

MINUTES
AMERICUS CITY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, JUNE 10TH, 2025
CITY HALL
BUSINESS MEETING

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Dustin Wright. Council members present were HARMON, NUESSEN, BURTON and HINRICHS. Council member HAMLIN was absent. Also present were City Clerk Lesley Harbaugh, City Treasurer Dodie Doudna, Attorney Steve Atherton, and Maintenance Nick Gadino.

VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: Laverne Soetebier and Tim Burton

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *April 21st, 2025 special meeting, May 13th, 2025 business meeting, May 28th special meeting*
Moved by BURTON to approve the April 21st, 2025 special meeting minutes. Motion seconded by NUESSEN 4-0 vote. Moved by NUESSEN to approve the May 13th business meeting minutes with a spelling error correction. Motion seconded by HINRICHS. 3-0-1 vote. Moved by NUESSEN to approve the May 28th special meeting minutes. Motion seconded by HINRICHS 4-0 vote.

BILLS TO PAY: Moved by HINRICHS to approve the accounts payable for June 2025 in the amount of \$19,180.17. Motion seconded by HARMON. 4-0 vote.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

PROJECT PLAYSCAPE: HINRICHS reported that they will be doing test runs on the splashpad soon and the grand opening is set for Saturday, June 14th from 9-1 with an ice cream truck as well as a hot dog cookout. They have been working on growing grass and will put stones in to create a path to deter walking on the hay and new grass. Project Playscape is participating in a community tour that will be doing events in Americus on the 14th, Allen and Admire in July and Reading in August. The events will feature kids' community activities sponsored by various non-profit groups.

MAINTENANCE: Nick Gadino reported that maintenance has been busy with mowing and weed eating. Chip seal rocks are expected soon. The north sewer lift station is having some ongoing issues and Nick has asked the company about extending the warranty.

CLERK: Lesley Harbaugh reported that the Americus Animal Clinic went well with 25 dogs registered, 35 animals vaccinated, and 2 kennel licenses issued.

POLICE:

ADOPT THE AGENDA: Moved by HINRICHS to adopt the agenda. Motion seconded by BURTON. 4-0 vote.

1. **BFP REMODELING LLC:** *Building Plans* NUESSEN moves to table. Seconded by BURTON. 4-0 vote.
2. **TIM BURTON:** *Sewer Issue* Tim Burton let the council know that a recent sewer issue at 903 Main led to the discovery of a septic tank and that the house was not connected to the main sewer line. Burton was informed to have his tenant file a claim with the city for the funds paid for sewer service, but that the liability does not fall to the city. Tim left at 7:21 p.m.
3. **2026 BUDGET:** *Review* Laverne Soetebier presented the city with a draft of the 2026 Budget. HINRICHS asked Laverne to add a laser leveling system for the ballfields. Laverne said she is working to keep us below the Revenue Neutral Rate and she will have the final ready in the next 7-10 days. Laverne left at 7:34 p.m.
4. **EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK:** The council reviewed the proposed changes and updates. Tabled until next meeting.
5. **SWIMMING POOLS:** The council discussed changes they would like to see to the current ordinance regarding swimming pools in city limits. The consensus of the council is to amend the ordinance at the next meeting.
6. **MAIN STREET PARKING:** The council discussed issues that need to be addressed with parking on Main Street during events.
7. **HARRY AND LLOYD'S:** *Liquor license renewal* Mike Phillips has applied to renew his liquor license with the city. We have received a copy of his state license and have received no complaints. Moved by HINRICHS to approve Harry & Lloyd's liquor license renewal contingent upon receiving his state license and payment for the city license. Motion seconded by BURTON. 4-0 vote.
8. **2024 AUDIT:** *Engagement letter from Cindy Jensen* It is the consensus of the council to authorize the mayor to sign the engagement letter.
9. **ACCOUNTABILITY AND ETHICS FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS:** NUESSEN addressed the council about council members and mayor leading a good example and following the rules of the city. She believes elected officials should follow the established rules to prevent situations where officers are required to get involved. HINRICHS presented information about conflict of interest and reminders of rules and guidelines sent from legal. Legal reminded the council members that due to conflict of interest, members should not be voting on any matters that they have a personal interest in. HINRICHS would like to see everyone being held accountable going forward.

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION: *Non-elected personnel matters* Moved by NUESSEN to go into executive session for non-elected personnel matters at 8:30 p.m. for 30 minutes with council, mayor and legal present. Motion seconded by HINRICHS. 4-0 vote. Back in open session at 8:59 p.m. Mayor Wright has approved to hire Jacob Posey for the full-time maintenance position. Moved by NUESSEN to adjourn at 9:00 p.m. Motion seconded by HARMON. 4-0.

Dustin R. Wright, Mayor

absent

Lea Hamlin, Council President

Nicky Nuessen

Britney Hinrichs

Kayla Burton

Bill Harmon