

**City of Grovetown**  
**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**  
**November 13, 2023 6:30 p.m.**

The regular meeting of the Grovetown City Council was held on Monday, November 13, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Present were Mayor Gary E. Jones, Mayor Pro-Tem Eric Blair, Councilmember Ceretta Smith and Councilmember Sylvia Martin.

Also present were City Administrator Elaine Matthews, Finance Director/Asst. City Administrator Bradley Smith, IT Manager David Nile, Planning and Community Development Director Ronnie Kurtz, Fire Rescue Chief Wayne Kent, Police Chief Jamey Kitchens, General Services Director David Carlin, Utility Services Director Keith Lyons, Public Information Officer Jordan Johnson, City Attorney Chris Dube and City Clerk Brian Henderson.

Council conducted a work session to review agenda items at 6:00 p.m.

**1.**

**Call Meeting to Order/Announcement of Quorum**

Mayor Jones called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and acknowledged a quorum.

**2.**

**Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance**

Mayor Jones gave the invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Jones congratulated Councilmember-Elect Richard Bowman and Councilmember Blair on winning their respected election.

Councilmember Blair congratulated Mayor Gary E. Jones on winning his mayoral election.

**3.**

**Approval of Agenda**

Councilmember Martin made a motion to approve the agenda. Councilmember Blair seconded the motion, all in favor and the motion carried.

**4.**

**Approval of the October 10, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes**

Councilmember Blair made a motion to approve the October 10, 2023 regular meeting minutes. Councilmember Martin seconded the motion, all in favor and the motion carried.

**5.**

**Approval of the October 10, 2023 Executive Session Minutes**

Councilmember Martin made a motion to approve the October 10, 2023 executive session minutes. Councilmember Blair seconded the motion, all in favor and the motion carried.

## 6.

### Committee Chair Reports

#### Public Safety

Councilmember Blair reported the call totals for the month of October for Grovetown Fire Rescue Department and Police Department. Councilmember Blair reported that Fire Rescue shift two held a safety tour for Greenbrier Daycare at station two. He also reported that Fire Rescue shift one completed a fire safety demonstration for the kindergarteners and second graders at Cedar Ridge Elementary School. Councilmember Blair reported that Fire Rescue conducted annual fire pump testing of all Fire Rescue apparatuses.

Councilmember Blair congratulated Firefighter Phillip Donahue for receiving recognition from the Columbia County Exchange Club honoring his service to the citizens of Grovetown. He reported that Fire Rescue Chief Kent attended a meeting with American Red Cross to aid victims of house fires.

Councilmember Blair reported that in the past thirty days the Police Department arrested 32 people, all of whom are innocent until proven guilty. He reported on the statistics for the month for CID and the K-9 unit.

Councilmember Blair reported that the Police Department conducted training at Grovetown Elementary School and Grovetown Middle School using the Mobile Ballistic Barriers. He also reported that they conducted fire arms training in preparation for SWAT level 1 course. Councilmember Blair reported that K-9 officer Harris Jenkins and K-9 Banner completed their annual Recertification Course. Councilmember Blair reported that at the end of October the Police Department conducted a drug take back program where they collected 60 pounds of prescription medication. He congratulated Sergeant William Loomer for receiving recognition from the Columbia County Exchange Club honoring his service to the citizens of Grovetown.

The remaining report was deferred to Fire Rescue Chief Wayne Kent and Police Chief Jamey Kitchens.

#### Utility Billing and Utility Services

The report was deferred to the Utility Services Director Keith Lyons.

#### Planning and Development

Councilmember Smith reported on the monthly statistics for the Planning and Community Development Department.

The remainder of the report was deferred to Planning and Community Development Director Ronnie Kurtz.

#### General Services

Councilmember Martin reported the statistics and the year-to-date revenue for Leisure and Recreation. She reported that Leisure and Recreation is still working on beautification of City streets and areas around the City. Councilmember Martin announced that they are continuing to hang Christmas lights throughout the City. Councilmember Martin reported that Streets and Sanitation picked 10.6 tons of debris using the street sweeper. She also reported that the litter crew collected 136, 33gal bags from City streets and sidewalks. Councilmember Martin announced that on December 2, 2023, the City will hold its 49<sup>th</sup> Christmas Parade and Festival.

The remainder of the report was deferred to General Services Director David Carlin.

#### Administration

The report was deferred to City Administrator Elaine Matthews.

7.

**Financial Statement**

Councilmember Blair made a motion to approve the financial statement. Councilmember Martin seconded the motion, all in favor and the motion carried.

8.

**Employee of the Month**

City Administrator Elaine Matthews presented Officer Robin Ashmore from the Grovetown Police Department with the employee of the month award for October 2023.

9.

**Discussion to conduct a Christmas Decoration House Contest.**

This item was removed from the agenda at the request of Councilmember Smith.

10.

**Public Announcements**

Councilmember Blair thanked everyone who came out to vote for him.

Mayor Jones wanted to thank everyone who voted for him.

11.

**Citizens Comments**

Carla Harrison addressed Mayor and Council thanking the Police Department and Fire Rescue Department for helping keep the City safe.

12.

**General Business: Old**

(None)

13.

**General Business: New**

13A.

**Recommend Approval to Enter into Agreement for Professional Services with Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. for Revision of the City Zoning Ordinance (Phase 2)**

Councilmember Blair made a motion to approve the Agreement for Professional Services with Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. for revision of the City Zoning Ordinance (Phase 2). Councilmember Martin seconded the motion, all in favor and the motion carried.

13B.

**Recommend Adoption of Resolution 2023-11-01, Resolution to Declare Items as Surplus Property**

Councilmember Blair made a motion to adopt Resolution 2023-11-01, resolution to declare items as surplus property. Councilmember Martin seconded the motion, all in favor and the motion carried.

13C.

**Recommend Approval of Job Description for new position of General Services Superintendent, Grade 20**

Councilmember Blair made a motion to approve the job description for new position of General Services Superintendent, grade 20. Councilmember Martin seconded the motion, all in favor and the motion carried.

14.

**Director's Reports**

City Administrator Elaine Matthews briefed Council on recent activities of their respective Departments.

15.

**Executive Session- Real Estate Acquisition and Pending Litigation**

Councilmember Blair made a motion to enter into executive session at 6:59 p.m. to discuss real estate acquisition and pending litigation. Councilmember Smith seconded the motion, all in favor and the motion carried.

Councilmember Martin made a motion to enter back into the regular meeting at 7:09 p.m. Councilmember Blair seconded the motion, all in favor and the motion carried.

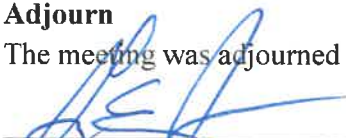
Councilmember Blair made a motion to approve the Settlement Agreement between the parties in the matter styled as THE CITY OF GROVETOWN, GEORGIA and THE GEORGIA INTERLOCAL RISK MANAGEMENT AGENCY, as Subrogee of the City of Grovetown, Georgia v. BAIRD & COMPANY, CPAS, LLC, an Administratively Dissolved Georgia Limited Liability Company; REP E. WHIDDON, C.P.A., P.C., a Georgia Professional Corporation; and REP E. WHIDDON, an individual, Civil Action No. 2020ECV0219, Superior Court of Columbia County. Under the Settlement Agreement, the Baird Defendants will pay \$450,000 to the City and GIRMA. The Baird Defendants served as the City's auditor during the period Vicky Capetillo served as City Clerk. Councilmember Martin seconded the motion, all in favor and the motion carried.


Councilmember Martin made a motion to purchase the properties located at 516 Hardy Dr. (Parcel ID 070 030) 15.9 acres, more or less and 512 Hardy Dr. (Parcel ID 070 031A) 1.5 acres, more or less for the amount of \$350,000. Councilmember Blair seconded the motion, all in favor and the motion carried.

16.

**Adjourn**


The meeting was adjourned at 7:11 p.m.


  
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Gary E. Jones, Mayor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Eric Blair, Mayor Pro-Tem

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sylvia Martin, Councilmember

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Vacant

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ceretta Smith, Councilmember

Attest:  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Brian Henderson, City Clerk