

On January 3, 2000, at 5:05 p.m. Mayor Elect Brad Barnard welcomed family and friends to the swearing-in ceremony of the three newly elected officials.

Following the invocation and pledge to the flag, Sharon McCall, Tattnall County Probate Judge, performed the swearing-in of Brad Barnard as Mayor for the City of Reidsville, Curtis Colwell councilmember for Ward I, Post 1, and Jerry Cox councilmember for Ward II, Post 3.

Appreciation was extended to the visitors for their attendance after which the clerk called the organization meeting to order.

Mayor Barnard offered his slate of department heads:

Police Chief	Dale Anderson
Water/Sewer, Street/Lane, and Sanitation Director	Larry L. Spence
Fire Chief	James E. Anderson
City Clerk/Personnel Director	Gloria W. Coleman
Recreation Director	Frank Murphy
Attorney/Judge of Municipal Court	Van Cheney

All were retained in their position by motions duly made, seconded, and carried.

Coordinators for each department as listed;

Recreation Department	Curtis Colwell Carolyn Crume
Fire Department	Curtis Colwell
Street/Lane, Sanitation	Carolyn Crume
Police Department	Jerry Cox James E. Rewis
Water/Sewer Department	Jerry Cox James E. Rewis
Administrative/Finance	Betty L. Adams
Mayor Pro-Tem	Betty L. Adams

All councilmembers accepted the above assignments on motions duly made, seconded, and carried.

James Rewis moved for adjournment. Second by Curtis Colwell. Vote unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

The Mayor and Council met in regular session Monday, January 10, 2000, at 5:00 p.m. All members present.

After the invocation and pledge to the flag, Curtis Colwell made a motion to adopt the December minutes as written. Betty Adams seconded with unanimous vote.

Mayor Barnard recognized Mrs. Barbara Poplin, Tattnall County Family Connections Coordinator, who disbursed some literature on Family Connections missions and programs. She came tonight concerned if this administration would still designate the Willie Lawson property to this organization as a site for an after school enrichment center. They need to know in order to pursue grants. Asked if this property was the city's, Attorney Cheney stated that an appeal had been filed the first part of December 1999, which was denied but Mr. Lawson had 30 days in which to file a petition for a re-hearing. Feelings were that sometime this month the City would hear something and would inform Mrs. Poplin and her board.

On motion by Curtis Colwell and second by James Rewis, it was unanimously voted to issue a business license including a Beer/Wine license to Yong Kim.

Attorney Cheney performed the second reading of the Juvenile Curfew Ordinance (18 years and under). James Rewis moved to adopt. Curtis Colwell seconded. In discussion, it was agreed to publicize this ordinance for two weeks in the local newspaper to educate and make the public aware of this curfew. Curtis Colwell made a motion to make this curfew effective thirty days from adoption. James Rewis seconded with unanimous vote. In case of events that require a special exception, it was advised to bring it before the council.

With reference to the letter from the Tattnall County Manager changing the funding methodology for rural fire protection, Fire Chief Eddie Anderson stated he had met with Mr. Lester Crapse, Jr., and had reached a mutual understanding with this system which will be looked at annually. Curtis Colwell moved to accept the county's quarterly payment method. James Rewis seconded. Motion carried.

Larry Spence reported there will be no extra charge for the Oral Health Fluoride Proficiency Testing being mandated by EPD, only freight for shipping to Atlanta.

Attorney Cheney reported that the Plurality Voting in City Elections cannot be done under Home Rule, it has to be done through special legislation and the Justice Department. If this council is of the mind to change the method from majority required to a plurality election, Representative Terry Barnard will directly introduce it and Senator Jack Hill will follow up. A resolution from this council is needed. Curtis Colwell made a motion to resolve to seek special legislation and call upon our State Representative and Senator to assist in obtaining this amendment. Carolyn Crume seconded. No further discussion, motion carried.

Correspondence from Mrs. Helen Cowart concerning the condition of her driveway was reviewed. She stated it was not properly repaired after sewer construction was done in 1998 and former Mayor Rewis promised her the City would be responsible for replacing a pipe and repairing the asphalt. Mayor Barnard asked Larry Spence to enlighten the council. Mr. Spence stated after Mayor Rewis questioned him about this, he checked his records and inquired from the contractor who stated that there was not a pipe there. Larry does not ever remember seeing a drainage pipe there and even when he was on the police department, he does not recall one being there. He truthfully cannot say for sure.

If the City installs the pipe and catch basins it will cost right at a thousand dollars. Just a pipe under the driveway will cost \$150.28 and make a small ditch. This does not include asphalt to repair her driveway. Roots are causing the break-up of her driveway, not water. Curtis Colwell moved to table a decision until the next meeting. Jerry Cox seconded. No further discussion, motion carried.

A request from the Tattnall County Library Board to appoint a member to fill Mrs. Alda Higdon's position has been made. Carolyn Crume made a motion that each council member render a potential list of candidate names and the Mayor select one from the list. Curtis Colwell seconded. Motion carried.

Mayor Barnard informed the council of a new million dollar facility to be located off John O. Parker Drive that would like to have city sewer. The Mayor, John Cheney, Don Warren and Attorney Cheney are to meet with ALGA Consultant Sara Davis to seek a grant to assist in supplying water/sewer to this industry. Curtis Colwell moved to authorize the Mayor to investigate sources to provide service to this area. Carolyn Crume seconded with unanimous vote.

Mrs. Ruth Anderson, representing the Reidsville Garden Club met with Mayor Barnard and Carolyn Crume requesting permission to name the park across from City Hall in honor of Mrs. Helen Jordan, former State Garden Club President. Mrs. Adams reminded the board that during Mayor Cheney's tenure, it was approved to dedicate said park to all peace officers of Tattnall County. Carolyn Crume moved to table a decision until next meeting. Curtis Colwell seconded. Motion carried.

Frank Murhphy, Recreation Director, asked that a clean-up letter be mailed to the owner of the 9.5 acres of land bordering John O. Parker Drive and see about installing a street light at the entrance of the recreation department off Hwy #23. Also, if a grant is awarded for water/sewer out Hwy #23, install a water tap at this spot.

Charles Mobley appeared inquiring about charges for water he did not feel he owed. He was informed that an investigation revealed that a truck had run over the water line and broke it. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the owner to pay this bill. Action was taken in the October 11, 1999, meeting.

Lenton Brown expressed appreciation for the street light on Lawson Extension and requested the streets in this area be plowed. Also, solicited volunteers to assist with the Easter Egg Hunt in the State Park. They will be raffling off a T-V to help with the expense.

Attorney Cheney reported that a lawsuit has been filed against the Reidsville Development Authority, against Attorney's Van Cheney, Glen Cheney, Sharon Cheney, Gloria Shortlidge among others, growing out of an estate handled in 1993. Reidsville Development Authority acquired the property where the post office is and that estate is part of the suit. It is questioned if the City, under its insurance coverage, cover the development authority and no response has been received as of this date.

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Upon receiving revisions to D.O.T. Speed Ordinance #120699, Curtis Colwell made a motion authorizing Mayor Barnard sign on behalf of the City after approval by the police department. Carolyn Crume seconded with unanimous vote.

Receiving complaints concerning the school crossing guard at the Reidsville Elementary School, Mayor Barnard will talk with Superintendent Ronnie McCall.

Mayor Barnard announced the Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade being held in Glennville Saturday, January 15th.

Carolyn Crume requested again that the flags be displayed on Monday, January 17, in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. They are flown on other holidays and should be on this day. The Mayor stated that the last time this was brought up, Mr. E.O. Brazell stated that the V.F.W. would loan the flags if someone would put them up. After a long discussion, Mayor Barnard stated he would talk with Mr. Brazell again.

With reference to the City's liability insurance, Georgia Interlocal Risk Management Agency (GIRMA) notified the City that they will provide a property appraisal service at no charge. Any additional buildings that do not appear on the current property schedule will be appraised upon the city's authorization at a fee. The board felt this was a good idea. Curtis Colwell moved to accept their service. James Rewis seconded. In discussion, Betty Adams questioned the effect the appraisal would have on our insurance premium. Inquire if we would have to accept their appraisal. Motion carried.

Councilor Jerry Cox reported checking on two dangerous pits at the recreation department. With the council's permission, Mr. Cox will get Commissioner Beecher to assist in filling these holes and level so grass can be planated. Mr. Spence related that dirt from this site was used on Hutcheson Street and has been approved to be used on paving Blount and Ohoopee Streets. Considering the liability involved, Jerry Cox made a motion to have Mr. Beecher grade and fill these holes and level. Curtis Colwell seconded with unanimous vote.

Mr. Cox related to an incident at Mrs. Nona Floyd's residence with her sewer. He understood the problem was out somewhere in the street and happens about once a month. Mr. Spence stated he had replaced the line when he first began with the W/S Department and had to go back about every three months to clean out her line. The last time was about three weeks ago and dug up from her clean out plug to where the line goes under the street, it was full of roots, part on city property and part on hers. The line in her yard was replaced again, second time in three years (about 22 ft. of pipe). Upon inspection (manhole to first clean-out plug) that line is clean and working properly.

Carolyn Crume asked that a clean-up letter be mailed to the owner of a burned house on Alexander Street where trash is being dumped.

The City is checking on a 4-way stop at College Street and Brumby Avenue.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m. on motion by Curtis Colwell, second by Carolyn Crume, and unanimous vote.

A called meeting was held Wednesday, January 19, 2000, with all members present except Carolyn Crume.

PURPOSE OF MEETING: Resolution to the Tattnall County Commissioners

Larry Spence delivered the invocation followed by the pledge to the flag.

Mayor Barnard turned the meeting over to Attorney Cheney who felt that after a community meeting where the Tattnall County Commissioners decided not to extend any financial assistance to the Tattnall Memorial Hospital beyond that budgeted for this fiscal year, an effort should be taken to try and get the commissioners to reconsider their decision.

Attorney Cheney prepared a proposed resolution for the City Council to consider and distributed same for review. James Rewis moved to adopt the resolution. Curtis Colwell seconded with unanimous vote.

In a discussion following the signing, the Mayor stated he knew of nothing the City could do without raising ad valorem taxes. Attorney Cheney revealed that it was suggested in a hospital authority meeting that the municipalities in the county might be willing to cede some portion of their SPLOST. Since everyone did not attend the meeting held at the high school, Jerry Cox asked if everyone was familiar with the needs of the hospital, the amount of money, and what the hospital was asking the commissioners to do? Attorney Cheney stated that the hospital made requests in the amount of over \$700,000 dealing with past due accounts, current indebtedness, and to some extent, continuing operating expenses. They also have a debt of close to \$2.7 million dollars. He further stated that the thrust of this resolution is not for the municipalities to raise ad valorem tax. The ultimate decision is up to the county to provide additional funding and the commissioners are within their rights to take the position that they are not going to fund it. However, the hospital is an important asset for future development in this county and contribute to the economy.

Mr. Cox asked "what if the county cannot afford to continue to finance the hospital"? Attorney Cheney replied that this is the county's position now and turned the floor over to the Tattnall County Manager for his input.

Mr. Crapse agreed that the commissioners had a right to their decision, and explained why it turned out this way. Part of the reason to not fund the hospital further is they asked for \$715,000 this year, the county funded \$241,206 of this. They did not fund, but chose to defer, that is not to collect the \$350,000 worth of notes that was part of the package until such time the hospital could afford to pay back. So the county funded essentially about \$550,000 of the \$715,000 package. They issued a check for \$110,000 this week to cover payroll and utility bills. This was the remainder of what they had in the budget. They have also got some money from the State.

Mr. Crape related that he made a proposal for the county to buy the hospital for three million dollars, pay off all the debts and give the hospital \$266,000 worth of operating capital. This would sustain the hospital for about 100 days. This proposal was to consider, not a recommendation. There was some caviance to this proposal being:

- 1) Memorial Health University Medical Center give up their right to first refusal, this they agreed to do.
- 2) Agree all assets on this purchase would come to the county.
- 3) Hospital would give assurance they would operate in the black.

There was never any assurance from the hospital this could be done. Memorial nor bankers would back this proposal, therefore, it was not considered a sound economic decision for the county commissioners to back.

The commissioners did say they would re-consider their decision "if" a viable proposal was brought to the table. Feelings were that Mr. Tomberlin and Mr. Reilly were on the road to saving this hospital.

Mr. Tomberlin layed out a business plan to the commissioners but he nor Memorial are willing to guarantee it will work but believe they have turned the corner. Mr. Crape, after talking with citizens in other cities, believe if Reidsville will set the example and go to the other cities in the municipal format and try to come up with some formula in partnership with the hospital, to guarantee operational over-run, that would release the commissioners to re-open the case. Mr. Crape has contacted some outside banks himself but believes the solution is going to be internally.

The main jest is getting over the operations, then grant/capital money can come in later down the line for capital improvements.

Mrs. Adams posed the question "aren't there still cooperations that will take over the hospital and get it on it's operating feet? This happened in Vidalia some years ago". Attorney Cheney replied that their deals are, "if there are profits, they keep; but losses the county will underwrite". No element of risk to the party coming in to manage the hospital. He continued that Memorial has put in a good bit of money both directly and in-kind.

When asked about inmates going to the Evans County Hospital for health care, it was explained that the main contract comes from Atlanta.

In closing, emphasis was placed on pursuing a solution to keep the hospital open and that is the intention of this resolution.

James Rewis seconded the motion made by Curtis Colwell to permit the police department to purchase tires at approximately \$514. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m. on motion by James Rewis. Curtis Colwell seconded with unanimous vote.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, it has come to the attention of the Mayor and Council of the City of Reidsville, Georgia, that Tattnall Memorial Hospital is in imminent danger of closing due to lack of funds; and

WHEREAS, it has also come to the attention of the Mayor and Council that the Board of Commissioners of Tattnall County has voted not to extend any financial assistance to the Hospital beyond that budgeted for this fiscal year; and

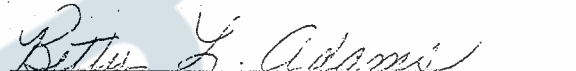
WHEREAS, it would have an enormous adverse impact on the City of Reidsville and Tattnall County to lose Tattnall Memorial Hospital, both in the provision of healthcare and its contribution to the economies of the City and County; it is therefore unanimously

RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the City of Reidsville do hereby call upon the Board of Commissioners of Tattnall County to provide such financial assistance to Tattnall Memorial Hospital as is necessary to provide for its continued operation.

SO RESOLVED, in special session, this the 19th day of January, 2000.

CITY OF REIDSVILLE, GEORGIA


BRADLEY BARNARD, MAYOR


BETTY L. ADAMS, COUNCIL


CURTIS COLWELL, COUNCIL


JERRY COX, COUNCIL

absent - surgery
CAROLYN L. CRUME, COUNCIL


JAMES E. REWIS, COUNCIL