

**MINUTES**  
**ADRIAN MAYOR & COUNCIL MEETING**  
**TUESDAY, MARCH 5<sup>TH</sup>, 2024 AT 6:00PM**  
**ADRIAN ANNEX, 107 NORA BLVD., ADRIAN, GA 31002**

- I. **Call Meeting to Order: Mayor Smith** called the meeting to order at 6:00pm
- II. **Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance:** Invocation by **CM O Hutchinson**; All in attendance stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.
- III. **Amendment of Agenda - Mayor Smith** asked the council to amend the agenda to include an executive session regarding personnel. **CM S Hutchinson** made a motion to amend the agenda. **Seconded by CM Love**. All in favor.
- IV. **Announcements:** None
- V. **Adoption of Minutes: Mayor Smith** asked the council if they had had a chance to review last month's minutes. **CM O Hutchinson** made a motion to adopt the minutes from last month's meeting. **Second by CM Fountain**. All in favor.
- VI. **Unfinished Business:**
  - a. **Parking Lot – City Hall- Mayor Smith** stated that she previously said that the city did not have to pay for the paving and striping of the parking lot, only had to pay for the sealant. The sealant was taken out of ARPA grant money. Paid for sealant for the parking lot. The governing body was aware of the price before the parking lot was done. **Mayor Smith** stated she brought this up to address posts made on social media.
  - b. **Meals/Lunches - Mayor Smith** advised that meals and lunches that the city paid for were for the workers that had done the work at the park, and stated it was the least that could be done for them. And the governing body was aware that this was being done.
  - c. **Budget Update - Mayor Smith** stated that the 2024 Budget is not ready. 2022 audit has to be completed before the budget can be done, so that the budget information will be correct. The CPA has requested a list of documents still needed in order to complete the audit, some things that haven't been done in 2 years. Nothing is balancing. The budget will be completed as soon as audit information is available. The budget information will then be reviewed by the council and any questions answered. Then a proposed budget will be available for the public.
  - d. **Reconciliations Update - Mayor Smith** advised that reconciliations are done through November 2023. Still have to do December 2023, January 2024, and February 2024. Once the budget is done, reconciliations will be caught up. **City Clerk Jennifer Roberts** stated that reconciliations won't balance out until the audit balances out.
  - e. **Air Rise Valve Update - Mayor Smith** advised that the valve has been installed on the well, and was installed ahead of the previous plans. Pictures have been sent to EPD, and they have stated that everything seems to have been done correctly.

- f. **Fire Hydrants Update - Mayor Smith** stated that her, Chief Johnson, and Danton Morris have discussed starting to flush the fire hydrants again, and they will get a schedule together so everyone will know when the hydrants will begin being flushed.

**VII. New Business:**

- a. **Business Application - Mayor Smith** announced that the city has received a new business application. **Mayor Smith** read that application for County Line Feed & Market. Owner(s) Andy Johnson and Sam English spoke before that council and advised that they would offer feed, seed, fresh meats and seasonal vegetables. They want it to have more of a farmer's market feel than a grocery store feel. They stated that they are trying to work with suppliers close to this area. Projected opening will be the week before Easter. They will let everyone know for exact date. **CM S Hutchinson** made a motion to accept the business license application for County Line Feed & Market. Seconded by **CM Love**. All in favor.
- b. **Bank Signature - Mayor Smith** asked the council to vote to add CM Love to the signatures for the bank accounts. **CM S Hutchinson** made a motion to add **CM Love** to bank signatures. Seconded by **CM O Hutchinson**. All in favor.
- c. **Law Enforcement Update - Major Milton** stated that he wanted to address bad things being said about the police dept. Stated that he usually doesn't address things, but when it comes to safety, he's going to address it. The police department is here to protect and serve the community, enforce the laws of Georgia laws, and protect the citizens. They are not here to harass people. If there is an issue, they must be notified in order to address the situation. Not a 24/7 police department, but they are here as much as possible, and at different times of the day and night. **Major Milton** stated at one time it was mentioned that the Mayor and Council had told the police department that they needed to write \$300,000 in citations for this year alone to pay for budget; Per **Major Milton**, this has never been said to him, or his fellow officers. He clarified that the police department does speed enforcement and roadblocks to keep riffraff out of the city of Adrian. He said that it has been mentioned that the police department has exceeded their budget; in July it was mentioned that they didn't have a budget, but them in December it was just mentioned that they have exceeded their budget by \$77,000. Prior complaints that they never had officers around, but now there are complaints of too much police presence. The Expedition was paid for out of TSPLOST & ARPA fund, not regular funds. **Major Milton** mentioned that Adrian has been compared to Oak Park, GA, who was stealing money. Exceeded budget by \$743,000 in 2018, \$175,000 in 2019, and \$831,000 in 2020. Their police department was writing 500 tickets a month to compensate for stealing money from the City. Adrian doesn't even write 100 tickets per month. Comparing Adrian to Oak Park is unfounded. Biggest pet peeve he has is officer safety. Contrary to what is being said, Office Lowery is a certified officer. If you run, you will be dealt with, if you "buck", you will be dealt with. **Mr. Miller** stated he has seen officers riding around at 3am. **Mayor Smith** clarified that the Expedition was paid for out of Emanuel County SPLOST and ARPA grant. **Ms. Griffin** inquired if there is a direct number that citizens can call to report issues. **Chief Strickland** advised to call 911, and they will contact him, Major Milton or Officer Lowery. **Ms. Griffin** stated that if they call 911 it takes forever. If 911 asks a lot of questions, **Chief Strickland** advised to provide the address in Adrian and hang up if they ask a lot of unnecessary questions. Emanuel County and Johnson County have been advised if our officers are not in, to send a deputy. If you don't call and report situations, there is nothing that the police department can do.

- d. **Fire Department Update - Mayor Smith** advised that the city purchased a computer and printer for the fire department.

VIII. **Recess Regular Session - CM S Hutchinson** made a motion to recess regular session and go into executive session at 6:26pm. Seconded by **CM O Hutchinson**. All in favor.

IX. **Executive Session – Personnel**

X. **Call Regular Session to Order - CM Love** made a motion to recess executive session and return to regular session at 6:47pm. Seconded by **CM Fountain**. All in favor.

XI. **Reports:**

1. **Department Head Reports**

- a. **Fire Department – Chief Johnson** gave statistics for the fire department for February.

MVAs	2
Medical Calls	13
House Fires	1
Wood Fires	4

**Chief Johnson** thanked Mayor Smith and the council for the new computer and printer. **Chief Johnson** mentioned that they would like to start using the tennis courts as landing zone for air evac helicopter. A flyover is going to be done to see if the area is large enough to use. **Chief Johnson** Stated must have a space that is 40'x40'. The tennis court area is 120'x120'. The ball field is too wet to continue using it. **Danton Morris** advised there will be an Air Evac training at 3pm on April 14th. **Chief Johnson** stated that poles sticking out of ground on courts could be cut off flush with ground. **CM Love** stated that it's in the works to redo the basketball court and extend the basketball court, and redo the tennis courts, and have 1 tennis court and 4 pickleball courts. Estimate to completely redo with tennis courts, fencing, and lights is \$36,000. **CM Loved** stated there may be a way to use portable nets on courts so the area can be used for both things. **Chief Johnson** inquired about voting on agreement. **Mayor Smith** stated that she gave a copy of fire department bylaws to council for review, and they will finalize agreement next time.

- b. **Street Water Department – Mayor Smith** stated that workers are cleaning curbs, and keeping trash off the streets. They have fixed a few leaks. **Mayor Smith** advised that Johnny called DOT, and they are coming down to look at the drainage issue reported by Ms. Griffin.

- c. **Police Department – Chief Strickland** gave department statistics for February.

	Dylan	Michael	Kyle
<b>Vehicles Stopped</b>	41	30	62
<b>Speeding Citations Written</b>	0	5	4
<b>Other Citations Written</b>	6	6	6
<b>Warnings Given</b>	35	18	46
<b>Accidents Worked</b>	0	0	0
<b>Motorists Assisted</b>	19	3	19
<b>DUI Contacts Made</b>	0	0	8
<b>DUI Arrests Made</b>	0	0	0

<b>Other Arrests Made</b>	0	3	0
<b>Calls Answered</b>	18	17	41
<b>Buildings Checked</b>	120	25	59
<b>Reports Written</b>	1	3	8
<b>Transports</b>	1	2	6
<b>Hours Spent In Court</b>	4	4	4
<b>Escorts</b>	0	0	0
<b>Assisted Another Agency</b>	23	4	6

**Chief Strickland** advised to call if you see anyone in your yard. They can't do anything if they are not aware. Fight at involving weapons at the apartment complex this past weekend; working on getting arrest warrants for individuals involved. Gang activity is coming to Adrian. Advised everyone to be sure to lock their vehicles, and do not keep valuables in your vehicle. **Chief Strickland** also brought up Facebook post that said the police department was getting ready to purchase a Dodge Challenger, and stated that was untrue.

- d. **Safety Department** - Nothing to report at this time
  - e. **Recreation Department** - Per **CM Love**, the animals are ready to go back on at park; been waiting on weather. Portable nets can be purchased for tennis and pickleball courts.
- (2) **Council Members:**
- a. **Suzanne Hutchinson** -Nothing to Report
  - b. **Michelle Love** - Nothing to Report
  - c. **Orweco Hutchinson** - Nothing to Report
  - d. **Robert Fountain Jr.** - Nothing to Report
- (3) **Mayor: Mayor Smith** stated she gave copy of fire department bylaws to council for review, and told the council if they have any questions to let her know and they would get together with Chief Johnson and Danton to address them.
- XII. **Adjournment:** **CM O Hutchinson** made a motion to adjourn at 7:12pm. Seconded by **CM Love**. All in favor.