

City of Byron
Mayor and Council Minutes
January 8, 2024

The City of Byron Mayor and Council met in regular session in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Complex. Mayor Michael Chidester, Council Members James Richardson, Rusty Adams, Michael Chumbley, and Chris Hodges, were in attendance. Council Member Alan Dorsey was absent. City employees that attended were City Administrator Tiffany Sandefur, City Clerk Telina Allred, Deputy Clerk Pam Flournoy, Assistant to the City Administrator Melanie Bickford, Chief Court Clerk Dede Thibodeaux, Police Chief Wesley Cannon, Captain Bryan Hunter, Public Works Director Tiffany Bibb and Fire Chief Josh Riley. City Attorney Brian Causey attended the meeting as did eight (8) visitors. Alex Smith from the Middle Georgia Regional Commission and a representative from the Leader Tribune were also in attendance.

Mayor Michael Chidester called the meeting to order at 6:00pm, Asked James Richardson to give the invocation and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA AMENDED: Mayor Chidester asked that the agenda be amended to add as item (11) Resolution regarding a statewide mutual aid and assistance agreement with GEMA-Homeland Security.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion made by Michael Chumbley, seconded by Chris Hodges to approve the minutes of the Mayor and Council Meeting held on December 11, 2023 and Work Sessions held on December 12 and December 28, 2023. Unanimous.

CITIZEN TIME TO ADDRESS COUNCIL: No one to speak.

COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES: Motion made by Rusty Adams, seconded by Chris Hodges that the current committee list remain the same for the upcoming year. Unanimous. The Committee on Committees meeting was not needed.

URBAN REDEVELOPMENT PLAN: Alex Smith from the Middle Georgia Regional Commission spoke regarding the recent changes to the URP. At 6:06 PM, a public hearing opened for those who wished to speak for or against the Urban Redevelopment Plan amendment. Those who spoke in favor: None. Those who spoke against: None. The Public Hearing closed at 6:08 PM. James Richardson made a motion, seconded by Chris Hodges to approve the following Resolution regarding the Urban Redevelopment Plan amendment. Unanimous.

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WHEREAS, the City of Byron has prepared an Urban Redevelopment Plan adopted under O.C.G.A. 36-61 et. seq. to rehabilitate, conserve, or redevelop a defined geographical area; and

WHEREAS, the Urban Redevelopment Act can be used alone, or in combination with many of Georgia's other legislative redevelopment tools to support local comprehensive planning, revitalize faltering commercial corridors, recruit and nurture small businesses, rehabilitate older homes and neighborhoods, ensure architecturally compatible infill development, and generate new adaptive reuses for old industrial and agricultural facilities; and

WHEREAS, the City of Byron has identified a defined geographic boundary that constitutes the Urban Redevelopment Area, the boundaries of which are described on the map attached; and

WHEREAS, conditions within this delineated area suffer from slum and blighting influences under local standards, detrimental to the public health, safety, and welfare and that the property's deterioration is negatively affecting the community (36-61-5); and

WHEREAS, the City of Byron desires to work with public and private sector partners to ensure that the desired redevelopment is achieved; and

WHEREAS, Mayor and Council will be the implementing agency for efforts outlined in the redevelopment plan; and

WHEREAS, the City of Byron hereby identifies the influences on the geographic areas designated and intends to work diligently to foster conditions conducive to redevelopment within these areas.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Byron hereby adopts the attached City of Byron Urban Redevelopment Plan.

Signed and sealed this 8th day of January, 2024.

GRANT WRITING SERVICES: Motion Made by Chris Hodges, seconded by Michael Chumbley to approve hiring Grant Specialists of Georgia for grant writing services and the administration of the 2024 Community Housing Investment Partnership (CHIP) Grant. Unanimous.

RESOLUTION CONCERNING MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL LMIG MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT: Motion made by Chris Hodges, seconded by James Richardson to approve the following Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute a Memorandum of Agreement with Houston County, Warner Robins, Centerville, and Perry and to authorize the Mayor to execute any and all documents pertaining to the contract. Unanimous.

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BYRON, GEORGIA AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE A MULTI-JURISDICTION MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF BYRON AND HOUSTON COUNTY, WARNER ROBINS, CENTERVILLE, AND PERRY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the City of Byron, Georgia and it is hereby so resolved by the authority of same that the Mayor is authorized to execute a Multi-Jurisdiction Memorandum of Agreement with Houston County, Warner Robins, Centerville, and Perry in substantially the same form as the attached Exhibit "A" which by this reference is made a part of this resolution.

All Resolutions or portions of Resolutions in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

SO RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BYRON, GEORGIA ON THE 8th DAY OF JANUARY, 2024.

ORDINANCE (2023-13) REGARDING GMEBS DEFINED RETIREMENT BENEFIT PLAN: Second reading was held of AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND RESTATE THE RETIREMENT PLAN FOR THE EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF BYON, GEORGIA, IN ACCORDANCE WITH AND SUBJECT TO THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS SET FORTH IN THE ATTACHED ADOPTION AGREEMENT, ANY ADDENDUM TO THE ADOPTION AGREEMENT, THE GEORGIA MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES BENEFIT SYSTEM (GMEBS) BASIS PLAN DOCUMENT, AND THE GMEBS TRUST AGREEMENT. WHEN ACCEPTED BY THE AUTHORIZED OFFICERS OF THE CITY AND GMEBS, THE FOREGOING SHALL CONSTITUTE A CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY AND GMEBS, ALL AS AUTHORIZED AND PROVIDED BY O.C.G.A 47-5-1 ET SEQ. Motion made by Michael Chumbley, seconded by Rusty Adams to adopt Ordinance #2023-13. Unanimous.

RESOLUTION REGARDING ADOPTION AGREEMENT FOR THE GENERAL ADDENDUM TO THE GMEBS DEFINED RETIREMENT BENEFIT PLAN: Motion was made by Michael Chumbley, seconded by Chris Hodges to approve the following Resolution authorizing

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the Mayor to execute the Adoption Agreement for the General Addendum to the GMEBS Defined Retirement Benefit Plan regarding Public Safety rule of 55. Unanimous.

ORDINANCE (#2023-12) REGARDING LAND DEVELOPMENT: Mayor Chidester stated that the Ordinance needed more work. Motion made by Michael Chumbley, seconded by Chris Hodges to move the second reading and adoption to the February council meeting. TABLED.

ORDINANCE (#2024-1) REGARDING CHAPTER 4, ALCOHOL, NUMBER OF LIQUOR STORES: First reading was held of AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BYRON, GEORGIA, TO AMEND CHAPTER 4-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, ARTICLE II-LICENSES, SECTION 4-51-GROUNDS FOR DENIAL, OF THE CODE OF BYRON, GEORGIA, SO AS TO UPDATE AND AMEND THE NUMBER OF LICENSES WHICH MAY BE ISSUED AND THE POPULATION BASIS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

RESOLUTION REGARDING STATEWIDE MUTUAL AID AND ASSISTANCE: Motion made by Chris Hodges, seconded by James Richardson to approve the following Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute a Statewide Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreement with GEMA-Homeland Security. Unanimous.

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BYRON, GEORGIA AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE A STATEWIDE MUTUAL AID AND ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT WITH GEMA-HOMELAND SECURITY.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the City of Byron, Georgia and it is hereby so resolved by the authority of same that the Mayor is authorized to execute a Statewide Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreement in substantially the same form as the attached Exhibit "A" which by this reference is made a part of this Resolution.

All Resolutions or portions of Resolutions in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

SO RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BYRON, GEORGIA ON THE 8th DAY OF JANUARY, 2024.

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CLOSED SESSION: At 6:17pm, Motion was made by Michael Chumbley, seconded by Chris Hodges that the Mayor and Council go into closed session all allowed by O.C.G.A. 50-14-2 for the purpose of discussing land acquisition.

MOTION APPROVED

Those voting in favor of the motion for closure: Council Members Michael Chumbley, James Richardson, Rusty Adams, and Chris Hodges. Those voting against the motion for closure: None.

Those attending the Closed Session were Mayor Michael Chidester, Council Members Rusty Adams, James Richardson, Michael Chumbley, and Chris Hodges. City Attorney Brian Causey, City Clerk Telina Allred, Deputy Clerk Pam Flournoy, City Administrator Tiffany Sandefur and Assistant to the City Administrator Melanie Bickford attended as well.

OPEN SESSION: Motion was made by Michael Chumbley, seconded by Chris Hodges to return to open session at 6:50pm. Unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion was made by Michael Chumbley, seconded by Chris Hodges to adjourn the meeting at 6:50pm. Unanimous.

Telina Allred
Clerk of Council