

CITY OF WHIGHAM
COUNCIL MEETING
July 8, 2025

The Whigham City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, July 8, 2025 at the Whigham City Hall with Mayor Trey Gainous presiding. Gainous called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. Robert Porter opened the meeting with a prayer and led the Pledge to the Flag.

Those present were: Mayor Trey Gainous, Mayor Pro Tem Jim Sellers, Jimmie Laing, Andrew Walden, Joel Singletary and Robert Porter. Staff present: Utilities Director Josh Ausburn, Whigham Police Officer Tony Black and City Clerk Rachel Jenson. Members of the public present were Decaris Leeks, Liresa Walden, and the Grady County Manager Celeste Tyler.

Agenda Adoption

A motion was made by Jimmie Laing to adopt the agenda as presented. Andrew Walden seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Minutes Adoption

A motion was made by Robert Porter to adopt the minutes from the June meeting. Joel Singletary seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Public Hearing

Proposed Budget for 2025/2026 FY : Mayor Gainous presented copies of the budget for the Council to review. Gainous explained everything as far as services and products has increased except us with rates. Gainous pointed out that in the police department, the maintenance had decreased with anticipation to use the school zone camera revenue for any repairs. The DDA numbers were also not included in the budget as they were just starting off and not anticipating for much to be done right now. Gainous did remind the Council the City was going to pay for the legal representation for the DDA when it came time to do so. Mayor Pro Tem Sellers asked if rate changes that had been presented were included, reflecting the \$75,000 difference in the revenue. Gainous replied that the changes were included as estimates, and that the difference was from the suggested rate changes and pinching pennies. There were no further questions.

Public Participation

Decaris Leeks: Southern Soul Concert

Mr. Leeks stated there would be a Southern Soul Concert at the Roundup Grounds on August 2. The event would be from 10 AM to 10 PM. It would be a family event. Mr. Leeks thanked the Council for considering his application. **A motion was made by Robert Porter to approve the special event permit for Mr. Dacaris Leeks. Joel Singletary seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.**

Larissa Walden: Speed Concerns in Neighborhood

Ms. Walden stated she had concerns about people speeding through their neighborhoods and was requesting the Council consider placing "Children at Play" signs or speed bumps. Ms. Walden stated the speed limit posted was 30 mph in residential areas except for one sign on Christopher Ave that was posted as 20 mph. Chief Black stated the 20 mph was never voted on to be changed or changed with

DOT, as it was placed to help aid in slowing others down. The Council thanked Ms. Walden for coming and voicing her concerns. Mayor Gainous said her suggestions would be considered.

Unfinished Business

Fees/Rates Discussion: Mayor Gainous stated the discussion between him, Ausburn and Jenson concluded with the final fee suggestion of \$5 per electric customer meter to be added. Gainous also stated during the budget process, he and the department heads had calculated what it would benefit to dissolve the water minimum of 2,000 gallons and have the water bills begin at \$20 inside the city and \$25 outside the city and bill each 1,000 gallons instead. Gainous stated he, Ausburn and Jenson felt it would be the “modest” way to do things without changing rates right now and would be spread evenly over electric and water customers, and not just one or the other. Porter agreed and stated there was no need to put this off if we need the increase and it seemed to be the fairest route. The council agreed the Clerk was to get the City attorney to draft a resolution for the electric fee and water rate changes to be brought for a vote at the next Council meeting.

Mr. Gurley, the husband of Alicia Byrden-Gurley, came in the meeting at 6:28 and Mayor Gainous told him he could go ahead and address the Council, on Mrs. Gurley’s behalf. Mr. Gurley asked the Council to consider allowing a negotiation for the rent for the commercial building at 114 W Broad Ave so that he could do repairs and get the building ready. Gurley asked if the Council would consider giving him the reduced rent for 2 months, and then to go to the original rent amount of \$700 per month. Mayor Gainous inquired what the business would be. Gurley responded they wanted to do a sandwich shop. Mayor Pro Tem Sellers inquired on when they would like their lease to start, to which Mr. Gurley responded with August 1st. Sellers said he did not see a problem with the rent amount being \$500 for the months of August and September and then resuming the \$700/month rent beginning October 1st. Sellers asked Gurley if he was comfortable with a 12 month lease and then we would discuss renewal. Gurley stated yes, he would be good with that. All of the Councilmen present agreed. Mayor Gainous asked the City Clerk to get with the City Attorney about the lease agreement with the adjusted rent specifications and then make contact with Mrs. Gurley when it was ready.

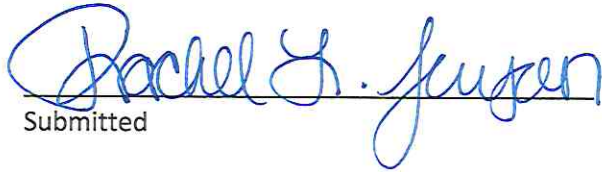
Council Matters of Interest

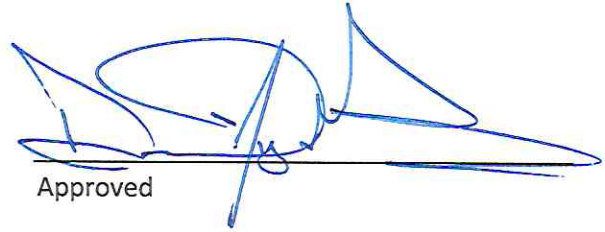
SPLOST: Mayor Gainous stated he and Mayor Pro Tem Sellers had attended the first meeting for the SPLOST/Intergovernmental Agreement. Gainous asked the County Manager, Celeste Tyler, to say something on the matter. The County Manager stated that she understood the City wanted to ask for more for the SPLOST since the population, which is a factor for each entity allotment, had actually decreased for Whigham in the last census. Tyler said she would ask for double the amount the City of Whigham was currently receiving. Gainous stated that he would do that because they may not give the full amount we were asking for, but even a little less would be better than decreasing the total amount. Gainous stated he was going to cite projects such as a LifeFlight landing pad to be paved for better use and also would argue that roads were utilized more by County residents than actual Whigham residents. Tyler suggested that the Mayor get a prioritized project list to present at the County meeting.

Council Matters of Interest

Mayor Pro Tem Sellers inquired if any contact had been made to the owner of the trailer at 102 NW Harrell Ave. as the lot had been unclear for some time. Chief Black stated he had spoken with the owner but he would call her again that it needed to be handled ASAP.

With no other matters to tend to, a motion to adjourn was made by Jim Sellers. Joel Singletary seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:48 PM.


Submitted


Approved