

Council Meeting  
January 6, 2025

Members Present: Mayor Buddy Duke, members Terry McClain, Greg Paige, Walter Cowart, Celestine Hayes and Jody Greene.

Others Present: City Clerk Rhonda Rowe, City Attorney Tim Tanner, members of staff and the public.

Invocation was given by Councilman McClain.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes: Councilman Paige made a motion to approve the minutes of December 16, 2024 as presented. Councilman McClain seconded with all in favor.

Alcoholic Beverage License Application: Khodal 2302 Inc., located at 2302 W. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, has completed the process for requesting a retail malt beverage license and a retail wine package license. The required application has been completed and payment made, along with a review of all documentation. Councilman Greene made a motion to approve the application. Councilman McClain seconded with all in favor.

Alcoholic Beverage License Renewal: Mehgi Corporation, located at 811 Old Quitman Road, has completed the process for renewal of their 2025 retail license. Councilman McClain made a motion to approve the application. Councilman Paige seconded. The decision was unanimous.

Election Qualifying Fees: Georgia law O.C.G.A. 21-2-131 requires the governing authority of any county or municipality, not later than February 1 of any year in which an election is to be held, to fix and publish a qualifying fee for each county or municipal office to be filled in the upcoming primary or election. The qualifying fee shall be 3 percent of the total gross salary of the office paid in the preceding calendar year including all supplements authorized by law if a salaried office. Qualifying will be held the week of August 18-22, 2025 for the November election. The seats that will be up for re-election in 2025 will be:

District #1 / Post #1 – Currently held by Celestine Hayes  
District #2 / Post #1 – Currently held by Jody Greene  
Council-At-Large – Currently held by Walter Cowart

Councilman McClain made a motion to set the qualifying fees at \$405. Councilman Greene seconded. All were in favor.

Firefighter Turnout Gear Bids: Bids were received for six (6) sets of PPE firefighter turnout gear with turnout gear bags on December 17, 2024. We had two bidders that responded. This item is

included in the FY2025 Budget and will be funded utilizing SPLOST proceeds. The bids were as follows:

Ten-8 Fire & Safety	\$30,324.55
Bennett's Fire Products Co., Inc.	\$27,150.00

After a review of the bids, staff recommends the low bid. Councilman Cowart made a motion to accept the low bid of Bennett's Fire Products with Councilman Greene providing the second. The decision was unanimous.

Election of Mayor Pro-Tem: In keeping with the rotation by chair, Councilman Greene made a motion to appoint Councilwoman Hayes as the Mayor Pro-Tem for 2025. Councilman McClain seconded. All were in favor.

Meeting Date Change (Holiday): Due to the next regular meeting occurring on Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday, the council meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 21, 2025.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.

---

Rhonda P. Rowe, City Clerk

---

Luther L. Duke III, Mayor

---