

City of Leesburg
City Hall, 107 N Walnut Avenue, Leesburg, GA 31763
229-759-6465

City Councilmembers

Richard Bush, Acting Mayor
Rufus Sherman, Mayor Pro Tem
Bob Wilson Judy Powell
Jason Renfroe

City Staff

Bob Alexander, City Manager
Bert Gregory, City Attorney

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Bush called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and lead the pledge. Councilmember Wilson lead the Prayer. The City Manager and City Attorney were present. All the Councilmembers were present.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Bush asked for a motion to approve the minutes from November 19, 2019. Councilmember Powell made a Motion to approve the minutes. Councilmember Wilson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

3. PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Bush opened the Public Hearing for the purpose of discussing the approved activities of the City's Community Development Block Grant Award. On October 16, 2019, the City of Leesburg was awarded a \$750,000 CDBG for Sewer System Improvements benefiting 448 persons. The City Manager Bob Alexander discussed the project in detail for each activity. Mayor Bush closed the Public Hearing.

4. NEW BUSINESS

(A) The City Manager presented the Language Access Plan to address the City of Leesburg's responsibilities as a recipient of federal financial assistance from the Georgia Department of Community Affairs programs and grants. Councilmember Sherman was not present for the discussion or vote. Councilmember Wilson made a motion to adopt the Language Access Plan. Councilmember Renfroe seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

(B) The City Manager discussed submitting a formal request for an exception to the Conflict of Interest CDBG Regulations. One member of the Leesburg City Council resides in the project neighborhood. Rufus Sherman lives at 153 Magnolia Avenue. Under CDBG regulations, status as an elected official, residence in the neighborhood and beneficiary of CDBG funding constitutes a conflict of interest. This interest must be publicly disclosed. The City of Leesburg must request a waiver from the Georgia Department of Community Affairs based upon there being no direct financial benefit and the fact that Councilman Sherman will receive the same benefit of an improved sewer collection system as other residents in the neighborhood. Councilmember Sherman was not present for the discussion or the vote. Councilmember Powell made a motion to approve submitting a formal request for an exception to the Conflict of Interest Regulations to the Department of Community Affairs. Councilmember seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

(C) The City Manager presented a Letter of Resignation from Councilmember Billy Breeden who has qualified to run for Mayor. Councilmember Wilson made a motion to call for a special election of Post 6. Councilmember Renfroe seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

(D) Ms. Kristian Burnfin owner of the Ruby Cactus Boutique addressed her concerns about parking, sidewalks, crosswalks, lighting, curb appeal and beautification. Misty Shore also address the Council concerning allowing her to develop a landscaping plan to improve the appearance around the Old Walnut Building. The City Manager said he would look into the concerns of Ms. Burnfin and report

back to the Council. Councilmember Powell said she would coordinate with Ms. Shore. No action was taken by the Council.

- (E) The City Manager presented a proposal from Lanier Engineering for professional Land Surveying Services for Central Park Topographic Survey. Councilmember Powell made a motion to approve the proposal for \$12,480.00. Councilmember Sherman seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

5. **CITY MANAGER'S MATTERS.**

(A) Financial Report

The City Manager discussed the Financial Report of the General Fund and the Water & Sewer Fund and indicated that both funds are within budget for the year.

6. **DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS**

(A) Police Report

(B) Public Works Report

(C) Water and Sewer Report

7. **GOVERNMENTAL BOARDS/AUTHORITIES**

8. **COUNCIL MEMBER'S MATTER**

9. **OLD BUSINESS**

10. **CITY ATTORNEY'S MATTERS**

11. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

12. **PUBLIC FORUM**

13. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Next Scheduled Meeting is January 7, 2020

14. **ADJOURNMENT**

Councilmember Sherman made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Powell seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.