

**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 5, 2009
7:00 P.M.**

CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER: Mayor Cox called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Those present included Mayor Cox, Council Members Linda Grant, Mike Sosebee, Jonathan Cox and Mike Wilson; staff present were Kim Cornelison, Steve Holder, Gary Barr, and Dana Miles, City Attorney.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE: Invocation was led by Dana Miles; followed by the pledge led by Mayor Cox.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Council unanimously approved the minutes from the called meeting held December 23, 2008; motion by Grant, second by Wilson.

NEW BUSINESS:

Proclamation – 202nd Birthday of General Robert E. Lee: Kim Cornelison read the proclamation in to the minutes and presented it to Michael Reuter, Commander Camp 2135, the Concord Rangers, sons of Confederate Veterans. A copy is attached as Exhibit "A".

Proclamation – dedicating the Gordon Pirkle Victory Lane Conference Room: Dana Miles read the proclamation in to the minutes; Steve Holder presented the proclamation to Gordon Pirkle. Following the presentation a new sign for the Gordon Pirkle Victory Lane Conference Room was unveiled. Mayor Cox thanked Gordon for all of his time, efforts, and dedication and he recognized Gordon as one of the founding individuals for the Georgia Racing Hall of Fame stating the Mr. Pirkle has been with the project from the very beginning. A copy is attached as Exhibit "B".

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

An Ordinance to amend the current Hotel-Motel Excise Tax Ordinance; to repeal an exemption and provide for a new exemption; to provide for the collection of the tax for the period of occupancy permitted by Georgia Law; to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting ordinances; to provide for severability; and for other purposes. First hearing January 5, 2009; second hearing February 2, 2009.

Dana Miles presented the ordinance to the council for the first reading, stating that with the amendments to the hotel-motel excise tax ordinance the city would then align with state law. Current revision to state law provides for collection of excise tax for the first 30-days of continued occupancy; formerly it was only for 10-days.

Mr. Miles opened the public hearing; there were approximately 43 people in attendance and no one spoke in favor or opposition. The public hearing was closed and turned over to the Mayor. Mayor Cox called for a vote. Mike Sosebee made a motion to approve the first reading of the ordinance; Mike Wilson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

An Ordinance to amend the Utilities code on water and sewer bill payment by repealing existing section 14-39 in light of current state law; to provide for new section 14-39; to provide for an effective date and for other purposes. First hearing January 5, 2009; second hearing February 2, 2009.

Dana Miles presented the ordinance stating that this is the first reading of an ordinance to amend the city's current water and sewer code regarding collection on delinquent accounts. Mr. Miles informed the council that the city's code currently conflicts with state law and the change will align the city's code with the state. The change provides for collecting delinquent accounts from the account holder, and prohibits collection of outstanding accounts from property owners in the case of renters, or from new applicants to a property with an outstanding balance.

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MAYOR'S REPORT:

The Mayor told everyone present that he wished them all well in the New Year and hopes for better days with the economic situation.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 7:25 p.m. Mike Sosebee made a motion to go in to executive session for the purpose of discussing pending litigation; seconded by Linda Grant and passed unanimously.

Dana Miles brought the council up-to-date on all of the cases involving Gold Creek including the bankruptcy and a current motion filed by the debtor to set aside the existing GCWWTP agreement. Mr. Miles presented his views on the legal strategy the city should take. He also explained the affect the bankruptcy case may have on the superior court cases along with the affect the deadline has in the bankruptcy case.

Council adjourned executive session at 7:50 p.m. Motion by Cox, second by Grant; motion carried unanimously.

Council reconvened the regular meeting at 7:50 p.m. Motion by Cox, second by Grant, motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, Linda Grant made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Jonathan Cox. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.



Joe Lane Cox, Mayor



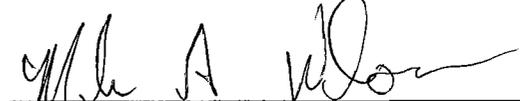
Councilmember Jonathan Cox



Councilmember Linda Grant



Councilmember Mike Sosebee



Councilmember Mike Wilson

Attested: 

Kim Cornelison, City Clerk



Proclamation

Recognizing the 202 Birthday of
General Robert E. Lee
January 19, 2009



Whereas: Robert Edward Lee was born to Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee III and Ann Hill Carter Lee at Stratford, Westmoreland County, Virginia, on the 19th day of January, in the year of our Lord 1807; and

Whereas: Robert Edward Lee graduated from the West Point Military Academy in 1829, second in his class and without a single demerit; and

Whereas: Robert Edward Lee's first military assignment was to Cockspur Island, Georgia, to supervise the construction of Fort Pulaski for 17 months; and

Whereas: Robert E. Lee served in the United States Army and with the rank of Captain fought in the War with Mexico where he was wounded at the Battle of Chapultepec; and

Whereas: Captain Robert E. Lee was appointed Superintendent of the West Point Military Academy in 1852 and was considered one of the best superintendents in the history of the school; and

Whereas: Colonel Robert E. Lee served in the United States Army for 32 years, and was offered command of Federal Forces at the outset of the War Between the States; and

Whereas: Colonel Robert E. Lee, after suffering a great deal of internal conflict, declined that offer and chose instead to link his fate with the Confederate States of America, when he stated "Save in the defense of my native State, I never desire again to draw my sword"; and

Whereas: Brigadier-General Robert E. Lee returned to Georgia in November 1861 and took command of the coastal defenses of South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida; and

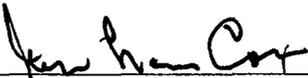
Whereas: General Robert E. Lee assumed command of the Army of Northern Virginia on June 1st, 1862, and served his native state of Virginia and the military forces of The Confederate States of America for four years under President Jefferson Davis; and

Whereas: General Robert E. Lee commanded many troops drawn from the Confederate State of Georgia, and is honored as the central figure on Stone Mountain; and

Whereas: After the War Between the States, Robert E. Lee helped rebuild the nation by serving as president of Washington College that had financial troubles. This college, in Lexington, Virginia, was renamed Washington-Lee College in his honor; and

Whereas: The military genius of Lee continues to be studied in many schools, his teachings are still inspiring today, and he remains a hero among many Americans, young and old; now

Therefore: I, Joe Lane Cox do hereby recognize January 19, 2009, as the 202nd Birthday of Robert Edward Lee, and encourage all citizens residing in our jurisdiction to learn more about the life of Lee and attend our state's various seminars and celebration tributes to his memory.



Joe Lane Cox, Mayor

Attest:



Kim Cornelison, City Clerk

Exhibit "A"

PROCLAMATION

DEDICATION OF THE GORDON PIRKLE VICTORY LANE CONFERENCE ROOM JANUARY 5, 2009

WHEREAS, Born December 27, 1936, Gordon Pirkle is a native of Dawson County; and

WHEREAS, Gordon Pirkle being a business owner of the Pool Room for 42 years located in Dawsonville; and

WHEREAS, Gordon Pirkle serving as a founding father of the Georgia Racing Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Gordon Pirkle serving this community through charitable organizations; and

WHEREAS, Gordon Pirkle sharing the history of Dawsonville's contribution to the creation of NASCAR, and

NOW, therefore, I Joe Lane Cox, Mayor of the City of Dawsonville, do hereby dedicate the new conference room in honor of his tireless service to the Georgia Racing Hall of Fame and the wonderful citizens of Dawsonville and encourage all to observe and participate in this celebration and dedication ceremony, in honor of Gordon Pirkle.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Dawsonville to be affixed this 5th day of January, 2009



Joe Lane Cox
Joe Lane Cox, Mayor

Kim Cornelison
Kim Cornelison, City Clerk

Linda Grant
Linda Grant, Mayor Pro-tem

Mike Wilson
Mike Wilson, Councilman

Mike Sosebee
Mike Sosebee, Councilman

Jonathon Cox
Jonathon Cox, Councilman