

City of Byron
Mayor and Council Minutes
January 13, 2025

The City of Byron Mayor and Council met in regular session in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Complex. Mayor Michael Chidester and Council Members James Richardson, Rusty Adams, Michael Chumbley, Chris Hodges, and Alan Dorsey were in attendance. City employees that attended were City Administrator Tiffany Sandefur, City Clerk Telina Allred, Deputy Clerk Elissa Lee, Director of Public Works Tiffany Bibb, Captain Bryan Hunter, Chief Court Clerk Dede Thibodeaux, and Fire Chief Josh Riley. City Attorney Brian Causey attended the meeting, and eleven (11) visitors were present. A representative from the Leader Tribune was also in attendance.

Mayor Michael Chidester called the meeting to order at 6:00pm, asked James Richardson to give the invocation, and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA AMENDED: Mayor Chidester asked that the agenda be amended to add as item (14) to consider the old City Hall bid for roof repairs.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion made by Michael Chumbley, seconded by Chris Hodges to approve the minutes of the Mayor and Council Meetings held on December 9, 2024. Unanimous.

ANNEXATION REQUEST: Motion made by Michael Chumbley, seconded by Chris Hodges to approve the request for annexation of property located at Hwy 247 Connector, map/parcel 052A 081, from County R-AG to City R-1 low density residential. Unanimous.

REZONING REQUEST: A public hearing was called at 6:06 pm regarding the rezoning request of property located at map/parcel 052A 081. Those in favor were Matt Widner who spoke regarding a rezone of Phase 2 along with Eugene Mittuch to acquire city water and sewer services. Mayor Chidester asked about a service road for heavy equipment to use to cut down on wear and tear of the existing street. Those opposed were William Harry Walker, William Mitchelson, and Floyd Pinkney who all reside in the Autumn Cove subdivision. They spoke about their worry of damage to the county roads created by construction equipment vehicles. They requested a construction easement that would cut down on the traffic and be safer regarding egress. The public hearing closed at 6:18pm. Motion made by Rusty Adams, seconded by James Richardson to approve the rezoning and provide use of the easement as construction access. Unanimous.

PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION MINUTES: Motion made by Michael Chumbley, seconded by Rusty Adams to approve minutes if the Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting held on December 19, 2024. Unanimous.

CITIZEN TIME TO ADDRESS COUNCIL: No one to speak

APPOINT ELECTION SUPERINTENDENT: Motion made by Chris Hodges, seconded by Alan Dorsey to appoint Betty Sims as Election Superintendent. Unanimous.

SET QUALIFYING FEES: Motion made by Chris Hodges, seconded by Michael Chumbley to set a qualifying fee of \$90.00 for Council Members Post 3, Post 4, and Post 5 regarding the November 4, 2025, General Election. Unanimous.

RESOLUTION REGARDING CIVILITY IN THE CITY OF BYRON: Motion made by Michael Chumbley, seconded by Chris Hodges to approve the following Resolution, pledging to practice and promote Civility in the City of Byron. Unanimous.

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Byron (the “Council”) the governing body of the City of Byron, Georgia (the “Municipality”), recognizes that robust debate and the right to self-expression, as protected by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, are fundamental rights and essential components of democratic self-governance; and

WHEREAS, the City Council further recognizes that the public exchange of diverse ideas and viewpoints is necessary to the health of the community and the quality of governance in the Municipality; and

WHEREAS, the members of City Council, as elected representatives of the community and stewards of the public trust, recognize their special role in modeling open, free and vigorous debate while maintaining the highest standards of civility, honesty and mutual respect; and

WHEREAS, City Council meetings are open to the public and thus how City officials execute their legal duties is on public display; and

WHEREAS, civility by City officials in the execution of their legislative duties and responsibilities fosters respect, kindness and thoughtfulness between City officials, avoiding

personal ill will which results in actions being directed to issues made in the best interests of residents; and

WHEREAS, civility between City officials presents an opportunity to set a positive example of conduct and promotes thoughtful debate and discussion of legislative issues, resulting in better public policy and a more informed electorate while also encouraging civil behavior between residents; and

WHEREAS, civility between City officials is possible if each member of the elected body remembers that they represent not only themselves, but the constituents of their district and city; and

WHEREAS, in order to publicly declare its commitment to civil discourse and to express its concern for the common good and well-being of all of its residents, the City Council has determined to adopt this resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION ONE

The City of Byron pledges to practice and promote civility within the governing body as a means of conducting legislative duties and responsibilities.

SECTION TWO

The elected officials of the City Council enact this civility pledge to build a stronger and more prosperous community by advocating for civil engagement, respecting others and their viewpoints, and finding solutions for the betterment of the City of Byron.

SECTION THREE

This pledge strives to ensure that all communication be open, honest, and transparent as this is vital for cultivating trust and relationships.

SECTION FOUR

This pledge strives to show courtesy by treating all colleagues, staff and members of the public in a professional and respectful manner whether in-person, online or in written communication, especially when we disagree.

SECTION FIVE

This pledge strives to ensure mutual respect to achieve municipal goals, recognizing that patience, tolerance and civility are imperative to success and demonstrates the Council's commitment to respect different opinions, by inviting and considering different perspectives, allowing space for ideas to be expressed, debated, opposed, and clarified in a constructive manner.

SECTION SIX

This pledge demonstrates our commitment against violence and incivility in all their forms whenever and wherever they occur in all our meetings and interactions.

SECTION SEVEN

The City of Byron expects members of the public to be civil in its discussion of matters under consideration by and before the City Council, with elected officials, staff, and each other.

ADOPTED this 13th day of January, 2025.

RESOLUTION REGARDING AGREEMENT WITH FIRST DUE: Motion made by James Richardson, seconded by Chris Hodges, to approve the following Resolution authorizing the Fire Chief to enter into an agreement with First Due regarding dispatch services. Unanimous.

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BYRON, GEORGIA AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF BYRON AND LOCALITY MEDIA, INC. FIRST DUE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the City of Byron, Georgia and it is hereby so resolved by the authority of same that the Mayor is authorized to execute an agreement with Locality Media, Inc, First Due in substantially the same form as the attached Exhibit "A" which by this reference is made a part of this resolution.

All Resolutions or portions of Resolutions in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

**SO RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BYRON,
GEORGIA ON THE 13th DAY OF JANUARY, 2025.**

RECOMMENDATION OF AWARD REGARDING BENJAMIN HAWKINS PARKWAY:

Motion made by Michael Chumbley, seconded by Chris Hodges to conditionally award Greene's Water Wells for New Deep Well & Chemical Treatment Building Contract in the amount of \$3,138,138.00 contingent upon EDA's approval of submitted procurement and bid opening documentation per their guidelines. Unanimous.

RECOMMENDATION OF AWARD REGARDING BENJAMIN HAWKINS PARKWAY:

Motion made by Michael Chumbley, seconded by Chris Hodges to conditionally award LaKay Enterprises, Inc. For Benjamin Hawkins Parkway Water System Improvements Contract in the amount of \$933,668.60 contingent upon EDA's approval of submitted procurement and bid opening documentation per their guidelines. Unanimous.

ORDINANCE (2024-11) REGARDING CHAPTER 40, SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT CHARGE

FOR WATER/WASTEWATER: Second reading was held of AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BYRON, GEORGIA, TO AMEND CHAPTER 40-UTILITIES, ARTICLE 1.-IN GENERAL, OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF BYRON BY REMOVING SECTION 40-3 TAP FEES, IN ITS ENTIRETY AND BY REPLACING WITH AND INSERTING A REVISED SECTION 40-3. -TAP FEES., AS SHOWN BELOW, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES. Motion made by Chris Hodges, seconded by Michael Chumbley to adopt Ordinance #2024-11. Those in favor were James Richardson, Michael Chumbley, Chris Hodges, and Alan Dorsey. Rusty Adams opposed. MOTION PASSED.

RESOLUTION FOR SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT SCHEDULE OF FEES:

Motion made by Chris Hodges, seconded by James Richardson to approve the following Resolution for System Development Schedule of Fees. Those in favor were James Richardson, Michael Chumbley, Chris Hodges, and Alan Dorsey. Rusty Adams opposed. MOTION PASSED.

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A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BYRON, GEORGIA TO ADOPT A SCHEDULE OF FEES FOR SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the City of Byron, Georgia and it is hereby so resolved by the authority of same that the attached Exhibit "A", Schedule of Fees, which by this reference is hereby made a part of this Resolution, is adopted as the Schedule of Fees for System Development for the City of Byron effective January 14, 2025.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in the event any fee included on the Schedule of Fees is otherwise set forth in a City of Byron Ordinance, then said fee on the Schedule shall not apply but rather the Ordinance fee shall be applied.

SO RESOLVED this 13th day of January, 2025

OLD CITY HALL ROOF REPAIRS: Motion made by Chris Hodges, seconded by Alan Dorsey, to approve a bid for Old City Hall roof repairs. Option 2 included a 1" thick repair less the \$2500 repairs that had already been made. The amount agreed upon was \$25,400.00. Those in favor were James Richardson, Michael Chumbley, Chris Hodges, and Alan Dorsey. Rusty Adams abstained from the vote. MOTION PASSED.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion was made by Michael Chumbley, seconded by Chris Hodges to adjourn the meeting at 6:35pm. Unanimous.

Elissa Lee
Deputy City Clerk

