

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE QUITMAN CITY COMMISSION
HELD ON TUESDAY, APRIL 07, 2009
AT 7:00 P.M.**

Chairman Curtis L. Pickels called the meeting to order with Commissioners Virgil Walker, Ronald Bryant, and Wendell Chisholm in attendance.

Fire Chief Clay Phillips opened the meeting with prayer.

ITEM NO. 1: APPROVAL OF MARCH 2009 MINUTES

Mr. Chisholm moved that the March 03, 2009 Regular and the March 11, 2009 Called meeting minutes be approved as submitted to the Board. Mr. Bryant seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ITEM NO. 2: ZONING ISSUES

1: Setback Variance

Mr. Chisholm moved to approve a setback variance requested by Ms. Emma C. Lynch allowing a front yard setback of 30 feet and a rear setback of 10 feet. Mr. Bryant seconded the motion. Motion carried.

2: Rezoning Request

Mr. Bryant moved to approve a request submitted by Dr. Larry Black to rezone his property located at 1306 East Screven Street from Heavy Industry to General Business. Mr. Walker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mr. Chisholm moved to waive the rules in order for Ordinance No. 552 be read three times at this meeting. Mr. Bryant seconded the motion. A written approval to waive the rules by Commissioner Annie Bower was presented. Unanimous vote.

City Attorney C. Gerald Spencer read Ordinance No. 552 aloud three times. Mr. Chisholm moved to approve Ordinance No. 552. Mr. Walker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ITEM NO. 3: CITY CLERK'S REPORT

Summaries of revenues/expenditures for month ending February 28, 2009 was provided to the Commission members for review. Normal percentage for this portion of the fiscal year is 66.64%.

No certificates of deposit matured during the month of March 2009.

No. depository accounts were opened or closed during the month of March 2009.

Advertisements have been placed in the Quitman Free Press and on the City of Quitman's website to fill the position of Head Cashier/Office Clerk. Applications will be accepted and reviewed until the position is filled.

Second notices were mailed to businesses with unpaid occupation tax fees. All fees not paid by May 01, 2009 will be turned over to the Quitman Police Department for collection. These fees were due on January 01, 2009.

ITEM NO. 4: CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

The City Attorney and City Manager recommended that the ordinance pertaining to junk automobiles not be changed.

A discussion was held on a proposed ordinance amending the charter to change the title of Chairman to Mayor. It was brought out that the change would be in name only and that there would be no change in the powers designated to the position. It was brought out that the change would have to be advertised in the Quitman Free Press three times and that it would have to be placed on record in the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court prior to the Board's approval of the change.

Mr. Chisholm moved that the City Attorney proceed with advertising the title change in the Free Press and place on record in the Clerk of Superior Court's office as required. Mr. Bryant seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ITEM NO. 5: CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

1] UTILITY BILL COMPLAINT

Mr. Willie Golden addressed the Board concerning his utility bill. The matter was discussed in detail. Mr. Golden was asked to bring his utility bills to City Hall the next morning to compare with City records. Commissioner Chisholm and the City Manager informed Mr. Golden that would meet with him the following morning at City Hall.

2] LEAF AND LIMB SERVICE

Mr. John Hadley addressed the Board concerning limb & leaf pickup service. Mr. Hadley stated that he would like the opportunity to bid on providing the service to the City.

It was brought out that the City currently is not under contract for the service. The City Manager stated that he would advertise for bids on limb and leaf pickup.

3] HORSE AND CARRIAGE RIDES

Mr. David Ragsdale addressed the Board concerning allowing horse and carriage rides on a pre-selected route in Quitman on the third Thursday of each month. The carriage would be equipped with all required equipment such as turn signals, brakes and lights.

Mr. Bryant moved that the downtown merchants be allowed to proceed with the horse and carriage rides on a pre-determined route on the third Thursday of each month as requested. Mr. Chisholm seconded the motion. Motion carried.

4] WATSEWATER DISPOSAL REQUEST

Mr. Chisholm moved not to approve a request from Perry's Septic Pump Out to be allowed to dispose of septic tank contents into the City's Wastewater Treatment Facility. Mr. Bryant seconded the motion. Motion carried.

5] LIGHTING REQUEST FROM CASS BURCH CHRYSLER

Mr. Chisholm moved to approve a request from Cass Burch Chrysler on US Highway 84 for an upgrade of the lighting system at his facility. The cost to the City of Quitman would be approximately \$10,000 - \$17,000. Mr. Walker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

6] NATURAL GAS RATES

Mark DeVane addressed the Board concerning high natural gas rates. He further requested to be placed on the agenda for May's Regular Meeting to further discuss this matter.

Eric Groom, Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia also addressed the Board concerning the City's current gas rates. It was brought out that the City's rates possibly should be increased to meet rising costs.

7] CABLE TV SUB COUNTS

Basic:	73
Advanced:	498
Premium:	346
Adv/Cinemax:	35
Prem/Cinemax:	86
Total Count:	1,038

8] INTERNET SUB COUNT

The March 2009 internet count was 178.

9] EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

The April 2009 Employee of the Month was Police Chief Wesley Ross.

NON-AGENDA ITEM(S):

The Board was informed that the City has applied for an Edward Byrnes Grant in the amount of \$19,000 for personnel.

The City Manager thanked the Fire and Police Departments for their assistance to City crews during the recent rain events.

Ms. Laura Chisholm presented the report for the Brooks County Library for the month of May 2009.

There being no further business, Mr. Walker moved that the meeting be adjourned at 8:30 P.M.

Mr. Chisholm seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Janice M. Jarvis, City Clerk

Curtis L. Pickels, Chairman