

CITY OF WHIGHAM
COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 14, 2025

The Whigham City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, October 14, 2025, at the Whigham City Hall with Mayor Trey Gainous presiding. Gainous called the meeting to order at 6:01 P.M., and 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, Robert Porter, Utilities Director Josh Ausburn, Officer Daniel Carr, and City Clerk Rachel Jenson.

Members of the public present: Jane Trulock and James Whigham

Agenda Adoption

A motion was made by Andrew Walden to adopt the agenda. Robert Porter seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Minutes Adoption

A motion made by Robert Porter to approve the minutes from the September meeting. Jimmie Laing seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Public Hearing

Alcohol License Application: Bucha Food Mart DBA Huds 5:

Mayor Gainous stated the new owners had applied for the beer and wine alcohol licenses. City Clerk Jenson stated all requirements had been met that were set forth in the City of Whigham alcohol ordinance. **Jim Sellers made a motion to approve the application for Bucha Food Mart DBA Huds5. Robert Porter seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion, Motion carried.**

Public Participation

James Whigham: Mr. Whigham stated he had come to the meeting inquiring about why the City did not have sewer yet and had come this evening with information on grants. Mr. Whigham stated the City of Megs had recently received a grant for water system improvements in the amount of \$1 million dollars. Whigham stated the City needed growth, but we also need to give people a reason to come. Sellers stated the City had applied for CDBG grants in the past and had received one that helped fix a certain amount of the water system. Sellers stated that not everyone is eligible, and there are very particular guidelines that make a community qualify, such as low-income residents. Sellers then stated the City had applied for and had been verbally told we had been chosen for Representative Bishop's federal grant money, but no funding had been rewarded. The idea for that money would be used for the package sewer options, but to keep in mind the package plants were

expensive and cost about \$600,000 each. Sellers stated he and Nick had a Zoom meeting on the next day with Senator Warnock's office to discuss federal funding needs.

Reports

Utilities Department: The Utility Department has been actively maintaining the City's rights-of-way and has also been working on the City Park next to the Police Department.

City Hall: City Clerk Jenson updated the Council on the new fair dates of October 28-November 2.

Mayor Gainous: Gainous reported there was a potential buyer for the old police department. There was still discussion on the purchase as of the time of the meeting.

New Business

Budget Amendment for FY 2023/2024: Mayor Gainous stated that after the audit, there was an overage in the Police Department budget in the Repairs and Maintenance. The amount was \$14,901, and the difference was to be made up with the Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) as more had been received from the Department of Revenue than we anticipated. **Robert Porter made a motion to adopt the amended budget with the LOST received to make up the overbudgeted account. Andrew Walden seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.**

ECG YES

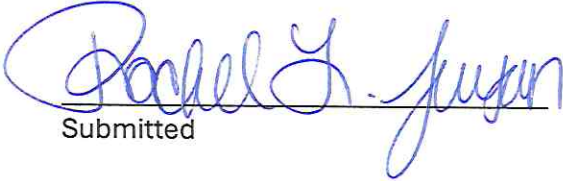
The year-end settlement form from ECG had been received to decide on how the City wanted to receive the difference. Mayor Gainous stated in prior years, the City had just taken a reimbursement check. Jim Sellers made a motion to use as a credit for the ECG education, training and development fund. Robert Porter seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Council Matters of Interest

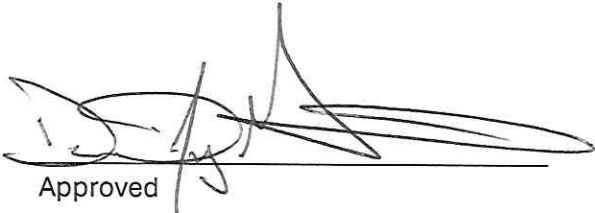
Mr. Sellers told the Council he and Nick from the DDA would be having a Zoom meeting the following day with a representative from Senator Warnock's office. Sellers stated they had met with Barbara with the Regional Commission recently about funding and projects. Sellers said their number one project would be sewer. They would also need to come up with other projects. Nick is interested in doing a recreation project, such as a walking area, green space, etc. Mayor Gainous asked if the community center project that has been discussed could be a potential or the joint-use project of sewer and water to the lake. Sellers stated there was specific criteria for the projects he would have to see what would be considered.

Mayor Gainous stated that the speeding tickets from the school zone had decreased and it was a good thing. Gainous stated Chief Black should be at the next Council meeting and would report numbers then.

With no other matters to tend to, a motion to adjourn was made by Robert Porter. Jim Sellers seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:26 PM.



Submitted



Approved