's that said it was not acceptable. They explained the reason, it was impossible to go up the creek 200-feet because of the velocity of the water and not acceptable. Council Member Turner asked who approved it and if he had talked to the Core of Engineers. Mr. Gray said yes, and they approved it. If, he digs it by hand and put the post in. He said he spoke with them a month ago. As long as, they go over 200-feet, they do not have to get a settlement permit. With the approval of the primitive camping, which is parallel to the river, and if, it is less than 1-acre from the river and, mulching does not count as soil disturbance, they are good. Those are the EPD rules. He has a name and phone number if the council would like to call. Council Member Turner asked if they gave him a permit number. Mr. Gray said the city of Euharlee is the issuing agent.

Council Member Duncan asked if the green spots on the map primitive camping. Mr. Gray said they were the group primitive sites. He added that the long green one next to the river was primitive camping. He explained the map in detail to the council.

Council Member Greg Free stated that Mr. Gray did a great job at the public hearing. He asked if they would have a professional engineering company come in and plat the property out as he has done to make sure they are maximizing the use of space. Mr. Stephens said he had a quote coming from a company called Integrated Science Services which is an entity he has used to help with the storm water program. The quote will come from the civil engineering department and he will email council once

received. He had no idea what the number would come in at but obtaining the cost for that detailed information.

Mr. Stephens said to Council Member Turner, they confirmed what Mr. Gray heard from the people about the boat extract, based on the way it is contrasted the city is not required to have a permit from the core of engineers. Mr. Gray said he had given an invitation to the gentleman from the EPD, once Phase 2 has started, to make sure he had given the council the correct information.

Mayor Steve Worthington and Council Member Abbott both commended Mr. Gray on a job well done.

Osborne Delegation Update – Greg Free

Council Member Greg Free stated that he and Mr. Stephens met with the Bartow County School Board for about an hour, and it was a good meeting. Council Member Free shared the following Information that was discussed.

- The future plans for the school system; and a continued partnership with the city.
- To prioritize for the children and what is best for them.
- Scenarios to use Joe Cowan Park, why Osborne Park and what prohibits from using Joe Cowan Park.
- After school events and transportation challenges.
- Not hosting home games due to the number of courts.
- The great points about Joe Cowan Park and the park conducive to what the school needs.
- Shared information about property ownership.
- Briefly discussed what Euharlee's plans look like and no plans had been made.
- Campground discussion and to be the first informed about any decisions made.
- Osborne Park gathering spot for students and for school emergencies.
- No decisions set in stone just preliminary discussions.

Council Member Free stated they left the meeting with 3 scenarios they would look into; using what they have and reinvesting some of the monies to get things up to par, the basketball courts and tennis courts, and using everything at Joe Cowan park. The information was gathered to take back to Dr. Page. They will meet again on March 31, 2021 at 2:00 pm as a follow-up meeting. They hope to have input from Dr. Page and the rest of the minds involved before the next council meeting on April 6th.

Mr. Stephens stated that Mr. Satterfield from the central office explained how the school systems are paying out of a budgetary item and potentially for them to find money to pay for some of the upgrades. He made it clear to them it was not the reason they set the meeting to ask for that but may not be totally beyond the realm of possibility and they will know more when they meet again.

Mr. Stephens said he would also have some pricing on the galvanized fence. The initial prices submitted to council included the black coated fence like at Joe Cowan and the school system said there was not any compliance with the accreditation sports program. He should have a figure less than the \$178,000 initially submitted by Mr. Varvel. It was a positive meeting.

Council Member David Duncan mentioned a letter the council received from Mrs. Smith about the fence that does not need replaced. Mr. Stephens said the communication was very well. She read an article in the newspaper and she walks in the park. He said the fence needs repair more than she realize, but it was a constructive letter, and it would be appropriate for the council to draft a united response.

Mayor Steve Worthington shared when the park was built back in the 1970's the back field was built on the property that now belongs to the school board. It was a handshake deal and they probably do not even know about it. A handshake deal for the kids to use it. Michael Howren sold the property to the school board, but no one never paid it any attention. The school uses the property and part of the property belongs to the school anyway; the back stop on the small field belongs to the school. Council Member Greg Free asked about how much and if less than $\frac{1}{4}$ of an acre. Mayor Worthington said the trail runs through the property as well. Council Member Greg Free stated the sewer was briefly discussed and they understood the process. They left the meeting stating, there would continue to be a strong relationship between the city and the schools.

Council Member Joe Turner motioned to adjourn the meeting. Council Member David Duncan seconded the motion. The motion carried with Mayor Worthington, Council Members, Abbott, Duncan, Free, and Turner all voting in favor.

With no further discussion the meeting adjourned at 7:42 pm.

**CITY OF EUHARLEE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 6, 2021**

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

The following were present Mayor Steve Worthington, Council Members Tim Abbott, David Duncan, Greg Free, Joe Turner and City Manager James Stephens.

Public Hearing - Campground Discussion

Mayor Steve Worthington opened the floor during the public meeting for discussion in regards to the campground.

City Manager James Stephens thanked citizens for providing feedback to the city council. The city is in need of different revenue sources and they are looking at different alternatives that do not impact negatively, the quality of life and not to allow growth to get out of hand.

Council Member David Duncan expressed he encouraged citizens to submit any ideas or complaints to the council. He shared that it was better for the information to be shared to the group instead him voicing his personal opinions.

Council Member Greg Free stated he appreciated the interest of the citizens and them taking time to provide input for the city. It is important for them all. After the discussions in his current training, it brought him back to creative ways to support small business, create additional revenue and at the same time protect the history and the small-town integrity of Euharlee. Due to possible funding changes next year, now gives them opportunity for planning for the future of the city.

Two residents of Euharlee shared their thoughts and concerns about the proposed campground, property lines, research to utilize the space, the impact it will have, and their concern for safety with the proposed campground near their homes.

After hearing the comments, concerns and no further discussions, Mayor Worthington closed the public hearing.

Approval of Minutes

Council Member David Duncan motioned to accept the minutes from City Council Meeting, March 2, 2021 and City Council Work Session, March 16, 2021. Council Member Greg Free seconded the motion. The motion was carried with Council Member Abbott, Duncan, Free, Turner and Mayor Worthington all voting in favor.

Motion to Amend Agenda

Council Member Greg Free motioned to add item #4 Old Library to the agenda. Council Member David Duncan seconded the motion. The motion carried with Council Member Abbott, Duncan, Free, Turner and Mayor Worthington all voting in favor.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

School Delegation - Greg Free

Council Member Greg Free and City Manager, James Stephens attended an impromptu meeting with the Superintendent from Bartow County Schools. They are still at the same place with the discussion of ownership of a piece of property. They did send an email to move the tennis to Joe Cowan Park

immediately and arrange transportation for the teams. Once property verification is completed, they will follow-up and meet again. He felt the property information the city provided was correct. They reiterated to continue to review and determine what works best for them all and the next steps to be taken.

Osborne Park Quote - Don Varvel

Don Varvel, Parks & Recreation Director presented and provided council with a copy of quotes for the fields and the playground at Osborne Park to review and discuss the options.

Council Member Greg Free and Council Member Joe Turner shared their pros and cons about Osborne Park and the decisions they will have to make for substantial financial upgrades or not. They will need to determine from a business perspective what is best for the city when trying to determine how to generate revenue.

Council Member Abbott stated it was a difficult situation to deal with philosophical ideas and the emotions behind the ideas. They need to take a look at the business of the city and how will they generate revenue. The right decisions need to be made to upgrade Osborne Park. They owe it to future council members and the citizens to generate a community atmosphere that keeps the history intact but respects future development. They are in position to stay in control and figure out the business plan or do nothing and just pour money into the park. They need to plan for future economic growth.

Council Member David Duncan shared his thoughts on the upgrades to the family park without spending a substantial amount of money.

Council Member Free stated the council must be unified in the decisions made.

Mr. James Stephens, City Manager stated in follow-up to the meeting, his thoughts were, the school board would eventually enter into a written intergovernmental agreement with the city for services or facilities, whether it is the tennis courts at Joe Cowan Park, baseball fields at Osborne Park or whether it becomes both at Joe Cowan Park. He didn't say they were eager to transition the whole program to Joe Cowan Park, but as a unified council, they could consider that possibility to them. The question is not if they do away with Osborne Park, but do they put \$48,000 into fencing for (2) fields when fields are available. Also, do they consider other types of green space for a dog park with the playground or Food Trucks. The school board understand things are different than they were 20 years ago. They do use the area for an emergency evacuation plan and were assured the city would honor that. Mr. Stephens said he appreciated the discussion and the deliberation about Osborne Park, but all possibilities need to be taken into consideration before making any decisions. He was definitely in agreement to uphold the mission for the city that deals with the quality of life in a historic small town.

17-Acre Tract of Land - James Stephens

James Stephens, City Manager stated the council had heard input from the public since January 2021. The Planning and Zoning had been working on the project of the 17-acre for a 5-year period. Also, Don Varvel, Parks and Recreation Director made a presentation last March for some RV camping at Frankie Harris Park. Mr. Stephens encouraged the council to consider camping activity in Euharlee for a multitude of reasons; the environmental asset of the Etowah River and the number of visitors that come to Euharlee because of Joe Cowan Park, which generates about \$100,000 in revenue, with expenses at Osborne and Joe Cowan Park that total \$200,000. Joe Cowan Park is not a profit center it is a cost center. He is very proud of, as Council Member Greg Free mentioned the 7-million-dollar Park, and its facilities. It brings in 5,000 to 7,000 people that buy food there, but then they go spend their money at Lake Point or Cartersville to stay the night. The city is not capturing any economic benefits from the visitors coming to Joe Cowan Park. Because of the environmental asset and the number of visitors, he encouraged the council to some type of campground at either Frankie Harris or the 17-acres and recommended hiring a full-time overseer. If at Frankie Harris Park, suggested to take measures to protect the adjacent properties of Frankie Harris

Park. They presented last March it would generate a conservative amount of \$216,000 on 27-sites at Frankie Harris. The investment is a lot cheaper than on the 17-acres with much infrastructure already there. He was not trying to get revenue just from the camping industry, but also for the few businesses in Euharlee and future businesses. He said the 27-sites would not impact the traffic flow or the quality of life in Euharlee. If it was his money and the only one to make the decision, he would go down that road. It would provide monies to possibly do away with the millage rate which he would love to do. It could ultimately fund cottages on the river. A cottage facility would not pose danger to the property owners; it would be secure and not as impactful as the current plan.

If the plan did not move forward, he would work to come up with another plan. Mayor and Council continued to discuss cost and other options.

Council Member Tim Abbott motioned to allow the City Manager to get legal quotes to implement Frankie Harris Park campground and bring the quotes to the May meeting. Council Member Greg Free seconded the motion. The motion carried with council members Abbott, Duncan, Free, Turner and Mayor Worthington all voting in favor.

HVAC Unit at Old Library- James Stephens

James Stephens, City Manager presented quotes to replace the 10- year HVAC system at the Old Library. The quote from Don Massey Heating and Air was \$5752 and Pendley Heating and Air \$7029.

Council Member Joe Turner motioned to approve the quote from Don Massey Heating and Air for \$5752. Council Member David Duncan seconded the motion. The motion carried with council members Abbott, Duncan, Free, Turner and Mayor Worthington all voting in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

Insurance Renewals - James Stephens

James Stephens, City Manager presented Council with the renewal package for Workers Compensation, Auto, Property and General Liability insurance with an overall \$7,000 increase to include changes and claims made throughout the year. He recommended continuing with the current insurance company at \$145,869 total annual cost.

Council Member Joe Turner motioned and approved the insurance renewal. Council Member Greg Free seconded the motion. The motion carried with council members Abbott, Duncan, Free, Turner and Mayor Worthington all voting in favor.

Municipal Court Judge- James Stephens

James Stephens, City Manager shared, Judge Samir Patel had served as the city's Municipal Court Judge for the past 3 ½ years and performed adverbially. It is anticipated that he will be the new District Attorney for Bartow County. Boyd Pettit, City Attorney recommended Jay Choate, the managing partner of the firm where Judge Patel works and is currently City of Cartersville Municipal Judge. He was recommended for the city of Euharlee by Attorney Pettit and Mr. Stephens.

Council Member David Duncan motioned to accept Jay Choate as the new Municipal Court Judge. Council Member Joe Turner seconded the motion. The motioned carried with council members, Abbott, Duncan, Free, Turner and Mayor Worthington all voted in favor.

Mayor Steve Worthington accepted a couple of comments from the audience before ending the meeting to reconvene on April 20, 2021 at 7:00 pm.

With no further discussion the meeting adjourned at 8:39 pm.

CITY OF EUHARLEE
RECONVENED (04/06/21) CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 20, 2021

Mayor Steve Worthington called the meeting to order. He led a prayer and with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following were present: Mayor Steve Worthington, Council Members Tim Abbott, David Duncan, Greg Free, Joe Turner and City Manager James Stephens.

Osborne Quotes - Don Varvel & James Stephens

James Stephens, City Manager stated he received a phone call from the legal counsel with the Bartow County School Board but had not been able to reach him. He did find out there were no actions taken in reference to the intergovernmental agreement at the board meeting. The legal counsel was reaching out to discuss terms of a possible intergovernmental agreement related to their sports program. He had no further details.

Don Varvel presented quotes to the council, at the previous meeting, for the ballfields and playground and the only change would be ABC Fencing who wanted an answer that night after the meeting, but decided to withdraw their quote due their 2-months work back log. ASAP Fence Co. and County Line Fence both honored their prices. County Line is good until Thursday. Better Baseball price was good for the netting.

Mr. Stephens stated if they did not make a decision, it should not be cumbersome for the vendors since they had the information, dimensions and would only have to reach out to the suppliers. After discussing the timelines for the fence bids, scheduled tournaments, the cost for fencing and to wait to hear from the School Board, Council Member Abbott, and Mr. Stephens both shared other ideas for the park to better benefit the citizens of Euharlee.

Council Member Abbott said he loved parks and would prefer to have a plan in place for the future of Osborne Park. He was hesitant to spend money to patch things up. Mr. Stephens said he could envision a large field, with the softball field capability, relocated to the back of the land, re-coupe the land in the front of the park for re-development and include local citizen activities. He said it would also accommodate the school. The school may decide that transportation is not that big of a deal and ultimately decide to transition everything to Joe Cowan Park. It is not beyond the possibility once the tennis team relocates there. He would like to put something together for them to review.

Mayor Worthington reminded council the agenda item was to talk about the quotes and they are talking about everything but the quotes. They could extend the item for discussion for the next meeting.

Council Member Tim Abbott motioned to extend the voting on the quotes for Osborne Park for two weeks and re-initiate the bid process if necessary. Council Member Greg Free seconded the motion. The motion carried with council members Abbott, Duncan, Free, Turner and Mayor Worthington all voting in favor.

Council Member David Duncan motioned to adjourn the re-convened meeting. Council Member Joe Turner seconded the motion. The motion carried with council members Abbott, Duncan, Free, Turner and Mayor Worthington all voting in favor.

With no further discussion the meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm.

CITY OF EUHARLEE
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES
APRIL 20, 2021

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

The following were present Mayor Steve Worthington, Council Members Tim Abbott, David Duncan, Greg Free, Joe Turner, and City Manager James Stephens.

Public Comments

Mayor Steve Worthington opened the meeting for public comments.

Jennifer Davis and Terry Ferguson, co-owners of Bradley Farms Baked Goods out of Adairsville, Georgia introduced themselves and their purpose to speak at the meeting. They started out last summer at the Farmer's Market and the business expeditiously grew in size which was a blessing during the pandemic. They are opening another location in Fairmount and tossed around to opening a location in Euharlee. They currently have in Adairsville fresh baked goods and recently incorporated ice cream. Their hope is to offer something to the Euharlee community and provide something the community does not currently have. They would love to come up with some space that would work for everybody.

Mr. Stephens shared that Mr. Shepherd showed them the Old Museum which may work for the ice cream. They were also sensitive to the current lessee at the Country Store and not to compete, but meet with Ms. Gwen and it may be something they may collaborate together.

S.W.O.T Analysis - James Stephens

James Stephens, City Manager explained the SWOT Analysis, (Strength, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) which is not commonly used in government agencies but common in businesses. It is a management tool and a first step in developing a strategic plan. He shared that he had a SWOT analysis he worked for himself not long after he came to work at Euharlee and trying to implement a strategic plan that made sense to him. With where they are now, he thought it would be a good time to get their perspectives. It may be something he is missing and they have more history and knowledge of Euharlee than he does, so he thought it would be a good exercise.

He explained that strengths and weaknesses were internal factors they own and have control over; opportunities and threats were external factors and things they have less control over, to be aware of and plan. He shared some of his information to get them started. As a strength he listed the Etowah River, a natural resource. Once they come up with the items, they all agree on, he will put it all together and come up with a plan and tactics to make the strengths stronger than they are, how to mitigate the weaknesses as much as possible, how to capture opportunities and prepare and live through the threats. This was the purpose for the academic exercise that he thinks can be very beneficial. He listed the weakness of not having a pedestrian access on the bridge over the Etowah River and no alternate route if something happens on that thoroughfare. An opportunity would be the 17- acres. A threat, state law changed on how the LOST can be distributed. He said for them to take the information, review it and prepare to discuss it. He thinks it will be beneficial and asked for input that he would be glad to receive. He did not include his entire list because he didn't want to influence them, but does have a complete plan he put together.

Council Member Turner requested Mr. Stephens send them his information to review. He would like to add to, subtract and to know what he is thinking in terms his plans for the city.

Mayor Worthington said it was more of a retreat type exercise.

Mr. Stephens encouraged them to legally communicate with each other and share their ideas. They decided to discuss at a later meeting or possibly schedule a retreat and include staff.

Mayor asked if there were any comments from the audience. A resident shared his thoughts about grass cutting in to the streets and the danger for motorcyclist. Mr. Stephens said he would ask the code officer to take a look at the ordinance. If it is the city staff they will address it.

Betty Jane Tilley shared that the History Preservation Commission had mentioned some of the same information included in the SWOT discussion and would like for them to reach out to HPC for their ideas.

Council Member Joe Turner motioned to adjourn the meeting. Council Member David Duncan seconded the motion. The motion carried with council members Abbott, Duncan, Free, Turner, and Mayor Worthington all in favor.

With no further discussion the meeting adjourned at 7:48 pm.

**CITY OF EUHARLEE
RESCHEDULED CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MAY 18, 2021**

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

The following were present Mayor Steve Worthington, Council Members Tim Abbott, David Duncan, Greg Free, Joe Turner, and City Manager James Stephens.

Council Member David Duncan motioned to approve the minutes from City Council Meeting 04.06.21, Reconvened Meeting 04.20.21 and Work Session 04.20.21. Council Member Greg Free seconded the motion. The motion carried with Mayor Worthington, Council Members Abbott, Duncan, Free, and Turner all voting in favor.

Council Member Joe Turner motioned to amend the agenda to add the POW WOW. Council Member David Duncan seconded the motion. The motion carried with Mayor Worthington, Council Members Abbott, Duncan, Free, and Turner all voting in favor.

POW WOW - Joey Pierce

Joey Pierce, organizer for the POW WOW expressed his concern about the Frankie Harris Park project and if it would interfere with the POW WOW being held at the facility in October. In previous meetings, the council discussed the project, and it would not interfere with the event and collectively agreed to honor the POW WOW schedule. The event was on the calendar for October 22-24, 2021, but Mr. Peirce said they preferred October 15-17, 2021.

Council Member Joe Turner motioned to approve the POW WOW on October 15-17, 2021, at no charge. Council Member David Duncan seconded the motion. The motion carried with Mayor Worthington, Council Members Abbott, Duncan, Free, and Turner all voting in favor.

Mayor and Council welcomed Michael Smith a resident of Euharlee to speak and share his thoughts about the history and the past of Euharlee, as well as current and past projects.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Discussion for SWOT Analysis Schedule - James Stephens

Through the American Rescue Plan Act, the city could receive at least 1.3 million dollars. In preparation, during the weekly COVID-19 call, to receive funding they would need to know what the threats are. The SWOT analysis will be needed for the city to obtain and spend the American Rescue Act Funds. The city was offered at no cost, to use Tilley Mills to work on the SWOT analysis. It will include the Planning and Zoning Commission members, Historic Preservation Commission members and city department heads. He asked for recommendations to schedule the event. Mayor and Council authorized Mr. Stephens to send out some possible dates.

Frankie Harris Park Quotes - James Stephens

James Stephens, City Manager said they received two quotes for Frankie Harris Park; one from Winn Construction, who completed a substantial amount of work at the Presbyterian Church. The other one from Calm Water, LLC and the owner, Mr. Winnenburg was present. The low bid was \$124,800 from Calm Water, LLC which included 11 RV sites with plumbing and showers. Since the contract was not drafted by an engineer, they need City Attorney Boyd Pettit to draft an agreement on the contract.

Council Member Tim Abbott motioned to have the City Attorney draft an agreement with Calm Water, LLC. Council Member David Duncan seconded the motion. The motion carried with Council Members Abbott, Duncan, Free, and Turner voting in favor. Mayor Steve Worthington opposed. He explained he recommended for the area to be fenced, and there was no fence included in the quote. Mr. Stephens said he was not being disrespectful but did not know if the quote would be approved by council and if not, they would not need a fence. The council agreed for Mr. Stephens to get prices for the area to be fenced.

NEW BUSINESS

Appointment of Planning and Zoning Member - James Stephens

James Stephens, City Manager shared the Planning & Zoning Commission had a vacancy for a position. Previously, they requested to increase the number of members, but it was never approved. They received 2 applications and both applicants are extremely qualified. The recommendation from Planning & Zoning is to increase the number of members from 5 to 6, rewrite the bylaws to read the chairman only votes if necessary, and for Lovako Patterson and Frank Graziano to fill the seats.

Council Member Tim Abbott motioned to add an additional seat, and to appoint Lovako Patterson and Frank Graziano. Council Member Free seconded the motion. The motion carried with Mayor Worthington, and Council Member Abbott, Duncan, Free, and Turner all voting in favor.

Cast Ballot for GMA Officer/ 2nd Vice President - James Stephens

James Stephens, City Manager stated that GMA provided names of those officers who were nominated for district offices and Mayor Steve Worthington has been listed as 2nd Vice President. They also requested a vote for 3rd Vice President.

Council Member Tim Abbott motioned to approve the list of officers GMA recommended. Council Member David Duncan seconded the motioned. The motioned was carried with Mayor Worthington, Council Members Abbott, Duncan, Free, and Turner all voting favor.

Recycling Possibilities - James Stephens

James Stephens, City Manager said he had a conversation with Council Member Greg Free about recycling, and reached out to Keep Bartow Beautiful, and the city's trash vendor, Waste Management and is waiting to hear back from them. The idea is to have recycling receptacles as a service for citizens and not for revenue. Council Member Free said the conversation came up from citizens who mentioned having this service in the city and an opportunity to give back to the schools that participate and benefit from recycling.

Discussion of Veteran Memorial - Greg Free

Council Member Greg Free stated he would like to have a permanent veteran's memorial in the city of Euharlee. There have been some extraordinary people from Euharlee that have served and are currently serving. The flags are great, and the display is in the museum, but would like to see something permanent to honor veterans. It could be simple to select an area and give people the option to buy bricks to honor veterans commemorating their service. He would be willing to do the research for the project. The council agreed and even thought to include first responders.

Council Member Joe Turner motioned to adjourn the meeting. Council Member David Duncan seconded the motioned. The motioned was carried with Mayor Worthington, Council Members Abbott, Duncan, Free, and Turner all voting favor.

With no further discussion the meeting adjourned at 8:26 pm.

**CITY OF EUHARLEE
RESCHEDULED CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 15, 2021**

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

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

Council Member David Duncan motioned to approve minutes for Rescheduled City Council Meeting, May 18, 2021. Council Member Greg Free seconded the motion. The motion was carried with Council Members Duncan, Free, Turner, and Mayor Worthington all voting in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

Food Truck Friday at Osborne Park - James Stephens

James Stephens, City Manager reminded council due to the construction at Frankie Harris Park, the Food Truck Friday would be held at Osborne Park for the months of July, August and possibility September depending on the summer weather.

He presented council with a tentative plan, the staff prepared, for the event to be held at Osborne Park. It included the location for the performers, portable toilets next to bathrooms, parking for food trucks, as well as, the area for the participants.

Leeroy Shepherd from the Public Works Department was present, and he previously consulted with an electrician to ensure there would be sufficient power for the band. Mr. Stephens stated there was one outlet to replace. The electricity is functional, but not designed as Frankie Harris Park, but operable. It was possible for the breakers to trip when the band performed. He wanted to make everyone aware the event may not be perfect, and not to invest money until after July. He added the food trucks would have their own generators. Mr. Stephens wanted approval to move the event to Osborne Park.

Council Member Joe Turner motioned to move Food Truck Friday for the months of July, August and September to Osborne Park. Council Member David Duncan seconded the motion. The motion was carried with Council Members, Duncan, Free, Turner, and Mayor Worthington all voting in favor.

Axon Body Cameras Renewal – Lieutenant Cliff Yeager

Lieutenant Cliff Yeager provided council with information and requested approval to renew the Axon Body Cameras contract for the police department. The current contract is scheduled to expire in August 2021. The total cost for the renewal is \$76,017, to be paid annually over the 5-year contract. The contract includes unlimited evidence documentation storage, new equipment every 2-years, have full access and administrative services.

James Stephens, City Manager said the contract will be funded through SPLOST and possibly other revenue in the future, but definitely SPLOST for the 1st year. The 2020 SPLOST 6-year referendum would cover the full 5-years, but hopefully there will be revenue from the speed detection camera system to free up SPLOST funds.

Council Member David Duncan motioned to accept the 5-year contract with Axon for the body cameras. Council Member Greg Free seconded the motion. The motion was carried with Council Members, Duncan, Free, Turner, and Mayor Worthington all voting in favor.

2020 Final Budget Amendment- James Stephens

James Stephens, City Manager presented the 2020 Budget Amendment narrative in reference to the Georgia Code 36-81-3 requirement for an annual balanced budget. He included the budget amendments by line item in a journal entry format. He pointed out the 2020 original budget total was \$2,036,700 and the 2020 amended general fund budget was \$2,349,639.50 and complies with O.C.G.A. 36-81-3(d) (1). He said the unaudited operating results reflected a favorable variance of \$269,748 increase in fund balance. The city received proceeds from the insurance company for storm damages, as well as, funds from the CARES Act; without the CARES funding, there was still a favorable variance for 2020 in the amount of \$56,073. Mr. Stephens requested approval for the 2020 budget amendment.

Council Member Joe Turner motioned to approve the budget amendment as presented. Council Member Greg Free seconded the motion. The motion was carried with Council Members, Duncan, Free, Turner, and Mayor Worthington all voting in favor.

Change Order Frankie Harris Park Project – James Stephens

James Stephens, City Manager presented (2) change orders for the FHP RV sites. The first change order was for the fence discussed at the previous meeting. It is a six foot privacy fence with one walk through gate in the amount of \$37,180. The second change order, at the City Manager's request, was to increase the power supply at the entrance on the backside of the restrooms to accommodate the east side of the park. The total cost is \$14,037. It is not required for the RV, but it would be wise to have for the future. A discussion had taken place in the past to refurbish the power supply. The additional projects will not extend the timeline. Council Member Greg Free asked about the waste water and black holes. It was a draw for campers. Mr. Stephens stated, the contract did not include for dump stations and it will need to be discussed in the future. The current manhole is included and Bartow County Water and Sewer will be able to conduct it.

Council Member David Duncan motioned to accept the (2) change orders. Council Member Joe Turner seconded the motion. The motion was carried with Council Members, Duncan, Free, Turner, and Mayor Worthington all voting in favor.

POW WOW Original Date on Calendar – James Stephens

Council Member Greg Free motioned to change the dates back to the original dates on the calendar for the POW WOW to October 22-24, 2021. Council Member Joe Turner seconded the motion. The motion was carried with Council Members, Free, Turner, and Mayor Worthington all voting in favor. Council Member recused himself from voting because of his partnership with the POW WOW group.

A Euharlee resident asked about large commercial vehicles parking on the side of the road in the subdivision. Lieutenant Yeager shared some of the safety guidelines. Mr. Stephens said to contact the police department. He also shared the Planning and Zoning Commission had been reviewing the off-road ordinance along with the state guidelines.

Council Member David Duncan motioned to adjourn. Council Member Joe Turner seconded the motion. The motion was carried with Mayor Worthington, Council Members Abbott, Duncan, Free, and Turner all voting in favor. The motion was carried with Council Members, Duncan, Free, Turner, and Mayor Worthington all voting in favor.

With no further discussion the meeting adjourned at 7:38 pm.

**CITY OF EUHARLEE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JULY 06, 2021**

Mayor Steve Worthington called the meeting to order, lead prayer and followed with the Pledge of Allegiance.

City Manager James Stephens called the roll, and the following were present: Mayor Steve Worthington, Council Members Tim Abbott, Greg Free, David Duncan and Joe Turner.

Council Member David Duncan motioned to approve the minutes from the Rescheduled City Council Meeting, 06.15.2021. Council Member Greg Free seconded the motion. The motion carried with Council Members Abbott, Duncan, Free, Turner and Mayor Worthington all voting in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

Firearm Discharge Ordinance – James Stephens

Mayor Steve Worthington opened the floor to discuss the Firearm Discharge Ordinance due to an issue between neighbors. He asked James Stephens to take the lead with the discussion and asked all parties involved to come up front. He also asked Chief Jody Matthews and Code Enforcement Officer, Don Matthews to join them up front.

Mr. Stephens stated that Don Matthews could share the integral parts of the ordinance, what was in question and rather it is a violation or not. Mr. Stephens said he was contacted by a resident of Euharlee concerning a civil inquiry in reference to a possible firearm discharge ordinance violation during hunting season. The ordinance defines a place where one lives. If a firearm is discharged within 250 feet of a dwelling it will violate the discharge ordinance. There is a barn within that footage, but does not meet the city's definition as a dwelling, which interprets not to be a violation with the ordinance.

Mr. Matthews stated that he agreed and had spoken with both homeowners. He understood the concern for both long time neighbors. The concern is someone hunting with a high-powered rifle on and could injure someone on the adjacent property. He discussed the life of the ordinance, stated houses have been built since then, and it may be necessary to re-visit the ordinance to be updated. The way the ordinance is written, even if the property owner does not hunt, it is allowed to let others hunt on the property.

The council allowed each neighbor to speak; one with the concern of the location of the deer stand using a rifle to shoot could cause injuries to someone on the adjacent property, and the neighbor to allow hunting on his property because the deer is tearing up his 40 acres of land. They discussed in detail the issues, their long-time relationship as neighbors and the city ordinance.

Chief Matthews said the ordinance protects the city and he read the state code definition of dwelling. O.C.G.A 16.7-1 code says, any building or structure designed and intended for occupancy for residential use, which was almost word for word with the city ordinance. He understood both sides, but if a firearm is fired and strikes a building or someone, there are state laws that prohibit that, and it would be handled by law enforcement. The minimum charge would be reckless conduct.

Mayor Worthington stated they both have been friends and a great asset to the city, and it breaks his heart they have that situation.

Council Member David Duncan and Council Member Greg Free both asked if it could be re-written. Mr. Stephens said, they can send to Planning and Zoning, but as the Chief stated, the city is compliant with state code and probably 80% of the cities in Georgia. He said, he only addressed the issue based on

the ordinance and he sees the issue with both. He values both concerns, and grateful for their contributions to the city.

Mayor Worthington suggested the Planning and Zoning review the document in detail and to review the issues from both sides.

Council Member Tim Abbott stated that Mr. Evans should recuse himself from the discussion with the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Council Member Joe Turner stated as a hunter, the safety is in the hands of the experienced shooter on the deer stand, and should not be shooting towards someone's property. He doesn't know the changes that can be made to the ordinance when the safety is in the person holding the gun. Council Member Duncan agreed.

Food Truck Ordinance- James Stephens

James Stephens, City manager stated the city has no permits for food trucks to function in Euharlee other than Food Truck Friday. He sent through email information for council to review to develop a food truck ordinance. If the council chose an ordinance, he would place it on the agenda for the Planning and Zoning Commissioner to review. If they just want a city policy, the items they received would be a good starting point. This would also give the brick-and-mortar vendors an opportunity to set up in a designated area. The policy included purchasing a permit and city staff working with the vendors for scheduling.

Council continued detailed discussion about the growing food truck industry, how it would benefit the Euharlee community and a policy necessary to have food trucks and vendors to set up in Euharlee.

Mr. Stephens agreed to insert cost for permits and other necessary items in the policy, and have ready for council to review during the work session.

Mayor Worthington tabled the item until the next work session.

Farmers Market- Council Member Greg Free

Council member Greg Free stated he had been approached by several people for a Farmers Market in the city of Euharlee. He then did his research on Farmers Markets in the surrounding area, and found several vendors live in Taylorsville, Stilesboro, Rockmart and Euharlee. They travel to other cities but would love to start in Euharlee. A representative from Acworth reached out to him, and agreed to send the agriculture requirements, the need for vendors and to assist the city with getting started. He stated it was not revenue driven, but to support local farmers, local businesses, to serve the community and an opportunity for the community to come together. He said it would be something, as a council, to put some plans in place and see if it would work.

Council Member Abbott shared contact information from the University of Georgia Extension to assist with the planning. There are very strategic ways to do it right. He said the Cartersville market has grown since it started. He said Euharlee is a premiere destination.

Council continued and discussed the possibility for a Farmers Market to include location, parking, and the benefits for the community and the local farmers.

Council Member Greg Free said he would like for council to speak with other cities that currently have a Farmers Market, to give them ideas on how to start on a small scale and to see where it takes them in the future. It would be no cost to the city and quick to start.

Council Member David Duncan motioned to go into Executive Session for Personnel at 8:20 pm. Council Member Joe Turner seconded the motion. The motion carried with Council Members Abbott, Duncan, Free, Turner and Mayor Worthington all voting in favor.

Mayor Steve Worthington stated, the Council returned from Executive Session for Personnel at 9.05pm. There were no actions taken, no votes and no further discussion necessary.

Council Member Joe Turner motioned to adjourn the meeting. Council Member David Duncan seconded the motion. The motion carried with Council Members Abbott, Duncan, Free, Turner and Mayor Worthington all voting in favor.

With no further discussion the meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.

CITY OF EUHARLEE
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES
JULY 20, 2021

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

The following were present Mayor Steve Worthington, Council Members Tim Abbott, David Duncan, Greg Free, Joe Turner, and City Manager James Stephens.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Retreat Report and Feedback

James Stephens, City Manager presented council with documentation from the SWOT retreat held on June 16, 2021. The information was prepared by the facilitator from Northwest Georgia Regional Commission, which did a great job with a unique group of citizens. He had not at that time, provided the other stakeholders copies of the documentation.

They received two sets of documentation. One was the SWOT Analysis results, and the second document was recommendations prioritized by all the stakeholders present at the retreat. There were so many recommendations the city could take care of with little to no cost.

The priority from the stakeholders, was the future of Osborne Park. He asked Council to take the documents with them to read through, and consider allocating some design monies for the plan for Osborne Park based on the output received from the retreat. There were a lot of improvements that could be done from a family standpoint, and worth putting monies into, to get a visual for the possibilities. It would be the elected official's decision, with hopes to allocate design monies to look at alternatives for Osborne Park.

Council briefly discussed the documents, possibilities and opportunities. Mr. Stephens said the documents would be used to formulate some type of strategic plan for the city in the future.

His recommendation was for them to review the documents, and follow-up during the August meeting.

1st Reading Firearms Discharge Ordinance – James Stephens

James Stephens, City Manager presented council with a copy of the current Firearm Ordinance and the recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission. This is follow-up from the previous meeting, with two property owners who enlightened council on a circumstance involving their property. The P & Z Commission recommended to add item (d) to Section 18-19.3 to read, the discharge of a firearm upon the land of another or across the property line of another without first obtaining written permission of such property owner is prohibited. It would address the main safety concern they heard from the county resident. It does still put the safety on the hunters, if the council decides to adopt the change. It will show they did take action. If they do not make any changes, the wording is already included in the state code should a hunter fire across property lines could be cited for a violation from the state. The commission did discuss increasing the acres from 2 to 10, but decided on the one change. Code Enforcement did recommend the change to 10 acres.

Council continued discussion on the pros and cons to the number of acres and the 250 feet to use a fire arm. Several members on the council were hunters, and understood and explained the reasoning for the current acreage and the number of feet to use a firearm. The item was tabled until the next Planning and Zoning Commission meeting to review again.

Food Truck Policy

James Stephens, City Manager provided council with an updated Food Truck Policy he shared with them at the last meeting. He added an annual permit fee at \$150. He also added, Food Trucks may accept invitations from HOA's and, churches to set up on private spaces. He changed the vendor space from one truck to two trucks.

Council discussed and requested change on the policy from weekend and holidays to seasonal, to allow one to three trucks and, to charge \$150 per truck each year. Mr. Stephens requested they review the document and add to the August agenda for a vote.

Farmers Market – Council Member Greg Free

Council Member Greg Free said they reached out to Regina Shaw from the University of Georgia Extension office, who is the individual that runs the Farmers Market in Cartersville and received information on how to start and do it the right way. She shared (3) questions that they should answer.

- When, which would be based what is best for the vendors. They considered bi-weekly on Thursday, between 3 pm -7 pm.
- Artisan or Farmers Market - Artisan included other homemade items and opens up for everybody to participate.
- Central Location – Possibly in the gravel area by the Covered Bridge.

After answering the three questions, next would be to contact vendors for planning. Fridays were not good for vendors because of the Saturday markets. He said, one encouraging part was the article in the Daily Tribune about Farmers Markets in Bartow County. They received over 100 applicants for Cartersville, but they could only house 40 vendors. This was a sign that there was a need for other markets. It will be at no cost to the city, but an opportunity for the community to come together.

After answering the three questions, would give them a solid road map to get started. The next step would be to survey vendors and receive input on the best time to have and start the project. The best advertisement will be through social media and signage.

School Board Update – Greg Free

Council Member Greg Free stated after several meetings with the school board in reference to Osborne Park, they received some feedback. They continued to discuss Osborne Park and the repairs needed, the concern of ownership, which has now been cleared up and the school board agreeing to move the tennis team to Joe Cowan Park immediately. Since then, the discussion centered around softball, baseball and the repairs needed to the property at Osborne Park for them to use the fields. It was also brought to the table, the city having basically, two parks with the same usage and tax payers footing the bill. Transportation for softball and baseball to use Joe Cowan Park was still an issue.

James Stephens, City Manager provided council with two intergovernmental agreements from the School Board. The first agreement was for softball, baseball and tennis to be held at Joe Cowan Park with a 1-year agreement. The second agreement was for tennis to be held at Joe Cowan Park, and for softball and baseball to continue at Osborne Park in the current condition with a five-year agreement. Mr. Stephens recommended, a one-year agreement at Osborne Park, which will allow the council to deliberate the future for Osborne Park.

Council Member Free discussed the importance of providing what is best for the kids. They should be able to interact with each other and provide them with a great facility to have their sports. They can do that at Joe Cowan with no impact on the current tournaments that bring revenue. This can be done with no cost to the school system. It is a fair and good agreement.

Council Member Joe Turner stated it has been the same with using the fields in the past at no cost.

Council Member David Duncan stated, they should be asked to move to Joe Cowan Park. He does not see a need to have two ballfields. If they can get them to go by the Joe Cowan Park agreement, it will free them up to expand in Osborne Park. It is holding the city up from doing what they want to do for the citizens of Euharlee and have a nice playground.

Council Member Free said to conclude, it will give them a year to plan.

The agenda item will be added to the August meeting for a vote on the intergovernmental agreement.

Council Member Tim Abbott motioned to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Greg Free seconded the motion. The motion carried with Council Members Abbott, Duncan, Free, Turner, and Mayor Worthington all voting in favor.

With no further discussion the meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

**CITY OF EUHARLEE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 03, 2021**

Mayor Steve Worthington called the meeting to order, lead prayer and followed with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following were present, Mayor Steve Worthington, Council Members Tim Abbott, Greg Free, David Duncan, Joe Turner, and City Manager James Stephens.

Council Member David Duncan motioned to approve the minutes from the City Council Meeting, 07.06.2021 and City Council Work Session 07.20.2021. Council Member Greg Free seconded the motion. The motion carried with Council Members Abbott, Duncan, Free, Turner, and Mayor Worthington all voting in favor.

Food Truck Policy – James Stephens

James Stephens, City Manager stated from the previous meeting discussion, the Food Truck policy was amended to read three trucks instead of one truck, as requested. The language was included, days may be added by the city to keep options open during the summer and seasonal times. The next to the last bullet point, read \$150 per year, per truck. He recommended the council adopt it as an official policy for the city to implement going forward.

Council Member Joe Turner motioned to accept the Food Truck Policy as revised. Council Member David Duncan seconded the motion. The motion carried with Council Members Abbott, Duncan, Free, Turner, and Mayor Worthington all voting in favor.

School Intergovernmental Agreement – James Stephens

James Stephens, City Manager provided council with a copy of the school intergovernmental agreement. They were presented previously with two agreements to consider, and edits were made since the last meeting discussion. They submitted the agreement to the school, utilizing Joe Cowan Park for softball and baseball. On the previous document, the agreement was for 1-year, the school system asked for a modification to a 5-year period. Considering, it had never been the intent to charge the school any additional funding; he didn't think it would be an issue from council. The agreement has softball, baseball and tennis all accommodated at Joe Cowan Park, at no cost to the school for a 5-year period, and he recommended it for adoption.

Council Member Tim Abbott asked if they would use Osborne Park for anything and, if the school board and the attorney supported the agreement. Mr. Stephens stated they would use it for emergency gatherings. He was told by the officials; it did not have to be documented with a public vote. The superintendent had the authority to sign it. Mr. Stephens, Council Member Free, and Mayor Worthington were thanked for their efforts put forth.

Council Member Joe Turner motioned to accept the intergovernmental agreement. Council Member Greg Free seconded the motion. The motion carried with Council Members Abbott, Duncan, Free, Turner, and Mayor Worthington all voting in favor.

ROTC Events – Colonel Jeffrey C. Dickerson

Colonel Dickerson, Army JROTC instructor at Cartersville High School stated the program hosts a JROTC Challenge each year. It was held at Cartersville High School last year and, hosted 20 schools. Since then, the school had a lot of growth, renovations and, as a result of that, it is a construction site. They requested to use Osborne Park on September 25, 2021 with set-up on September 24th. They will use the entire park, as well as, the Covered Bridge, the area alongside the Euharlee Creek, underneath the Covered Bridge and the wooded trail through Frankie Harris Park. They would arrive at 6:00 am until 5:00 pm and would end with site clean-up. The challenge would consist of about 20--25 school with an estimate of 1000 people to include students, teachers and, parents. He shared a detailed document with council and explained each challenging event.

Council Member Greg Free shared his positive thoughts about the leadership and the positive experience for the youth.

Council Member Tim Abbott shared his family's experience with the JROTC program at Cartersville High School and great leadership from Colonel Dickerson.

City Manager James Stephens recommended approval from council and for the city to support and purchase porta potties for the event in the amount of \$589.00.

Council Member David Duncan motioned to approve the request to use Osborne Park and the downtown area. Council Member Joe Turner seconded the motion. The motion carried with Council Members Abbott, Duncan, Free, Turner and Mayor Worthington all voting in favor.

Solar Panels in Euharlee - Council Member Joe Turner

Council Member Joe Turner stated after much research, he no longer wanted to discuss the idea of solar panels in Euharlee.

Public Comments

Council Member Greg Free asked for an update on Frankie Harris Park Campsites. City Manager, James Stephens. There would be an extensive process to finalize the electrical upgrade, then to work on the punch list for about 10 days, and then it should be completed.

Council Member David Duncan asked for an update on the cameras in the school zone. Mr. Stephens stated everything was signed off on, and passed on to GDOT. Blue line is working with GDOT, and it could take up to six weeks.

Council Member David Duncan motioned to adjourn. Council Member Greg Free seconded the motion. The motion was carried with Council Members Abbott, Duncan, Free, Turner, and Mayor Worthington all voting in favor.

With no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 7:48 pm.

**CITY OF EUHARLEE
PUBLIC HEARING
CALLED CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 17, 2021**

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

The following were present, Mayor Steve Worthington, Council Members Tim Abbott, David Duncan, Greg Free, Joe Turner, and City Manager James Stephens.

PUBLIC HEARING - MILLAGE RATE DISCUSSION

Mayor Steve Worthington stated the city would be able to roll the millage rate back to zero. They agreed to do so, even though it took a couple of years. He said some citizens during the meeting when they adopted the millage rate, stated the city would never roll back to zero. He was thankful they were able to do so. He thanked the staff, and the council.

City Manager, James Stephens explained the millage document which showed what the roll back would be not to be required to advertise a tax increase. The tax digest for Euharlee had 4.10% growth the past year. A mill of tax on the tax digest would generate \$105,000. Per the discussion through email, they advertised the 5-year history at a zero-millage rate. It will allow them to keep the 4-month fund balance financial policy the council adopted about two years ago. He commended the council for keeping the budget lean and, looking at revenue streams to relieve the property tax. He was comfortable they could comply with the 4-month fund balance, and roll back to zero this year and be okay for the next three years with no extreme unforeseen circumstances.

Council Member Tim Abbott asked what would cause them to reinstate a millage rate.

Mr. Stephens said the biggest factor that helped the revenue, was the new state code that online sales tax is collected by the State of Georgia and remitted to local governments. The LOST is about 18% higher this year than originally budgeted. The second factor revenue stream would be from the RV sites. As long as the city continues to watch the expenditures, and the economy continues to have a healthy growth; in the absence of some global event or military undertaken that is unforeseen. He was comfortable for the recommendation for this year, and the next three years in the absence of some unforeseen global event.

Council Member Greg Free said it was a good idea, and he supported it but to be prepared, and have a good plan so they do not come back to the table, and have to increase it twice as higher. They need to be, and plan strategically.

Council Member Turner said, if you spend money to make revenue, it will take several years to break even. They need to be careful with what they borrow and spend.

Council Member Free asked if funds were available for the things they had discussed.

Mr. Stephens stated, funds were available through SPLOST and the items discussed were included on the referendum for the next 5-years. The sewer debt will come from the SPLOST funds, every year in the amount of \$100,000.

Council Member David Duncan asked about the number of years to pay for the sewer debt.

Mr. Stephens said 20 years but, it was set up where the city could pay it off in 6-years.

With no further discussion Mayor Worthington closed the public hearing.

NEW BUSINESS

Soccer Agreement - James Stephens

James Stephens, City Manager provided council with a contract agreement between the city of Euahlee and the Covered Bridge Soccer Club, consistent with the contract from 2-years ago. It will generate \$2,000 to the city per season, and \$10 per registered player. They have made a great improvement to the soccer fields for the upcoming season. He recommended council to adopt the agreement.

Council Member Greg Free motioned to adopt the soccer contract agreement. Council Member David Duncan seconded the motion. The motion carried with Council Members Abbott, Duncan, Free, Turner and Mayor Worthington all voting in favor.

Budget Amendment - James Stephens

James Stephens, City Manager stated Williamson and Company, CPAs would present the FY20 audit during one of the September meetings. To comply with the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, Title 36-81-3, he presented a second budget amendment for the FY20 that totaled \$3,961. It does not decrease the budgeted fund balance or the actual fund balance. It relocated monies from public works into administrative and parks and recreation. If they recall, back in 2020, Leeroy Shepherd worked with parks and recreation due to the uncertainty of Covid-19 and how it would affect sales tax. The budget amendment reflects him working in parks and recreation and administration. It is a technicality to clean-up the budget. He recommended the adoption of the amendment.

Council Member Joe Turner motioned to accept the budget amendment. Council Member Greg Free seconded the motion. The motion carried with Council Members Abbott, Duncan, Free, Turner, and Mayor Worthington all voting in favor.

Millage Rate - James Stephens

James Stephens, City Manager said as they discussed earlier, he recommended council to approve the millage rate of zero for 2021. The council had before them, the 5- year history. They hoped when they implemented the millage rate, they would be able to roll back after 2-years; and with the uncertainty of Covid-19 it took an extra year.

Council Member Joe Turner motioned to roll the millage rate for 2021 back to zero. Council Member Greg Free seconded the motion. The motion carried with Council Members Abbott, Duncan, Free, Turner, and Mayor Worthington all voting in favor.

Police Department Personnel - James Stephens

James Stephens, City Manager in the absence of Chief Jody Matthews, stated that council received a thorough email from Chief Matthews. He has a candidate currently working in law enforcement, but not a post certified officer, with a lot of knowledge. Per Chief Matthews recommendation, he requested to approve mandate school with a signed 2-year agreement to stay with the department. As the council recalls, they put one of their own explorers through the academy and he has worked out very well.

Council Member David Duncan motioned to approve the candidate for mandate school. Council Member Tim Abbott seconded the motion. The motion carried with Council Members Abbott, Duncan, Free, Turner, and Mayor Worthington all voting in favor.

Public Comments

Update and Discussion on Dump Station for Frankie Harris Park - John Winnenberg

John Winnenberg, contractor for campground sites at Frankie Harris Park, stated he didn't have budget numbers prepared. After speaking with Bartow County Water engineer, the city would need a modest amount of engineering plans for the dump station, but not a real complex build. The capacity would be okay with 10,000 gallons or less which would be a lot and accommodate an expansion. Mr. Winnenberg proposed to use Kevin Stephenson, a local engineer. Bartow County Water asked for an engineered narrative and a small sketch. It intrigues them to review the volume and the capacity downstream. He stated in return, the city would receive a water and sewer compliance document. At that point, it flips over to Euharlee for compliance to build and design. He stated the design could cost from \$7,000 to \$8,000, or high as \$15,000, depending on the available survey.

James Stephens, City Manager stated the city did not have a topography map. The city has worked with the Stephenson Firm before. They did a project for the city with the stormwater about 5-years ago, and he could reach out to them with council approval, and have a number for design cost for one of the September meetings. Mr. Winnenberg said they could work together and come up with a good plan and price.

Splash Pad - Council Member Joe Turner

Council Member Joe Turner shared some pictures he took downtown Cedartown of a splash pad because they talked about a splash pad and having one down near the store. He stated Mr. Stephens could check with the company, if the council wanted to get a bid.

Mayor Steve Worthington mentioned the drainage from the rain from the surrounding area would be a problem with the site area Council Member Turner was considering.

City Manager, James Stephens said he was not promoting Cedartown, but it does have the recycling capability and will keep water cost minimal; and they have been running it for 11 years.

Council Member Greg Free stated they would need clarification; a guy at the convention brought up a system that re-circulated the water that the county considered it to be a pool that would have to be staffed. If it doesn't re-circulate, it would not have to be staffed. They could look into that during planning. He thinks a splash pad would be a great idea for kids, but they need to figure out how to do it right.

Mr. Winnenberg stated they were putting one in and he would send them the information and pricing. He did not have any information on they operate, but he thought it would be easy for them to tie onto the sewer.

Mr. Stephens stated the water would have to be tested by Bartow County. Cedartown does have someone that monitors the pad.

Council Member Tim Abbott stated they owe the citizens overall Osborne Park design.

Council Member David Duncan motioned to adjourn. Council Member Joe Turner seconded the motion. The motion carried with Council Members Abbott, Duncan, Free, Turner and Mayor Worthington all voting in favor.

With no further discussion the meeting adjourned at 7:38 pm.

**CITY OF EUHARLEE
CALLED CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 31, 2021**

Mayor Steve Worthington called the meeting to order. A prayer was led by Mayor Worthington followed with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following were present Mayor Steve Worthington, Council Members Tim Abbott, David Duncan, Greg Free, Joe Turner, and City Manager James Stephens.

Motion to Amend the Agenda

Joe Turner made a motion to add SPLASH Pad to the agenda. Tim Abbott seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Splash Pad Discussion

Joe Turner asked the other councilmen if they agreed to authorize the city manager to obtain budget for SPLASH Pad and other improvements in Osborne Park. By consensus the city manager was asked to obtain budget information for the September work session.

Executive Session

At 5:39 a motion was made by David Duncan and seconded by Greg Free to enter executive session for personnel matter. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

At 7:09 pm the council returned into open session.

The mayor announced a special called work session for 6:30 pm on Tuesday September 7 and that our Regular September meeting will be scheduled for 7:15 pm.

At 7:10 the meeting was adjourned.

**CITY OF EUHARLEE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 07, 2021**

Mayor Steve Worthington called the meeting to order. Council Member David Duncan led prayer and followed with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following were present, Mayor Steve Worthington, Council Members Tim Abbott, Greg Free, David Duncan, Joe Turner, and City Manager James Stephens.

Council Member David Duncan motioned to approve the minutes from the City Council Meeting, 08.03.21, Public Hearing/Called City Council Meeting 08.17.21 and Called City Council Meeting 08.31.21. Council Member Greg Free seconded the motion. The motion carried with Council Members Abbott, Duncan, Free, Turner, and Mayor Worthington all voting in favor.

Council Member Joe Turner motioned to amend the agenda to have a public statement from the Euharlee Steering Committee and to add item number 5 for Personnel. Council Member Tim Abbott seconded the motion. The motion carried with Council Members Abbott, Duncan, Free, Turner, and Mayor Worthington all voting in favor.

Euharlee Steering Committee – Mitch Tripp

Euharlee Steering Committee member Mitch Tripp thanked the council for allowing them to be a part of the meeting. He briefly shared the history of the committee which was formed in 2018, with successful events in 2019; COVID-19 prevented them from having events in 2020, and operating again in 2021. The steering committee members were present and introduced.

Events planned for 2021:

- October 9th Fall Festival - Quilt Show, Pageant and Hay Ride.
- November 6th – Community Workday at the Covered Bridge.
- November 13th – Veterans Parade to Honor Veterans, and Recognition of Veterans in Euharlee.
- November 27th – Christmas Parade in Memory of Eric Smithey with the Covered Bridge and Christmas Tree Lighting.

Events planned for 2022:

- June 4th – Jeep Show (Formerly held a very successful Jeep Show).
- May 8th – Farmers Market- Sunday test run to see what day will work best.
- Citizen of the month program to Citizen of the year. Eligibility every 24-months.
- Yard of the Month- Best kept yard, and Best Holiday Decorations for the months of July, November, and December.
- Donation boxes outside of Historic buildings for building maintenance.

Mr. Tripp stated, they plan to have five annual events each year, Easter Egg Hunt, Jeep Show, Fall Festival, Veterans Parade, and Christmas parade, along with three or four small events during the year.

James Stephens, City Manager said the committee have great ideas, they are a great group, and thankful for them to honor Eric Smithey at the Christmas event.

Mr. Tripp shared that the city was working on email accounts for the group. They would follow the city guidelines, and not use for personal emails. They would be attending the senior luncheon, share their

thoughts, and request for senior participation. He also, briefly discussed some fundraising ideas that would need council approval.

Mayor Steve Worthington thanked them for the work they do for the city. Council Member Tim Abbott agreed with Mayor Worthington. Also, the website in the future should identify more of whom and what the city loves. Mr. Tripp stated Katie Gobbi, Museum Director has been great with advertisement for the committee and the events.

Deed Approval for Five Oaks Subdivision – James Stephens

James Stephens, City Manger presented a road dedication warranty deed for Five Oaks Subdivision that was developed in 2017, and is located off Euharlee Five Forks Road. There are about six homes in the subdivision. The information had been reviewed by the City Attorney. Mr. Stephens recommended approval for the deed.

Council Member Greg Free motioned to approve the deed for Five Oaks Subdivision. Council Member David Duncan seconded the motion. The motion carried with Council Members Abbott, Duncan, Free, Turner, and Mayor Worthington all voting in favor.

Municipal Contract for Euharlee Elections – James Stephens

James Stephens, City Manger provided council with a copy of the intergovernmental agreement drafted to be utilized between Bartow County Board of Elections and each municipality in Bartow County. As it is currently drafted, it will not have an early voting satellite at the city. If the council approved the contract, it will cost \$3,870.05 to the city of Euharlee. He recommended it be adopted.

Council Member David Duncan motioned to adopt the contract. Council Member Joe Turner seconded the motion. The motion carried with Council Members Abbott, Duncan, Free, Turner, and Mayor Worthington all voting in favor.

Frankie Harris Park Update – James Stephens

James Stephens, City Manager stated the 11 campsites are almost 100% complete. There were 3 sites Calm Water came back and worked with the city on leveling out the slope, which was a little steep. He thanked a local citizen that drove his RV over for the first test. Council Member Greg Free and Council Member David Duncan assisted with further leveling. There is a 4th change order in the amount of \$2,970 for the road to be widened. The original contract did not address the width of the road. All campers that looked at it, agreed that it needed to be widened. He recommended approval for the change order. The dump station will be equivalent to a sewer tap and Bartow County will do the labor. He thanked and commended Mr. Winnenberg for working with them; without an engineer, he stepped up and helped the city.

Council Member Tim Abbott motioned to accept the change order in the amount of \$2,970. Council Member David Duncan seconded the motion. The motion carried with Council Members Abbott, Duncan, Free, Turner, and Mayor Worthington all voting in favor.

Council Member Tim Abbott said it was commendable to the county for assisting with the dump station. It was because of Mayor Worthington, Council Member Turner and Council Member Duncan, and the good attitudes of the past and present that the county helped the city out. He also asked if there was a target date to make reservations. Mr. Stephens said no, but could discuss to have a soft opening for some to camp, and give feedback on the sites.

Vehicle Request for Euharlee Police Department – Chief Jody Matthews

Chief Jody Matthews provided council with a summary and quotes for police vehicles. He stated what sparked the request, was one of the 2014 Charger had to be towed, and the cost to repair was over \$1,000 and the vehicle has over 107,000 miles. He spoke with the city manager and shared he did not think it was worth spending the money. It does have some engine problems, and that price was not included in the \$1,000 repair. They will strip it down, and put it up for auction. He briefly discussed the departments' vehicle fleet.

He received quotes from two of the main providers, Prater Ford and Brannen Motor Company for an Explorer, and an F-150 truck. The truck can be used to transport equipment to the range, and handy for other things. Both vehicles will be marked and used as patrol vehicles. The total cost from Prater Ford was \$65,502.14 and Brannen Ford was \$65,600. They purchased the previous vehicles from Prater Ford, and Brannen is about 140 miles further than Calhoun, Georgia.

Quotes were received from Blue Line Solutions to equip the vehicles in the amount of \$17,557.77. He reached out to other vendors for quotes to compare to Blue Line, and received one response for only one vehicle. The funds to equip the vehicles will come from the proceeds received from the school cameras, and no out of pocket cost. The vehicles will be purchased with SPLOST funds. He requested for (1) Explorer and (1) F150.

Council Member David Duncan motioned to purchase the Explorer and the F150 from Prater Ford with SPLOST funding. Council Member Tim Abbott seconded the motion. The motion carried with Council Members Abbott, Duncan, Free, Turner, and Mayor Worthington all voting in favor.

Personnel – James Stephens

James Stephens, City Manager recommended the City Council make a motion to hire April Lucas as the Economic Development Director, the newly created position for the city of Euharlee, as a full-time department head position.

Council Member Tim Abbott motioned to hire April Lucas as the fulltime Economic Development Director. Council Member Greg Free seconded the motion. The motion carried with Council Members Abbott, Duncan, Free, Turner, and Mayor Worthington all voting in favor.

Council Member Tim Abbott motioned to adjourn. Council Member Greg Free seconded the motion. The motion was carried with Council Members Abbott, Duncan, Free, Turner, and Mayor Worthington all voting in favor.

With no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm.

**CITY OF EUHARLEE
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 20, 2021**

2020 Audit Presentation – Christian Hatch, Williamson & Co. CPAs

On behalf of Williamson, CPA's, Christian Hatch, CPA said thank you to Mayor, City Council and management for allowing them to conduct the audit of the city's financial statements for fiscal year ending December 31, 2020. He provided council with a bound copy of the audit report and a summarized financial statement with yearly comparisons. The audit was conducted in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States and the standards that apply to financial audits of local government. The purpose of the audit was for them to issue their opinion of the city's basic financial statements and report on the city's internal controls over financial reporting and compliance. The independent auditors report on the financial statements on page 1 is where their opinion on the financial statements is located. For the year of 2020, the city received an unmodified audit opinion on its financial statements. It means the basic financial statements were fairly presented in all material respects in conformity with the general accepted accounting principles as they apply to local government. In other words, they had a clean opinion. They also issued their report on the city's internal controls over financial reporting and compliance. The report outlines their responsibilities and considerations of the city's internal controls over financial reporting, as well as its compliance with certain provision and laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements. The 2020 audit period they identified no material weaknesses in the city's internal controls over financial reporting and nor did they find any material compliance violations. He reviewed some of the financial points of interest for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2020.

Page 4 – Statement of Net Position – Year-end the city assets exceeded total liabilities by \$11,036,524. It was an increase from net position in 2019 in the amount of \$664,750.

Page 5- Statement of Activities – Total tax revenue for 2020 including SPLOST collections came in at \$2.84 million dollars representing a decrease of \$10,245 in overall tax revenue. Property tax, sales tax and insurance taxes increased, while automobile, excise and SPLOST receipts decreased compared to 2019.

Page 7- Balance Sheet of Governmental Funds – The total cash balance at year end including cd's increased by \$95,006 and totaled a little over 2.1 million as of December 31, 2020. Of that amount, roughly \$1.35 million was externally restricted for capital projects, debt service, local road maintenance improvements, and law enforcement activities. The increase in cash was concentrated in the general funds and the 2020 SPLOST funds. At year-end there was \$62,062 of unspent bonds funds and accumulated interest funds left over from the 2013 URA bond issued. These funds are to be used on approved projects listed in the city's Urban Redevelopment Plan for improvements.

Page 10- Budget and Actual Statement- The general fund was the city's main operating fund ending 2020 with a balance of \$1,187,484. This was an increase of \$287,096 from the adjusted year end 2019 fund balance. On the revenue side, the total general fund revenue increase by \$464,866 from 2019. The majority of the revenue increase was a result of CARES funding and insurance proceeds. The city received \$225,475 of CARES Act Funding and \$290,000 from insurance claims for vehicle and property damage. On the expenditure side, the general fund came in at \$76,139 under the total final budget and departmental expenditures for 2020. The total general fund expenditures for 2020 were over by \$167,361 higher than the 2019 amounts. This contributed to repairs made at city hall and the community center for roof repair.

Page 11-22 - Notes to the Financial Statements – It provides additional information pertaining to the city's financial operations and position.

Page 17 – Capital Assets – There were many capital expenditures for 2020 to include new roofs for the city hall, and the welcome center, and repairs at the Presbyterian Church, and the Welcome Center due to a storm in January 2020.

Page 18-19 Note Disclosures - Long term debt. It was a big year for the city in 2020. The city paid off the 2013 Urban Redevelopment bonds and the GEFA Note Payable. There was an outstanding capital lease at year end with a balance of \$39,087. The city entered no new debt during the year and total interest paid in 2020 on all the long-term debt was only \$10,680.

Pages 25, 26, 28 contained, the 2008, 2014, and 2020 SPLOST funds for the 2020 year with additional information accumulated prior year. The city began collecting on the new 2020 SPLOST referendum in January of 2020. First year collected was \$713, 233, and expenditures came in at \$212,478. During the year the city also spent the remaining 2008 SPLOST monies within the requirements of the approved resolution. The fund is now dissolved, and will no longer be presented in the financial report. All three SPLOSTS funds spent a total of \$678,693 in detailed debt payment for the year. To look at current SPLOST activity, refer to the schedule of special local option sales tax expenditures on page 37.

Mr. Hatch said the items he had spoken on were just a brief summary of the financial activities for the city of Euharlee for 2020. He asked if they had any specific questions about something in the financial statements, he would address them at that time, or they could contact him after the meeting.

Mayor Steve Worthington said thank you to Mr. Hatch, he always does an awesome job.

Council Member Joe Turner stated the city is in better position in 2020 than they were in 2019. Mr. Hatch said, overall, yes. James Stephens, City Manager stated they were close to where he projected, they would be when preparing the 2020 budget, and he commended the city clerk and her staff for during a good job.

Council Member Tim Abbott wanted to know how the city was doing financially, what would he be confident in and what would he be on the lookout for to have a basic conversation.

Mr. Hatch said he could be comfortable in stable tax revenue going forward. As far as things to look out for would be the length of tax revenue, and the overall economic picture for the country and state. He doesn't see tax revenue dipping much over the near time, and something to be worried about and it is leveling off. The sales tax may not be quite what they were in 2020 due to less stimulus monies.

Mr. Stephens added the vehicle tax was possibly impacted by COVID-19 with uncertainty of what employers would do. It was substantial, and a little less than he hoped it would be in 2021. Other than that, SPLOST and LOST for 2021 are running ahead about 15% from the prior year. The state is recovering pretty well. As the council knows, they reeled everything in for 2020, for the biggest part of the year. They have a good team with the auditors' answering questions, and he would be calling to ask about the American Rescue Funds. The treasury still has not finalized all of the guidelines.

Mr. Hatch said they do know it needs to be separated, tracked separately and pretty limited.

Mr. Stephens said he was hoping that when the final guidelines were established, funding for recreation, facilities, and parks would remain in the guidelines. It is currently implied, and it will help the city tremendously. Mr. Hatch stated they are reviewing it because clients are beginning to ask questions.

Mr. Stephens said to Council Member Abbott, the cash increased by \$95,000 which was less than the fund balance increase. The operating cash is a sign they are healthy. Before Mayor Worthington came back on board, the trend was going in the opposite direction for a couple of years; a lot contributed to the SPLOST being dedicated to the URA bonds with not much capital monies available, and used general fund monies for capital items for several years which decreased fund balance.

Mr. Hatch stated getting those bonds paid off, unless they were planning on issuing more, was a major windfall.

NEW BUSINESS

Osborne Park Splash Pad Budget - James Stephens

James Stephens, City Manager provided council with two estimates not for construction purposes, but budget quotes Council Member Joe Turner requested at the last meeting. The budget was pretty close to what they were looking at, and if the council decided to move forward, they would need to officially put bids out for the project. He would recommend them to consider the budget for the re-circulated system which is over \$281,000. He presented per the council's instructions.

Council Member Joe Turner said both quotes were higher than what he expected; to squirt water out of the ground would cost \$200,000.

Council Member Tim Abbott added they needed to focus on the overall master plan and not just cost of the splash pad. They need to review the overall plan, the revitalization, and the overall cost and prioritize the overall plan.

Mr. Stephens stated if the final guidelines for the American Rescue funds allow for parks, recreation and items for health care purposes, then they have over 1 million dollars that can be utilized for Osborne Park or developing the 17-acres. When the decision is made, it can become a reality without hitting the general fund or SPLOST funds. The next step would be for the council to determine the features they would desire to bid on for Osborne Park. They can provide the city manager with the features, or include the committees, and the stakeholders to determine the features. They thoroughly were engaged during the retreat.

Council Member Greg Free said the SWOT meeting was really the thing that brought this home. All the stakeholders, committees', and those in leadership positions really want to see the re-vitalization of Osborne Park. It is a family park, and they all agreed on that but, that was the number one thing, how do they re-purpose it to better serve the community. A plan is the key to getting there, rather than piece it together. Someone can tie it altogether, and come up with a plan that will be useful for the citizens and he would be comfortable with that.

Mr. Stephens stated the company that he received the quotes, would be comfortable to come to Euharlee with their profession and what they can do, and along with Mr. Rhodes, a civil engineer, a design can be prepared for a preliminary starting point before taking bids for an actual construction if interested. The SWOT analysis also included more downtown parking. Mr. Rhodes had already started to look at on the Commissary side of the road.

Council Member Turner stated, with Euharlee being a historic community, you would not include things you would put at Six Flags in an historic area. You need to stick with something that adds to the historic community instead of changing the historic design. They keep talking about a plan but he is not sure what they are talking about. Mr. Stephens stated there is not a set plan, and is looking for input from the full council. Council Member Free stated it should be referred to as, we the full council.

Mayor Steve Worthington said he would like to see a Town Hall meeting and all the committees' present. He would like five items they definitely would like to see in the plan, 5 more wishes, historical facts they really want, and make it a block building so you can add to it.

Council Member Free said to Council Member Turner's point, historical preservation is important to all of them. Ideas should come from the leadership, and all the committee members to see things from a different lens. With a blueprint, you could do it over time.

Council Member David Duncan asked Mr. Stephens in reference to the splash pad, to contact Cedartown to get the water consumption used in their water park.

Mr. Stephens asked Mayor Worthington to find about availability for the church and would advertise the meeting, and communicate to have a thorough turnout.

Gary Rhodes, civil engineer assisting with a land survey for the city and the roadway to Frankie Harris Park campsite, stated there is not a boundary survey or topo, nothing that shows what the city owns. They had to go back to the Lowry survey when the city brought that property which is in 1 piece, and had to put about 3 or 4 different plats together just to get a map of what the city actually owns. The master plan guy will need that before he can even start. They will need a technical picture which is a valid survey, and a topo map for them to begin the planning for the work they will do. You can't do a lot of master planning if you do not know what you have. Osborne Park has nice stuff, but the parking doesn't work. It is gravel, muddy, and the width is not wide enough to turn in and park. There are ways to fix it, which is one reason of trying to get something together to determine what the city owns or controls.

He shared; they may need a 10-to-15-year master plan, and insert something every 5 years. They will need to get something on an easel that has some green, brown and old buildings on it to be able to sell it to the people, and to get them on board. He is just there to help them get going at the other park, which is most important so they can get started; maintenance and a short-term project to get going. The master plan needs to include parking.

Mr. Rhodes provided council with a drawing of the downtown area that included road options for the RVs to enter the park, as well as, the location of the dump station. The council reviewed the document and discussed in detail with several options.

Mr. Stephens said that closing the local entrance to Frankie Harris Park may allow LMIG funds to be spent. LMIG funds were available. He also hoped the American Rescue funds would allow for parks and recreation and the city would not have to use SPLOSTS funds or the general account funds.

He recommended getting the county surveyor to give them a price to survey the land to include the 17 acres, but no need to include Joe Cowan Park. He could have some numbers for them to approve during the October meeting if they desired. Mr. Rhodes said the area downtown and across the bridge was the problem; Joe Cowan Park was a major project.

Council Member Joe Turner motioned and adjourned the meeting. Council Member Greg Free seconded the motion. The motion carried with Council Members Abbott, Duncan, Free, Turner, and Mayor Worthington all voting in favor.

With no further discussion the meeting adjourned at 8.08 pm.

CITY OF EUHARLEE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 5, 2021

Mayor Steve Worthington called the meeting to order. Council Member David Duncan led prayer, followed with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following were present, Mayor Steve Worthington, Council Members Tim Abbott, Greg Free, David Duncan, Joe Turner, and City Manager James Stephens.

Council Member David Duncan motioned to approve the minutes from the Called City Council Work Session 09.07.21, City Council Meeting 09.07.21, and City Council Work Session 09.21.21. Council Member Greg Free seconded the motion. The motion carried with Council Members Abbott, Duncan, Free, Turner, and Mayor Worthington all voting in favor.

2nd Reading of Firearm Ordinance – James Stephens

James Stephens, City Manager presented the proposed draft of the firearm ordinance which was presented with the edit in Section 18-19.3, item d was recommended to be added, and included in the first reading. It reads, it is prohibited to discharge a firearm across property lines without first obtaining written permission of such property owner. The Planning and Zoning Commission recommended the addition after listening to individuals and the city council. The 2nd reading can be approved as presented or with any edits the council sees fit to entertain.

Council Member Greg Free stated he visited the property that was discussed in a previous meeting. He said the issues seemed to more of a safety issue than a legal issue. As a hunter, he could understand the closeness of the neighbors hunting stand, and shared the safety aspect. The concern is, no matter what the council pass it will only affect one of the parties involved. This issue can be resolved between the two land owners, and owners' responsibility to work out the issue. The Planning and Zoning addition is a good point, but doesn't know how much more restrictive they can be without punishing one more than the other. It is not fair, especially knowing the property line stops before the city limits, versus the county limits which is a touchy part of it all. He stated, there is nothing in the ordinance that would prevent the issue at hand. He agreed he didn't know a way for them to regulate without being restrictive, and for them as a government to have a reason to restrict.

Council Member Joe Turner stated he drove around as well, and his biggest concern would be the integrity of the hunter. Based on the location of the stand, there is no way they would not shoot across the property line, and how would they enforce that. It is something they have got into, and he does not see a reasonable way out without crossing some kind of boundary. He would like to see the deer stand moved, but it is nothing he can do about it. There is no way to change it without putting some type of restrictions in place. There is nothing wrong with the way the ordinance is written.

Mr. Stephens stated the only change was item d, and it is consistent with the way state code is written. During hunting season, if there is a conflict and someone fires across the line, it is the game warden jurisdiction.

Council Member David Duncan motioned to adopt the ordinance as presented. Council Member Joe Turner seconded the motion. Council Members Abbott, Duncan, Free Turner and Mayor Worthington all voted in favor.

Campground Name – James Stephens

James Stephens, City Manager emailed to council, and recommended Euharlee Creek Campground at Frankie Harris Park as the campground name, that was suggested by the new Marketing Director, April Lucas. The logic behind the name is it mentions a body of water, and will draw more people on-line with the potential of making a reservation. If the council approved, they asked for permission to buy the domain name so the website could be constructed, and start marketing extensively.

Council Member Greg Free motioned to accept the name for the campground. Council Member David Duncan seconded the motion. The motion carried with Council Members Abbott, Duncan, Free, Turner, and Mayor Worthington all voting in favor.

Quotes from D & T Construction (Court Clerk's Office) – James Stephens

James Stephens, City Manager provided council with a quote from D & T Construction in the amount of \$2850 to make the court clerk's office larger by 6-feet with a window. He and Council Member Turner had a conversation about putting an external window in the brick wall, and the court clerk was comfortable with that. The project does include moving some of the duct work. The extension is prudent, and the court clerk is working on the retention schedule, and filing. Mr. Stephens was not comfortable the city could do the work themselves, so he recommended authorization from council to move forward.

The second item included was to pressure wash, and paint at the Welcome Center for \$2450. He said the city should be able to do the work themselves, and should hold off paying to have the work done.

Council Member Joe Turner motioned to approve the \$2850 to extend the office. Council Member David Duncan seconded the motion. Council Members Abbott, Duncan, Free Turner and Mayor Worthington all voted in favor.

American Rescue Funds Premium Pay for Fall Festival Workers – James Stephens

James Stephens, City Manager spoke with a member of GMA, a consultant for the American Rescue Fund, at a training he recently attended. It is very favorable that any work that is done at Osborne Park, could be funded through the American Rescue Funds in the recreation category for health, and improvements. The only other category would be premium pay for extension workers. He asked the council to approve for staff that would work the Fall Festival to receive premium pay. It will not come out of the general fund, but from the American Rescue funding. The monies are to be used for those that are working out in the community, and could be exposed to COVID-19. The event does meet the definition of essential workers during the pandemic. Per the federal code it could be up to \$13.00 per hour. It would be for Saturday only.

Council Member Joe Turner asked if it would be above their regular salary. Mr. Stephens said, the salaried staff would just get the \$13 and not the over and above. The regular staff would get their regular hours and the \$13.00.

Council Member Tim Abbott asked if it would be a one-time request, and could it be used for Food Truck Friday. Mr. Stephens stated it was a one-time request, and they could retro-back for Food Truck Friday. He said it would be approximately 5 staff to receive pay.

Council Member Joe Turner motion to pay the \$13 for employees working the Fall Festival. Council Member Greg Free seconded the motion. Council Members Abbott, Duncan, Free, Turner, and Mayor Worthington all voted in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

John Winnenberg said he had some great ideas, and presented council with documentation for renovations at Osborne Park. The document included greenspace, environmental, landscaping, fountains, and a splash pad opportunity. He stated, there were several formats for a formulated park, and enhanced destination opportunity. He mentioned several focal locations downtown that could play a good part for the destination.

Jack Winnenberg introduced his company, Verizon Designs. He heard Euharlee was anticipating some expansions, and shared some of his graphic designs. He was advised to speak with April Lucas, Economic Development Director.

Council Member David Duncan motioned to adjourn. Council Member Greg Free seconded the motion. Council Members Abbott, Duncan, Free, Turner, and Mayor Worthington all voted in favor.

With no further discussion the meeting adjourned at 7:42 pm.

**CITY OF EUHARLEE
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES
OCTOBER 19, 2021**

Mayor Steve Worthington called the meeting to order. Council Member David Duncan led prayer, followed with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following were present, Mayor Steve Worthington, Council Members Tim Abbott, Greg Free, David Duncan, Joe Turner, and City Manager James Stephens.

Community Discussion - Potential Re-Development of Osborne Park – James Stephens

James Stephens, City Manager welcomed the community and thanked them for coming out to share their thoughts with the city council on the potential re-development of Osborne Park. The meeting was held at the newly renovated Presbyterian Church that was damaged during a storm back in January 2020. A ribbon cutting for the re-opening was held at 6:00 pm, prior to the city council work session. Mr. Stephens said he remained thankful for the community, and the way they responded the night of the storm and grateful to the city staff for getting everything ready to host the work session.

Recently, Mr. Stephens had the pleasure to participate in the STEM program at the Woodland Middle School. The timing was fantastic, because in their STEM project the students took a look at Osborne Park. He received letters from them, and their observations from Osborne Park. They identified issues, and came up with ways to mitigate or to correct, as well as, studied the cost. Mr. Stephens read one of the letters that evening. At the end of each letter they stated, they would like for the problems to be corrected. He thanked the school, and thank Dr. and one of the students for attending the meeting.

Mr. Stephens described Joe Cowan Park as a great facility. He stated the park was financed through the Urban Re-development bonds, which were paid off over a 7-year period. The Park is an asset to the city, drawing thousands of visitors, and baseball teams from all over. Also, the local schools recently agreed and started using the fields at Joe Cowan instead of Osborne Park.

Mr. Stephens shared some of the financial history, which brought them to the discussion of Osborne Park and the need for some upgrades. The city can do so much more now that the URA bonds are paid off. In addition, the city received \$800,000 from the American Rescue Plan Act, from the federal government related to COVID-19, which is only half of Euharlee's allotment. The city will receive another \$800,000 next year. There are limited uses of the funding, but one of them would be financing, and investments in parks and recreation for quality of life to help improve health. He also shared; the Euharlee millage rate was rolled back to zero after a 3-year tax rate. The council is proactively trying to generate revenue streams, so they may permanently keep the rate at zero. Thank you to the City Council and Mayor Worthington, who kept their word to roll back in 2 years. Mr. Stephens said, he could not say they would not be forced to impose a millage rate again, but he can tell them, the current council is committed to developing new revenue streams.

With all that being said, they are good stewards, and frugal but monies are available to do great things at Osborne Park. A survey was conducted, and the city received good feedback of what people would like to see at Osborne Park.

Mr. Stephens presented a power point presentation to include the following information for Osborne Park:

- Why Do We need It?
 - Adult Fitness Area, Childhood Obesity and Autism.
- Why Do We need It?
 - Multisensory experience, social skills, physical activity, space for community development, and improved mental health, greenspace, and wildlife.
- Brainstorming
 - Incorporate Community Inspired Designs
 - Splash Pad or Jump Pad
 - Adult Fitness Activities
 - Pavilion
- Community Involvement
 - This is the community's park and the city wants their ideas on how to preserve Euharlee's unique historic character while providing for the future needs of the community.

Mr. Stephens went through the power point discussing in detail the highlights listed above. Several of the participants shared their ideas about the up-grades to the park; with some of the same ideas included in the survey. Mr. Stephens shared that Bartow County would be willing to fund a dog park, and to pay for that aspect of the project. The dog park at Hamilton Crossing is popular, and is always over flowing. After everyone that signed up to speak had spoken, Mayor Worthington asked if anyone else wanted to speak. With no further comments, he thanked everyone for coming out and for their participation.

Council Member David Duncan motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 pm. Council Member Greg Free seconded the motion. The motion carried with Council Members Abbott, Duncan, Free, Turner, and Mayor Worthington all voting in favor.

**CITY OF EUHARLEE
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES
NOVEMBER 16, 2021**

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

The following were present, Mayor Steve Worthington, Council Members Tim Abbott, Greg Free, David Duncan, Joe Turner, and City Manager James Stephens.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Playground Pictures—Council Member Joe Turner

Council Member Joe Turner shared pictures of areas at Joe Cowan Park, Osborne Park and the trail that need attention and repairs. He stated they discussed upgrading Osborne Park, but did not want them to neglect what they already have, which is the reason he went and took the pictures. He did not know how the American Rescue Funds can be spent. He would be happy to make a motion for about \$10,000 to be spent to repair the areas in the picture. He feels if they do not fix the small items now, it could be major repairs in the future.

Mayor Steve Worthington stated some of the items Council Member Turner mentioned have already been addressed. There are markers on the trail, and markers for the retention wall. He stated he walked the area earlier that day with the City Manager.

Council Member Turner said the pictures were taken prior to that day, and he did not know they were working on it. He just wanted to bring it to their attention.

James Stephens, City Manager said they were just getting started, and it will take some money. Mr. Stephens and Mayor Worthington did not visit Osborne Park, but thought the items Council Member Tim Abbott had in mind to address may include Osborne Park. He said if they did not choose to move forward with the master plan, he would definitely follow instructions pertinent to the photographs presented.

Council Member David Duncan said yes to the items at Joe Cowan Park, but not Osborne Park until they have the final plan. Council Member Turner said he did not have a problem with that.

Mr. Stephens stated everything that Council Member Turner pointed out does need some attention and he appreciated the visuals. The improvements at Joe Cowan will make a lot of people happy. There is a tremendous amount of people that walk through that eroded area. It's past time to do it.

Osborne Park – Council Member Tim Abbott

Council Member Tim Abbott concurred with Council Member Turner on the repairs needed. However, before starting on a punch list, in the formal meeting held later that evening, he wanted to motion to allow the City Manager to take some bids for conceptual drawings of what the park might look like with the features they have discussed. He believed once that was done, they would have something to look at, get cost assessments, and begin to agree on phases.

He said to Council Member Turner's points. If they have safety issues that could hurt a citizen, take it seriously and repair but do not allow a delay on the bigger plan.

Mr. James Stephens, City Manager said since they were in a work session, they had in front of them a document from Croy Engineers he received late that afternoon. They are a firm with a lot of experience

working with municipal projects. Chief Matthews had experiences with projects they conducted at Powder Springs, Georgia. Two of their representatives were present at the community input meeting that was held at the Presbyterian Church. They would put together a plan, whereby they would take care of the survey issues, and include features the council would like to include in the master plan. In return, they would come back with multiple options to select from, depending upon the ultimate total budget that is set for the project. The information was for council discussion.

Council Member Abbott asked if the process would include others to present conceptual parts of the features, and the phasing part of the work. Mr. Stephens said, if that is the motion made in the regular meeting, they would put specs out for bids and have ready for the December meeting. They will conduct two meetings in December to approve the budget. Hopefully, the proposals will be back in by the second meeting to send out specs to multiple firms.

Council Member Abbott stated, he was asking by way of process, would that be the best way. Mr. Stephens stated it is never unsafe to bid a project. The firm that submitted the information has expertise with this type of project, but it is never unsafe to bid the services on this type of project.

Council Member Abbott said that was all he had to say on that topic, and to quicken the meeting, he tabled the new business items, Frankie Harris Park and the 17-acres for future discussion.

Mayor Steve Worthington asked council if they had a problem with removing items number 2 and 3 off the agenda.

Planning - Council Member Greg Free

Council Member Greg Free said he was encouraged to moving forward. They discussed before in various meetings about getting some public input and the community meeting was great. It was well attended, great feedback, and great a model presented by Mr. Stephens. The public responded with some good ideas for Osborne Park. He previously stated several times, the planning part would be the key, and it would be safe to get multiple bids. He is looking forward to the planning for Osborne Park which was at the top of the SWOT meeting. The planning stage would be important for them to complete in a way it would benefit the citizens. He was encouraged to see they have one, which is a step in the right direction. He looked forward to following up in the general meeting.

James Stephens, City Manager said, some of the feedback they received, like ideas for a fishing deck off of the creek, he thought was an excellent idea. He said, they may have heard it, but it was new information to him. They discussed a veteran's memorial park which could be incorporated into the project. Also, consider to honor the Osborne family as the first Mayor. He is excited about the multitude of options they have.

Council Member Greg Free asked, since they have the 11-sites at Frankie Harris Park, had they received any feedback from the survey regarding the WIFI question. Mr. Stephens asked April Lucas, Economic Development Director if she was prepared to discuss. He stated he knew the older group preferred the WIFI and the younger group was good with hotspots.

Mrs. Lucas stated, the overwhelming majority said it would not completely deter them from renting, but it would be a factor to have the WIFI. The majority of the people are 51 and above, and everyone mentioned they would bring some sort of a device. Also, researched from other parks that had WIFI in terms of revenue; most of their vendors used hotspots for square payments. However, WIFI would be easier, and lend an opportunity to charge more for vendors' spots. She stated she would get the research organized in detail and submit it to them.

Mr. Stephens said the preliminary substantiates getting the cost for WIFI installed at Frankie Harris.

Council Member Free said it fits in the planning part, just like Osborne Park which is why he mentioned it. Down the road the planning will be important, and what the future looks like at Frankie Harris Park too. As campers, his kids like the WIFI, but he is okay with the hotspots. There are passionate folks on both sides.

Mr. Stephens stated for an update the 11 fire rings will be picked up tomorrow and the picnic tables have been ordered.

Council Member David Duncan asked about the fishing deck, and if it could be funded with the American Rescue Funds. Mr. Stephens said it could be a fine line but it is part of recreation.

Council Member Joe Turner said he was fond of Osborne Park and the fields. He wanted them to know he may not agree with them, because he does not want to do away with the fields. They were built for the community. Mr. Stephens said to Council Member Turner, he tried to win him over during his presentation.

They continued discussion about the stakeholders, the SWOT meeting results, and the school using the fields at Joe Cowan Park. The school has been successful using the fields and making progress.

Mayor Steve Worthington shared his thoughts about the 17-acres. It is a seller's market. If the city sold the property, it would be approximately \$500,000. If it was placed in a money market, they could draw interest off that money. They would make more money than any other use of the property.

Mr. Stephens said he was not sure if the money market would make that kind of money, but there are some investments that are acceptable for municipalities to invest in that would pay dividends that would generate money. If they had a half a million dollars, they invested in mutual funds that paid monthly dividends, they could generate over \$25,000 a year in investments that are rated, safe and acceptable for municipalities. If the proceeds from the land were set-up in a restricted fund, so that only the income could be touched, he didn't think it's a terrible idea.

Council Member Abbott said there are things they need to consider. Do they want control of what happens to the 17-acres? Even through planning and zoning, and it is zoned through certain degrees, over time developers know how to fight and win, and he could prove it. If they sell it, they will lose control. Another key thing to think about are their long-term gains better than the development they reap financial revenue for the city. A third question would be do they owe it to the citizens to do something with that prime property on the river that can be enjoyed verses selling and limiting citizens access and enjoying the river. These are questions they should challenge themselves with. There should be careful considerations on many levels before considering selling the property.

Mayor Worthington said he was not suggesting it, it was just a thought.

Public Comments

Chief Jody Matthews introduced Officer DeJuante Miller and shared that he graduated from the Police Academy and would start working Monday morning at 5:00 am.

Mr. Stephens stated that Officer Miller also volunteered time and participated with the cemetery tour and he heard very good reports. He said thank you for acclimating himself intentionally in Euharlee as a new employee.

Council Member David Duncan motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:35pm. Council Member Greg Free seconded the motion. Council Member Abbott, Duncan, Free, Turner, and Mayor Worthington all voted in favor.

**CITY OF EUHARLEE
CALLED CITY COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 16, 2021**

Mayor Steve Worthington called the meeting to order, led prayer, and followed with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following were present, Mayor Steve Worthington, Council Members Tim Abbott, Greg Free, David Duncan, Joe Turner, and City Manager James Stephens.

Council Member David Duncan motioned to approve the minutes from the City Council Meeting, 10.05.21, and the City Council Work Session 10.19.21. Council Member Greg Free seconded the motion. The motion carried with Council Members Abbott, Duncan, Free, Turner, and Mayor Worthington all voting in favor.

1st Reading - Update International Maintenance Code - Don Matthews

Don Matthews, Code Enforcement Officer provided council with a list of the maintenance codes for the city of Euharlee. He requested approval to update the codes to the current 2018 state version which are updated every 3 years.

James Stephens, City Manager stated it will update the city codes to the states 2018 version from the Department of Community Service. The 2021 version will probably be released late in 2022. The updates are necessary at this time because Mr. Matthews has a couple of cases tied to a code concerning some sanitation issues, and other items they want to make sure the codes are updated to deal with the issues properly.

Mayor Steve Worthington stated no vote was needed, it was the 1st reading and would require a 2nd reading before approval.

Quote for Tree Removal at the Covered Bridge - Seth Gobbi

Seth Gobbi, Grounds Supervisor presented council with (5) quotes to entertain tree removal/trimming along the Historic Euharlee Covered Bridge. He provided a diagram of the area, and briefly discussed the trees that would be removed. The goal is to see the historic bridge from the new bridge on Covered Bridge Road. Mr. Gobbi highlighted his recommendation on the documentation, and was asked several questions prior to the approval.

Council Member David Duncan motioned to approve, LW Tree Service, LLC in the amount of \$6,500. Council Member Joe Turner seconded the motion. The motion carried with Council Members Abbott, Duncan, Free, Turner, and Mayor Worthington all voting in favor.

Equipment Purchase - Seth Gobbi

Seth Gobbi, Grounds Supervisor provided council with a copy of quotes for equipment he requested some time ago. He stated that some may have seen them transporting tree limbs down the road, and trying to do it safely as possible. He requested a PTO Driven Wood Chipper that would be used on-site to prevent transporting. The recommended wood chipper has an 8" diameter that will chop almost anything, and is very sturdy. It will reduce the time on the job, will attached to all three tractors, and has

many other great features and benefits. Mr. Gobbi shared examples of roads they have worked on that the equipment would have made the job much easier, and safer. The large wood pile behind city hall could be avoided with the machine. Mr. Gobbi highlighted his recommendation on the summary page he provided. Council asked several questions, and had a detailed discussion about the equipment. Mr. Gobbi stated it will also allow them to do some jobs and not have to wait on Bartow County, and an Opportunity to expand services the county has provided.

Council Member David Duncan motioned to approve the Woodland Mills WC88 wood chipper in the amount of \$3,549. Council Member Greg Free seconded the motion. The motion carried with Council Members Abbott, Duncan, Free, Turner, and Mayor Worthington all voting in favor.

Insurance Renewal – James Stephens

James Stephens, City Manager provided council with a copy of renewal options for the medical insurance coverage that included detailed items for comparison. The first two columns were the current healthcare provider, UnitedHealthcare renewal numbers. He shared that UnitedHealthcare, and WellStar providers were in some type of contractual dispute, and about 50% of the city employees utilize WellStar medical providers. So based on that situation with UnitedHealthcare, the representative from NFP received quotes from CIGNA + Oscar that would provide coverage using WellStar, as well as, coverage for employees that do not use WellStar providers.

Mr. Stephens recommended the Cigna + Oscar high plan which would cost the city \$139,443 for an annual premium, with a \$16,000 savings from the current year. It is a reduction, and he reminded them it pays 100% for employee cost. The council reviewed the information, and entertained several questions that concluded to be an opportunity to market to smaller groups, and a better coverage plan.

Council Member Greg Free motioned to approve the Cigna + Oscar High Plan. Council Member Joe Turner seconded the motion. The motion carried with Council Members Abbott, Duncan, Free, Turner, and Mayor Worthington all voting in favor.

There were no public comments.

Council Member Greg Free motioned and adjourned at 7:23 pm. Council Member David Duncan seconded the motion. The motion carried with Council Members Abbott, Duncan, Free, Turner, and Mayor Worthington all voting in favor.

**CITY OF EUHARLEE
CALLED CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 21, 2021**

Mayor Steve Worthington called the meeting to order, Council Member David Duncan led prayer, followed with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following were present: Mayor Steve Worthington, Council Members Tim Abbott, Greg Free, David Duncan, Joe Turner, and City Manager James Stephens.

Public Hearing- FY 2022 Budget Discussion

Mayor Steve Worthington opened the floor for discussion, and there were no comments during the public hearing.

Approval of Minutes

Council Member David Duncan motioned to approve the minutes from the Called City Council Meeting, 11.16.21, and the City Council Work Session 11.16.21. Council Member Joe Turner seconded the motion. The motion carried with Council Members Abbott, Duncan, Free, Turner, and Mayor Worthington all voting in favor.

FY 2022 Budget Resolution - James Stephens

City Manager, James Stephens started the discussion referring back to the FY21 budget. He stated, they voted to use \$97,000 out of the accumulated fund balance. He was comfortable last year presenting a deficit. Last year felt the impact from 2020 with the ad valorem tax, and title tax reduced by half. He felt it was related to the pandemic, and would run into 2021. The law changed, instead of paying a high tax every year, the tax was paid when the vehicle was purchased, and the registration tax paid each year. In 2020, that tax was 50 percent less than what it customarily would have been. Based on that, Mr. Stephens presented a deficit budget, and was appreciative the council passed the budget.

The tax has turned around, and the excise tax from manufacturing companies has increased. The operations in 2021 did not require using the \$97,000, and the city will end the year with 6-months of fund balance. The policy the city has in place requires them to keep a minimum of 4-months, and below that would constitute serious discussions about the millage rate. The TAVT tax increased, the city monitored expenses closely, and will not use any accumulated fund balance. The 6-months also brings about discussion to lower the millage rate, which was rolled back to zero in 2021. It is good government, providing the same level of services.

Mr. Stephens stated the FY22 budget is balanced, and no projection of using any accumulated fund balance. The LOST revenue is projected with a conservative 6% growth. Historically, it is budgeted flat, but there was a 16% increase in 2021. The resolution reflects a total budget for general fund for FY22 totaled \$2,172,200, SPLOST Fund budget is \$615,000, Police Department budget is \$8,928, and the Info Tech budget is \$8,388. He provided council with a narrative, and recommended the resolution be adopted. The budget does include a 3% increase for staff. The LOST is an increase, but the rest of the revenue is projected flat. He stated it is a conservative realistic budget.

Council Member Joe Turner asked since they received the budget, if any changes had to be made. Mr. Stephens stated, as they are aware, inflation is up, and believes it will continue to go up in 2022.

Because of that he tried to increase from 3% to 5% percent on salaries, because the inflation is higher than 3%. He did not include 5% because he had concerns of higher cost than normal, and it would depend on what inflation does.

Council Member David Duncan asked why the Police Department wages were \$19,000 less than the previous year. Mr. Stephens stated due to some staff changes, some of the salaries are on the Lieutenant line item, and also a budget amended at year end, was made with council approval. The officers' line item decreased, because they now have two lieutenants.

Council Member Greg Free stated, the millage rate was rolled back to zero which lowered the revenue by \$150,000. In the narrative, it stated a lower estimate for the campsites, without the additional sites. Mr. Stephens said yes to the millage revenue, and stated the number for the campsites will be much higher when they have 12-months of operation.

Council Member Free thanked Mr. Stephens for the very detailed notes, and being so thorough because it made things a lot easier. Council Member Free stated they will need to be open minded, because they are faced with decisions on how to replace the millage rate. The notes indicated areas where it could be made possible. He will pay close attention to see how they will travel down the road to replace it.

Mr. Stephens stated another reason the number was low, and hopeful they will re-visit, to possibly add WIFI, and host to full hook sites with a rate change. He didn't budget a full-year of revenue because if they do expand, it may be spring before the work is completed. He used a conservative amount.

Council Member Tim Abbott asked if \$71,000 for the library was operational cost. Mr. Stephens said with the agreement, the city writes 12-monthly checks that total the amount requested for the Bartow County Library. It is close to a mill of tax. Council Member Abbott asked if it was the cost for the city to operate the library in Euahlee. Mr. Stephens said for the number of hours of operation, and they had not increased the amount in the last 4-years. The library cost was included with the millage rate discussion.

Council Member Abbott also asked about the \$74,000 for the Welcome Center, and if it was the total cost for operation. Mr. Stephens said it included, utilities, staff and security measures. It also is close to a mill of tax. If you look at the people going in and out, it is a high number for the number of people that have visited, realistically.

Council Member Abbott stated, the library and the museum both are good assets. If he was asked, how the city was doing financially, he would say they are doing well, with a 6-month reserve but no wiggle room, and not generating wiggle room. He feels they are not leveraging the assets they have, but are beginning to in some ways. They have good assets with high cost, and low utilization. Mr. Stephens said there is a lot of potential, and he tried to hit the high points in the narrative. Council Member Abbott agreed. They are sitting on assets they do little with, but owe it to the citizens to create those opportunities. Mr. Stephens said 6-months for a city their size, is good management practices. The 6-months for the city, is not the same for other cities. They have to continue to be diligent.

Council Member Free stated, it is a good point to be proactive, because the 6-months is a real number, and they need to be very proud of how they got there. The conversation becomes very real looking at the state of the world they live in, and the cost could become eroded very quickly. They have some

exciting opportunities, leverages to replace the millage rate that was rolled back to zero, keeping the fund balance, and the city healthy financially. They have plenty of opportunities to do so in 2022.

Council Member Joe Turner motioned to approve the FY 2022 Budget Resolution. Council Member David Duncan seconded the motion. The motion carried with Council Members Abbott, Duncan, Free, Turner, and Mayor Worthington all voting in favor.

Council Member Joe Turner motioned to adjourn at 7:20 pm. Council Member David Duncan seconded the motion. The motion carried with Council Members Abbott, Duncan, Free, Turner, and Mayor Worthington all voting in favor.

With no further discussion the meeting was adjourned.