



City of Warner Robins City Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 1, 2023

5:30 PM

Council Chambers

Presiding: Mayor LaRhonda W. Patrick

City Officials Present:

Councilman Kevin Lashley
Councilman Larry Curtis
Councilman Keith Lauritsen

Councilman Derek Mack
Councilman Charlie Bibb
Councilman Clifford Holmes

City Officials Absent:

Regular Meeting of Warner Robins City Council

Call to Order: 5:50 p.m.

Adoption of the Agenda: Councilman Lauritsen moved to adopt the agenda with amendment of deleting items #13; & #17. Councilman Holmes seconded the motion. Councilmen Mack, Bibb, Lauritsen, Lashley, Curtis and Holmes voted for adoption of the agenda.

Opening Prayer: Pastor Jacob Green; Shirley Hills Baptist Church

Pledge of Allegiance: Captain Todd Edwards; Warner Robins Police Department

Announcements:

Proclamations/Awards/Presentations:

- Recognition – WRPD – National Police Week Event Participation
- Oath of Office – WRPD – Ryan Turner
- Proclamation – Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month
- Proclamation – Kids to Park Day
- Proclamation – Lupus Awareness Month

Action Items:

Action Item 1	Presentation of Minutes from the Regular Meeting of April 17, 2023.
The minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 17, 2023 were presented for approval.	

Motion:	Councilman Lashley moved for the approval of the minutes for regular meeting of Monday, April 17, 2023.
Second:	Councilman Holmes
Outcome:	Councilmen Mack, Bibb, Lauritsen, Lashley, Curtis and Holmes voted for approval.

Action Item 2	
Formal Public Comments Pertaining to Current Agenda Items	
Motion:	N/A
Second:	N/A
Outcome:	N/A

Action Item 3	
Consent Agenda	
<p>A. Purchasing Bids B. Employee Promotions</p>	
Motion:	Councilman Mack moved for the approval of the consent agenda.
Second:	Councilman Curtis
Outcome:	Councilmen Mack, Bibb, Lauritsen, Lashley, Curtis and Holmes voted for approval.

Action Item 3 (A)	Purchasing Bids
<p>Purchasing Bid List item, attached hereto, were presented for approval. 7 items</p>	

Action Item 3 (B)	Employee Promotions
<p>The following employees are recommended for promotion by their Department Director, and the Mayor and City Council deem such recommendations beneficial.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joel Castro, promoted from Utilities Locator, Job Class #962, Grade 14, Utility Department, to Utilities Locate Crew Leader, Job Class #848, Grade 16, Utility Department, to be effective May 1, 2023. 	

- Jake Cooper, promoted from Utilities Maintenance Worker 1, Job Class #917, Grade 8, Utility Department, to Utilities Locator, Job Class #962, Grade 14, Utility Department, to be effective May 1, 2023.
- Kevin Thomas, promoted from Sign Markings Worker, Job Class #469, Grade 9, Public Works Stormwater Department, to Utilities Locator, Job Class #962, Grade 14, Utility Department, to be effective May 1, 2023.
- Artis Powell, promoted from Fire Inspector, Job Class #522, Grade 16, Fire Department, to Fire Lieutenant (Prevention), Job Class #509, Grade 18, Fire Department, to be effective May 1, 2023.
- Felicia Wright, promoted from Executive Assistant, Job Class #134, Grade 16, Mayor’s Office, to Operations Manager, Job Class #158, Grade 25, City Administrator’s Office, to be effective May 1, 2023.

Action Item 4	Resolution – Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant 2023
<p>A resolution Robins to authorize Mayor LaRhonda W. Patrick to execute the attached Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant (LMIG) 2023 Specifications and Contract Documents, according to the Memorandum of Agreement with the Board of Commissioners of Houston County, the City of Centerville, the City of Perry, and the City of Byron which secures the best price for road improvement projects within the aforesaid jurisdictions as first presented to Mayor and Council and approved on January 9, 2023.</p>	
Motion:	Councilman Bibb moved for the approval
Second:	Councilman Lashley
Outcome:	Councilmen Mack, Bibb, Lauritsen, Lashley, Curtis and Holmes voted for approval.

Action Item 5	Resolution – CDBG Final Statement
<p>A resolution to authorize LaRhonda Patrick, as Mayor of the City of Warner Robins, is duly authorized to execute this Resolution for the Mayor and on behalf of City Council for the CDBG FY2023 Final Statement. (Attached).</p>	
Motion:	Councilman Holmes moved for the approval
Second:	Councilman Curtis
Outcome:	Councilmen Mack, Bibb, Lauritsen, Lashley, Curtis and Holmes voted for approval.

Action Item 6	Resolution – Personnel Rules and Regulations Amendment – Section 420 (b)
<p>A resolution that the Mayor and Council of the City of Warner Robins approve replacing the language of Section 420 (b) of the City’s Personnel Rules and Regulations with the following:</p> <p>After a position has been included in three consecutive job postings (21 days) compiled by human resources and an insufficient number (less than 3) of applicants have applied for a singular (1) position; or if more than one vacancy exists, the requirement to interview a specified number of applicants may be waived. Upon verification that any applicant meets the minimum qualifications outlined in the job posting, the posting will be closed, interviews held to determine an applicant’s suitability for the position and a hiring decision may be made from the available candidates for a single vacant position or the number of open positions. If any city employees are among the qualifying candidates, they will be considered for the job first.</p>	
Motion:	Councilman Curtis moved for the approval
Second:	Councilman Holmes
Outcome:	Councilmen Mack, Bibb, Lauritsen, Lashley, Curtis and Holmes voted for approval.

Action Item 7	Resolution – Excess Cyber Coverage
<p>A resolution to authorize Mayor LaRhonda W. Patrick and City Clerk Mandy Stella to execute a coverage agreement with Crum & Forster for excess cyber coverage.</p>	
Motion:	Councilman Lauritsen moved for the approval
Second:	Councilman Bibb
Outcome:	Councilmen Mack, Bibb, Lauritsen, Lashley, Holmes and Curtis voted for approval.

Action Item 8	Resolution – Employee Computer Policy
<p>A resolution that the Mayor and Council of the City of Warner Robins authorize the rescinding of the current Computer Use Policy and the adoption of the following policies:</p> <p>- Acceptable Use Policy, Email Policy, Password Protection Policy, Internet Usage Policy, Employee Internet Use Monitoring and Filtering Policy, Software Installation Policy, Remote Access Policy, and Disaster Recovery Plan Policy.</p> <p>These policies will be provided to employees and available upon request at the Human Resources Office.</p>	

Motion:	Councilman Mack moved for the approval
Second:	Councilman Bibb
Outcome:	Councilmen Mack, Bibb, Lauritsen, Lashley, Holmes and Curtis voted for approval.

Action Item 9	Resolution – Solid Waste Contract
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A resolution to authorize Mayor LaRhonda W. Patrick to execute contract with GFL Environmental for solid waste collection services.

Motion:	Councilman Bibb moved for the approval
Second:	Councilman Curtis
Outcome:	Councilman Bibb, Lauritsen, Curtis and Mayor Patrick for approval. Councilmen Lashley, Mack and Holmes voted in opposition.

Action Item 10	Resolution – Code Section 24-39(a) (Gas Rate Amendment)
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WHEREAS, pursuant to City Code Section 24-39(a), the gas rates shall be as fixed from time to time by the mayor and council and on file in the office of the City Clerk and;

WHEREAS, the City of Warner Robins Finance Committee, after an evaluation of the operating costs of the City’s Natural Gas Fund, has determined that is necessary and advisable and in the best interest of the City and its utility customers that the Natural Gas rate schedule be adjusted and;

WHEREAS, the Governing Authority of the City of Warner Robins has considered and accepted the recommendation of the Finance Committee and;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the City of Warner Robins, that the gas rate schedule for firm natural gas volumes to residential and commercial customers shall be as follows: the monthly Base Rate Fee shall be twelve dollars (\$12.00), and the monthly Distribution Fee shall be six dollars and five cents (\$6.05).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the City of Warner Robins, that there shall be an Annual Budget Cost Adjustment Rate Rider (the “BCA”), which will be applicable to all firm natural gas customers. The BCA will be used to make interim adjustments to firm gas utility customer rates due to seasonal weather variations and other circumstances that impact gas utility throughput and revenues, as well as the natural gas enterprise operating budget. The BCA will be applied independently of other approved City natural gas distribution charges. The BCA can be utilized monthly or periodically during a fiscal period and is calculated based on recovering gas utility distribution and operational costs according

to the adopted natural gas enterprise operating budget for the current fiscal operating period. Revenues collected from the BCA cannot exceed 5% of the gas utility distribution and operating budget. Any surplus revenues above the 5% maximum are to be returned to firm customers through natural gas rate credits in the current or subsequent fiscal period.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall become effective on the 1st day of July, 2023.

Motion:	Councilman Holmes moved for the approval
Second:	Councilman Lashley
Outcome:	Councilmen Mack, Bibb, Lauritsen, Lashley, Holmes and Curtis voted for approval.

Action Item 11	Ordinance #14-23 – Interparcel Access Amendment
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Ordinance #14-23 of the governing authority of the City of Warner Robins adopts the following addition and amendment to the City Code regarding Appendix C. Zoning Ordinance of the city code.

The following sentence shall be added as the last sentence to the second paragraph of [APPENDIX A]:

The final decision regarding all interparcel access and connectivity shall be determined by the Mayor and City Council.

Motion:	Councilman Curtis moved for approval of Ordinance #14-23 and to waive the second reading.
Second:	Councilman Bibb
Outcome:	Councilmen Mack, Bibb, Lauritsen, Lashley, Holmes and Curtis voted for approval

Action Item 12	Ordinance #15-23 – Article II City Code Section 20-31 (Police Department)
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Ordinance #15-23 of the GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF WARNER ROBINS, GEORGIA

WHEREAS, the Police Department has recommended an amendment to Article II City Code Section 20-31 regarding Hiring of P.O.S.T. certified law enforcement officers, and the mayor and city council deem such amendment to be in the best interest of the City.

IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED, by the governing authority of the City of Warner Robins as follows:

Sec. 20-31 -Hiring of P.O.S.T. certified law enforcement officers.

(a) Purpose. The purpose of this section is to provide a mechanism for the hiring of law enforcement officers who have been certified by the Georgia P.O.S.T. program or other comparable state agencies.

(b) Applicant definitions.

(1) Assessment center means a testing procedure conducted by the city for the assessment of an applicant's ability to serve as a police officer.

(2) Law enforcement officer means an officer as recognized by Georgia P.O.S.T. rules as of January 1, 2022 and has passed the required Classroom or Online Instruction in the areas of Georgia Criminal Law-16 hours, Legal Updates, Use of Force, De-escalation, Community Oriented Policing, Skills Demonstration with GA POST Certified Firearms Instructor and has passed the Georgia's Standard Qualification Course for Firearms Requalification.

(3) Types of officers who may be eligible for the EOT process with Georgia P.O.S.T. are:

-Eligible Federal Peace Officers:

-Military Peace Officers (MP+CID or equivalent);

-Out-of-State Peace Officers; and

- Pre-Service Candidates and Inactive Registered Georgia Peace Officers actively employed in law enforcement, or who have graduated from a basic law Enforcement training course.

(4) P.O.S.T. means State of Georgia Police Officers Standards and Training Council.

(c) General application.

(1) A law enforcement officer who meets the requirements of this section shall be exempted from the requirement of satisfactory completion of both the physical stamina test and the assessment center prior to hiring by the city as would be required by a non-certified law enforcement officer.

(2) In order to be exempted from the physical stamina test and the assessment center requirements, an applicant must meet each of the following criteria:

i. The officer must be P.O.S.T. certified in the State of Georgia, or must be certified by a comparable state agency in a state other than Georgia.

ii. If an applicant is certified in a state other than Georgia, the chief of police, with the approval of the human resources director, will make a recommendation concerning the certification requirements of the state in question. Approval for exemption under this policy shall be granted

only if the applicant is a certified officer in a state whose requirements meet or exceed those of the State of Georgia.

iii. An applicant which meets the requirements of this policy shall be required to take and satisfactorily complete a practical functional fitness test as utilized for assessment of non-certified law enforcement without being under time constraints to gauge functional mobility, a medical examination, psychological test, drug and alcohol test, and polygraph or voice stress test, and a thorough background check.

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If any ordinance, or part thereof, of the City of Warner Robins is in conflict herewith, this ordinance shall have preference. If any provisions of this ordinance are held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect any of the other provisions which can be given effect without the invalid provision, and, to this end, the provisions of this ordinance are declared to be severable.

Motion:	Councilman Lauritsend moved for the approval of Ordinance #15-23 and to waive the second reading.
Second:	Councilman Lashley
Outcome:	Councilmen Mack, Bibb, Lauritsen, Lashley, Holmes and Curtis voted for approval.

Action Item 13	Ordinance—Annexation—Freda Wallentine and Carol Low /4.89 acres/100 and 104 S. Amanda Place
Motion:	
Second:	
Outcome:	

Action Item 14	Motion – PDE [Planned Development District - Extraordinary] Revision
The Avondale (revised)/PDE Townhome Project/NE corner of Feagin Mill Road & S Houston Lake Road	
Motion:	Councilman Mack moved for the approval
Second:	Councilman Bibb
Outcome:	Councilmen Mack, Bibb, Lauritsen, Lashley, Holmes and Curtis voted for approval.

Action Item 15	Motion – PDE [Planned Development District - Extraordinary]
Next Chapter Homes / East side of Hwy 41, South of Crestview Road	
Motion:	Councilman Bibb moved for the approval
Second:	Councilman Mack
Outcome:	Councilmen Mack, Bibb, Lauritsen, Lashley, Holmes and Curtis voted for approval.

Action Item 16	Resolution – Surplus Property (WRPD)
<p>A resolution that the Mayor and Council of the City of Warner Robins that the value of each individual item on the said Exhibit “A” is less, than Five Hundred (\$500.00) Dollars.</p> <p>Also that said property be sold in accordance with the laws of the State of Georgia.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Exhibit “A”</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Glock Model 17 – S/N: YLB935</p>	
Motion:	Councilman Holmes moved for the approval
Second:	Councilman Bibb
Outcome:	Councilmen Mack, Bibb, Lauritsen, Lashley, Holmes and Curtis voted for approval.

Action Item 17	Resolution – Personnel Rules and Regulations Amendment (WRPD Lateral Entry)
Motion:	
Second:	
Outcome:	

Mayor Patrick moved for a motion to be made to move citizen comments before Executive Session. Councilman Lauritsen made the motion and Councilman Holmes seconded. Councilmen Mack, Bibb, Lauritsen, Lashley, Holmes and Curtis voted for approval.

Citizen Comments: Jeannie Duncan; Bernice Hickey

Executive Session – Mayor Patrick requested a motion to enter into an executive session for Real Estate. Councilman Bibb motioned for Executive Session for Real Estate. Councilman Curtis seconded the motion for Real Estate. Councilmen Mack, Bibb, Lauritsen, Lashley, Curtis and Holmes voted for approval of the executive session. The regular council meeting was suspended at 6:50 pm, and the governing body convened into executive session at 6:59pm; the executive session ended at 7:26 pm. The City Clerk is in possession of the executive session minutes.

Mayor Patrick requested a motion to reconvene the meeting at 7:31pm. Councilman Curtis motioned for the request. Councilman Lashley seconded. Councilmen Mack, Bibb, Lauritsen, Lashley, Holmes and Curtis voted for approval.

Mayor Patrick requested a motion to amend the agenda to add item #18; Resolution – Purchase and Sale Agreement. Councilman Curtis motioned for the amendment to agenda. Councilman Mack seconded. Councilmen Mack, Bibb, Lauritsen, Lashley, Curtis and Holmes voted for approval.

Action Item 18	Resolution – Purchase and Sale Agreement
<p>A resolution that Mayor LaRhonda W. Patrick is authorized to negotiate and execute a purchase and sales agreement with Rickey Baker for 201 S. Commercial Circle.</p>	
Motion:	Councilman Lashley moved for the approval
Second:	Councilman Holmes
Outcome:	Councilmen Mack, Bibb, Lauritsen, Lashley, Curtis and Holmes for approval.

Adjournment: 7:44 pm

Next Regular Council Meeting: Monday, May 15, 2023



 Mandy Stella
 City Clerk