



CITY OF ST. MARYS, GEORGIA
January 12, 2009

FIRST QUARTER – TOWN MEETING
6:00 p.m.

CITY COUNCIL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

- A. *Mayor Pro Tem*
- B. *Council Committees*.....**TAB “A”**
- C. *Regional Development Center Board: City Representative*

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

AMENDED AGENDA

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. INVOCATION

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. ROLL CALL

QUORUM: YES X NO

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *December 8, 2008 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes
December 8, 2008 Public Hearing Kishan Enterprises of
Georgia, Inc. D/B/A A to Z Liquors Minutes
December 17, 2008 Special City Council Meeting Minutes*

PRESENTATION:

APPOINTMENTS

ST. MARYS CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU AUTHORITY: *Seven Term Expirations*
TREE BOARD: *Term Expirations (McClendon & Westcot) & One Vacancy (Forster)*

DIXON’S RECOGNITION: *Christmas in the Park*

FINANCE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

VI. GRANTING AUDIENCE TO THE PUBLIC:

VII. OLD BUSINESS: NONE

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. **SOUTHEAST GEORGIA HEALTH SYSTEM: *Hospital Fee Contract*.....TAB “B”**
- B. **GEORGIA EMERGENCY ASSOCIATES: *Physicians Fee Contract*.....TAB “C”**
- C. **CELTIC DRAGONS BISTRO & BAR, LLC NEW ALCOHOL LICENSE: *Public Hearing Advertising*.....TAB “D”**
- D. **ST. MARYS CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU AUTHORITY BY-LAWS: *Discussion of By-Laws for Amended H.B. 839*.....ADDED**
- E. **EIP GRANT: *Present Approved Loan Documents for Signature*.....ADDED**

IX. REPORT OF AUTHORITIES, BOARDS, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES:

- A. **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT..... TAB “F”**
 - 1. PAID LEAVE
 - 2. DISCIPLINARY POLICY
 - 3. GRIEVANCE POLICY
 - 4. REDUCTION IN FORCE POLICY
 - 5. PART TIME POSITIONS: *DISCUSSION & CITY CLERK’S OFFICE*
 - 6. ANY OTHER CONCERNS PRESENTED BY THE COMMITTEE

X. REPORT OF MAYOR:

XI REPORT OF CITY MANAGER:

XII. GRANTING AUDIENCE TO THE PUBLIC

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION: *Property*

XIV. ADJOURNMENT:

CITY OF ST. MARYS, GEORGIA

FIRST QUARTER – TOWN MEETING

JANUARY 12, 2009

6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

The Mayor and City Council for the City of St. Marys, Georgia conducted a Town Meeting on Monday, January 12, 2009 in the Council Chamber at City Hall.

PRESENT WERE:

*Mayor Rowland Eskridge
Councilmember Greg Bird
Councilmember William DeLoughy
Councilmember Deborah Hase
Councilmember Larry Johnson
Councilmember Chuck Trader
Councilmember Gull Weaver*

CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:

*William Shanahan, City Manager
Amanda Blackledge, City Attorney
Tim Hatch, Police Chief
Roger Wooten, Asst. Police Chief
Robby Horton, Fire Chief
Roger Weaver, Planning Director
Bobby Marr, Public Works
Marsha Hershberger, Asst. Finance Director
Alyce Thornhill, Economic Development Director
Janet Brinko, Tourism Director
Gene Rudy, IT Director
Donna Folsom, HR Director
Shavon Gibbs, Court Administrator
Bilal Muhammad, City Marshal
Richard Riddle, Sergeant-At-Arms*

Mayor Eskridge called the First Quarter Town Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., and opened the floor to the public for questions and/or comments.

GRANTING AUDIENCE TO THE PUBLIC:

Reverend James Ham, End Time Gospel spoke in support of the location for the proposed Senior Center and requested consideration of the safety of the seniors because of the problems in the area.

Kay Sullivan, resident commended the city for doing such a great job with Christmas lighting and questioned whether Comcast still aired the Council meetings.

The Mayor stated that someone would find out what the channel the council meetings were being aired.

Dave Schmitz, resident complained about Comcast's substandard service for Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) channel 25 and yard waste being dropped from the claw onto the street instead of the truck. Mr. Schmitz suggested looking into changing the yard waste and recycling contract next year.

Councilmember Weaver stated that Comcast channel 25 was out of service for the past two weeks. The City Manager stated that someone text him that the Council meetings were aired on Thursdays at 8:00 p.m. on channel 25.

Walt Natzic, representative of Greenway requested the adoption of a resolution in support of Camden County, Georgia Greenway Alliance Plan for Smart Growth Biking and Pedestrian Friendly Environments to include Planned Inter-Community Pathways.

Scott Eitel, county resident expressed concerns due to his recent house fire with regards to the fire department budget cuts. He commented on the lack of firefighters and the amount of time it took for enough personnel to arrive before entering the house.

The City Manager explained that the address (228 Cypress Lane) was in the county but a St. Mary's vehicle arrived on the scene first. There were two (2) people on the vehicle but they had to wait for the second truck. According to National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1720, Staffing and Response Time is fifteen (15) people in nine (9) minutes. The cycle would be stopped if four (4) people were on a vehicle, not three (3).

Pat Lewis, resident spoke in support of locating a Senior Citizen Center near the library because of its proximity to services offered downtown to increase productivity. Mrs. Lewis opposed the proposed building because of its isolation and unattractiveness. She discussed her willingness to teach sewing and quilting to raise funds for seniors and suggested building a miniature golf course for them as part of their recreation.

Councilmember DeLoughy stated that the Senior Advisory Committee is inviting everyone to provide input on the center.

Cookie Johnson, resident commented that the proposed Senior Center has space with room for expansion and the majority of the seniors are happy with the location.

Mayor Eskridge stated that there is much public comment that everything is located downtown.

ADJOURNMENT

There were no further requests to address Council; therefore Mayor Eskridge declared the Town Meeting closed at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Darlene M. Roellig, City Clerk

CITY OF ST. MARYS, GEORGIA
CITY COUNCIL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
JANUARY 12, 2009

MINUTES

The Mayor and City Council for the City of St. Marys, Georgia met for its annual Council Organizational Meeting on Monday, January 12, 2009 in the Council Chamber at City Hall.

PRESENT WERE:

*Mayor Rowland Eskridge
Councilmember Greg Bird
Councilmember William DeLoughy
Councilmember Deborah Hase
Councilmember Larry Johnson
Councilmember Chuck Trader
Councilmember Gull Weaver*

CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:

*William Shanahan, City Manager
Amanda Blackledge, City Attorney
Tim Hatch, Police Chief
Roger Wooten, Asst. Police Chief
Robby Horton, Fire Chief
Roger Weaver, Planning Director
Bobby Marr, Public Works
Marsha Hershberger, Asst. Finance Director
Alyce Thornhill, Economic Development Director
Janet Brinko, Tourism Director
Gene Rudy, IT Director
Donna Folsom, HR Director
Shavon Gibbs, Court Administrator
Bilaal Muhammad, City Marshal
Richard Riggle, Sergeant-At-Arms*

Mayor Eskridge called the City Council Organizational Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

A. MAYOR PRO TEM:

Mayor Eskridge opened the floor for Mayor Pro Tem nominations.

Councilmember Bird nominated Councilmember Johnson to serve as Mayor Pro Tem.
Councilmember Trader nominated Councilmember DeLoughy. Voting was recorded as follows:

Councilmember Johnson

Councilmember Bird
Councilmember Johnson

Councilmember DeLoughy

Councilmember DeLoughy
Councilmember Hase
Councilmember Trader
Councilmember Weaver

B. COUNCIL COMMITTEES:

Mayor Eskridge questioned whether there were any changes to the 2008 Council Committees. The City Clerk stated that Councilmember Weaver wishes to change to Public Works and Councilmember Hase to Personnel/Benefits.

Councilmember Weaver made a motion to approve the 2009 Council Committees as presented. Councilmember Bird seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

C. REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT CENTER BOARD: *City Representative*

Mayor Eskridge stated that a representative from the City needed to be appointed to the Coastal Regional Development Center Board effective July 1, 2009. He further stated that he has served in this capacity for the past three years. The floor was opened for recommendations.

Councilmember Weaver made a motion for Mayor Eskridge to remain on the board. Councilmember DeLoughy seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items on the agenda, Mayor Eskridge declared the meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene M. Roellig, City Clerk

CITY OF ST MARYS

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 12, 2009

The Mayor and City Council for the City of St. Marys, Georgia met for its regular City Council session on Monday, January 12, 2009 in the Council Chamber at City Hall.

PRESENT WERE:

*Mayor Rowland Eskridge
Councilmember Greg Bird
Councilmember William DeLoughy
Councilmember Deborah Hase
Councilmember Larry Johnson
Councilmember Chuck Trader
Councilmember Gull Weaver*

CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:

*William Shanahan, City Manager
Amanda Blackledge, City Attorney
Tim Hatch, Police Chief
Roger Wooten, Asst. Police Chief
Robby Horton, Fire Chief
Roger Weaver, Planning Director
Bobby Marr, Public Works
Marsha Hershberger, Asst. Finance Director
Alyce Thornhill, Economic Development Director
Janet Brinko, Tourism Director
Gene Rudy, IT Director
Donna Folsom, HR Director
Shavon Gibbs, Court Administrator
Bilal Muhammad, City Marshal
Richard Riggle, Sergeant-At-Arms*

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Eskridge called the City Council Meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. Reverend James Ham, End Time Gospel gave the invocation. Mayor Eskridge led the audience in the pledge of allegiance. Council roll call indicated a quorum of council members present for the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *December 8, 2008 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes
December 8, 2008 Public Hearing Kishan Enterprises of Georgia, Inc.
D/B/A A to Z Liquors Minutes
December 17, 2008 Special City Council Meeting Minutes*

Councilmember DeLoughy made a motion to approve the regular City Council meeting minutes as presented. Councilmember Trader seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Councilmember Weaver made a motion to approve the Public Hearing minutes as presented. Councilmember Trader seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Councilmember Weaver made a motion to approve the special City Council meeting minutes as presented. Councilmember Hase seconded the motion. Councilmember Bird referenced a correction on page 2 under Jeff Stanford's comments and recommended putting a period at the end of the word "Georgian". Councilmember's discussed the documents that were referenced but not being in Council's possession. Councilmember Bird amended the motion to strike out "*and provided documents to back the accusations*". Councilmember Hase seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

PRESENTATION:

DIXON'S RECOGNITION: *Christmas in the Park*

Mayor Eskridge presented a certificate of recognition to Alton and Wendy Dixon for their efforts, unselfish time spent and planning to benefit the community. The Dixon's were thanked and recognized for their service and indisputable dedication to making the City of St Marys a wonderful place to live.

APPOINTMENTS

ST. MARYS CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU AUTHORITY: *Seven Term Expirations*

Councilmember Weaver made a motion to postpone the Convention Visitors Bureau appointments until February 9th. Councilmember Hase seconded the motion. The Mayor and Councilmember's discussed the reasons for the postponement, the term expirations, when the house bill is expected to be approved and the CVB meeting date.

Councilmember Hase amended the motion to postpone and extend the current people's terms until the house bill is approved. Councilmember DeLoughy seconded the motion.

Councilmember Bird questioned whether Council could extend the terms without state approval and commented on the proposed by-laws not being brought before council; the unfairness to the community when items are added to the agenda hastily and the mistakes that could be made when there is not enough time to review documents. He also referenced the Charter requirements for appointments, agendas and press notification.

Councilmember Weaver responded that the CVB By-Laws were added to the agenda because it was inadvertently left off. It was not done in haste, does not need to be approved tonight and has nothing to do with the present house bill. Councilmember Weaver stated that she was trying to avoid the contention that Council had in the past with appointments. The Board worked on the by-laws since August and they deserve to be heard on their accomplishment.

Councilmember Bird and Councilmember Weaver discussed which council members she contacted about the delay in appointments. Councilmember Bird stated his opinion that a lot of communication was going on and decisions being made without all the council members being included in the process. All of Council equally represents St. Marys. Therefore, all council members should have been contacted if it was important, even if some of us disagree. By not doing so, it shows a breakdown of trust in our

community. Councilmember Weaver commented that to discuss this issue with Councilmember Bird would have violated having a quorum. Councilmember Bird commented that there would only be a violation of a quorum, if everyone was in a gathered meeting, not individually.

Councilmember Hase reiterated the amended motion to postpone and to extend the current terms until the house bill is approved during this year's legislative session. Research might need to be done to see whether Council is required to appoint at the first meeting. The Charter talks about the appointments Council has already made for Mayor Pro Tem and Council Committees. Councilmember Hase questioned what legislation says about appointments being made at the first meeting. Councilmember Weaver responded that CVB legislation states the appointments end January 31st and the new appointments begin February 1st.

The City Attorney stated that it also says members serve at the pleasure of the Mayor and Council. She further stated that during much research on authority's case law, if there is a vote, Council can adjust the term when there is a majority vote of the Mayor and Council. Councilmember Hase clarified that she called Councilmember Weaver about the by-laws being added to the agenda and there were extenuating circumstances because they were inadvertently left off. The extension allows the people who worked on the legislation to see it through to the end. Councilmember DeLoughy stated that the purpose for the legislation was to avoid the problems Council dealt with in the past with appointments. Following much discussion, voting was recorded as follows:

FOR

Councilmember DeLoughy
Councilmember Hase
Councilmember Trader
Councilmember Weaver

OPPOSED

Councilmember Bird
Councilmember Johnson

TREE BOARD: *Term Expirations (McClendon & Westcot) & One Vacancy (Forster)*

Mayor Eskridge stated that there were several appointments to be made on the Tree Board. He talked to the Chairman and he recommends Daniel Westcot, Mac Maurin and Ed Torgersen for the appointments. Voting was recorded and read as follows:

*Daniel Westcot – Councilmember's Bird, Hase, Trader, Weaver, Deloughy and Johnson

*Mac Maurin – Councilmember's Bird, Hase, Weaver and DeLoughy

*Ed Torgersen – Councilmember's Bird, Hase, Trader, Weaver, DeLoughy and Johnson

Michele Donini-Bellisile – Councilmember's Trader and Johnson

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Assistant Finance Director presented the financial reports and presented the 5-months report for General, Local Option Sales Tax (LOST), Water/Sewer, Solid Waste, Tourism, Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) and Aquatic Center. Past due tax notices were mailed out, and due January 31st. Mayor Eskridge commented that a 2-day grace period for the initial tax due date in December could be extended until January 2nd because City Hall is closed on the 31st for New Years Eve. A copy of the report is attached as part of the minutes.

The Finance Committee scheduled a tentative meeting on February 9, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber to review the past 6-months revenues.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Councilmember Weaver made a motion to approve the agenda and adding the Greenway resolution. Councilmember DeLoughy seconded the motion. The Greenway resolution was added to the agenda as item "F" under new business. Councilmember Bird expressed concerns about adding items to the agenda if they were not deemed necessary as noted in the Handbook for Georgia Mayors and Councilmembers on page 97 under "A Meeting Agenda". The Mayor and Councilmember's discussed the importance and necessity of adding items "D and E" to the agenda and advertising the agenda for the public. Following much discussion, Councilmember Weaver withdrew the motion. Councilmember DeLoughy withdrew the seconded to the motion.

Councilmember Trader moved to approve the agenda as presented. Councilmember DeLoughy seconded the motion. Councilmember Weaver requested adding the Greenway resolution to the February 9th agenda. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

GRANTING AUDIENCE TO THE PUBLIC:

Cookie Johnson, resident thanked everyone for their well wishes during Councilmember Johnson's illness. Ms. Johnson addressed the issue when prior CVB hard working members were removed from the board and suggested choosing people who know what an officers position entails, especially the secretary to take minutes. She suggested not appointing best friends unless they are willing to work.

Councilmember Weaver responded that the House Bill states that the City provides the clerical support. The City Manager commented that administrative support is provided through the Tourism Department and the minutes are approved to be true and correct by the secretary prior to the meeting.

Dave Schmitz, resident addressed his earlier comments regarding the trash pick-up problems not being only in an isolated area, but through-out the city. Mr. Schmitz commented that on several occasions he addressed Council about his willingness to pay extra taxes to keep more fire fighters on the fire trucks. He further commented that many of our neighbors are having fiscal problems and requested the City to adopt a standard policy to not sell property on the courthouse steps.

The Mayor and Councilmember's responded that the City has not sold property at the courthouse but tax liens are collected if the property does sell.

John Morrissey, resident commented that a catastrophe budget plan or budget forecast is essential with revenue spending and significant short falls for the City's financial situation. Mr. Morrissey requested a flash finance report by the first of the month be made available to the community for the current budget and next years.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no “Old Business” for Council consideration at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. SOUTHEAST GEORGIA HEALTH SYSTEM: *Hospital Fee Contract*

Approval of the contract with Southeast Georgia Health System for payment of medical services provided to those persons in custody of the City of St. Marys Police Department. In addition, the City shall receive a thirty five percent (35%) discount for services when the payment is mailed within sixty (60) days of the billing date.

Councilmember Trader moved to approve the Southeast Georgia Health System contract. Councilmember Hase seconded the motion. Councilmember DeLoughy questioned how often these services were needed. The Police Chief responded that the City pays approximately \$2,000 per month for emergency care. Once custody is transferred, it is the county’s responsibility. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

B. GEORGIA EMERGENCY ASSOCIATES: *Physicians Fee Contract*

Approval of the contract with Georgia Emergency Associates for payment of physician’s services provided to those persons in custody of the City of St. Marys Police Department. In addition, the City shall receive a thirty five percent (30%) discount for services when the payment is mailed within thirty (30) days of the billing date.

Councilmember Hase moved to approve the contract. Councilmember Weaver seconded the motion. Councilmember Hase questioned whether the services were put out for proposal. The City Attorney stated that the associate group provides services at the hospital. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

C. CELTIC DRAGONS BISTRO & BAR, LLC NEW ALCOHOL LICENSE: *Public Hearing Advertising*

Approval to advertise a public hearing for a beer, wine and spirituous liquor license for Celtic Dragons Bistro & Bar located at 887-F Kings Bay Road, for the sale of beer, wine and spirituous liquor on-premises, with food. Ms. Bobbins is leasing a suite in the South Georgia Professional Park, Phase IV to conduct business as a restaurant and bar.

Councilmember Bird made a motion to approve advertising for a public hearing on February 9, 2009 at 5:45p.m. in the Council Chamber at City Hall. Councilmember Weaver seconded the motion. Councilmember Hase questioned whether distance requirements were met. The City Clerk responded that all distance requirements were met. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

D. ST. MARYS CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU AUTHORITY BY-LAWS: *Discussion of By-Laws for Amended H.B. 839 (ADDED)*

Council review and discussion of the changes made to the By-Laws in accordance with the soon to be amended House Bill 839.

Councilmember Weaver stated that an insertion to Article I Section 3, number 3 (a) is necessary because the CVB Board is not to make exclusive recommendations. The word “copy” should be added to the third line: “*Letters shall be delivered to the City Clerk and a copy forward...*” The intent of sending copies to the CVB Board is to review the qualifications of the applicants to see if they met the criteria and what they could bring to the board.

Councilmember Hase commented that boards could make recommendations but all citizens were entitled to apply for appointments, and questioned whether Section 1, Amendments: Changes in By-Laws were already addressed in the current by-laws. The City Attorney responded that the current law/house bill states that the by-laws can be created for the internal organizational procedure by the board members but they cannot be inconsistent with the actual legislation. She also read the excerpt from Section 9 of the current House Bill.

The Mayor, Council Members and City Attorney discussed whether changes to the by-laws could be made; who had the authority to be law makers; CVB recommendations for appointments; Council filling vacancies; comparison of the current legislation and questions regarding employees referenced in House Bill 839, Section 9. Following much discussion, no official action was taken at this time.

BREAK

The Mayor and Council adjourned for a break at 8:05 p.m., returning at 8:13 p.m. with Mayor Eskridge calling the Council meeting back to order.

E. EIP GRANT: *Present Approved Loan Documents for Signature (ADDED)*

To present loan documents for Council approval and authorization to execute the EIP Grant through a federal grant from the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) in order to move forward with the Gateway Employment and Manufacturing, Inc. (GEM) project. Once the funds are repaid, future economic developments loans would be available.

Councilmember’s, City Manager and City Attorney discussed the City not being responsible for default and availability for future redevelopment projects.

Councilmember Weaver made a motion to approve the EIP Grant loan documents. Councilmember Trader seconded the motion.

Voting was recorded as follow:

FOR

Councilmember DeLoughy
Councilmember Hase
Councilmember Trader
Councilmember Weaver

ABSTAINED

Councilmember Bird
Councilmember Johnson

REPORT OF AUTHORITIES, BOARDS, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES:

A. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT

1. PAID LEAVE

The committee voted to send the Paid Leave Policy with catastrophic leave to Council to post for the required 14 day period. Two separate policies are included: one without the sale of leave and one with the sale of leave included.

Councilmember Weaver made a motion to approve posting the policy for sale of leave for 14-days. Councilmember Bird seconded the motion. Councilmember Hase amended the motion to change the word “*vacation*” to “*leave*” on page 1, number five (5) “*Department Head must request approval of their leave time ...*”

Councilmember Weaver seconded the amended motion. Councilmember Trader commented that number 1: “*Employees must request leave of more than four (4) hours at least two weeks in advance...*” people cannot always plan for things that come up last minute and exceptions that the City Manager could overrule if necessary. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

2. DISCIPLINARY POLICY

The Disciplinary Policy was posted for 14 days for employee comment. After reviewing comments the committee made a few changes and recommended the policy for final adoption.

Councilmember Weaver made a motion to approve the policy with the caveat in the heading: *Grounds for disciplinary action include, but not limited to the following:* Councilmember Bird seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

3. GRIEVANCE POLICY

The Grievance Policy was posted for 14 days for employee comment. After reviewing the comments, the committee made a few changes and recommended the policy for final adoption.

Councilmember Weaver made a motion to approve the policy as presented.
Councilmember Bird seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

4. REDUCTION IN FORCE POLICY

The committee recommended approval to post the policy for the required 14 day period.

Councilmember Weaver made a motion to approve posting for 14 days.
Councilmember Hase seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

5. PART TIME POSITIONS: Discussion & City Clerk's Office

The committee tasked City staff to explore the possibility of sharing some of the part-time assistants to create one full-time position.

Councilmember Johnson made a motion to send this item back to committee. The motion died for lack of second. The City Manager stated that Lori Whitlow will be the assistant in the Clerk's office as needed.

REPORT OF MAYOR:

December 10, 2008 – Attended the Hospital Authority meeting and Groundbreaking for Mr. Jones' Clinic

December 11, 2008 – Attended the Community Action Group (CAG) meeting and court for the Airport Authority

December 15, 2008 – The City presented an award from the St. Marys Garden Club for the Christmas decorations and attended the Airport Authority meeting

December 16, 2008 – Attended the Senior Center Christmas party and Personnel Committee meeting

December 17, 2008 – Attended the Special Council meeting

December 30, 2008 – Met with Pete Kinsley regarding treatment plant

January 3, 2009 – Visited Councilmember Johnson in Shands Hospital

January 7, 2009 – Met with the City Manager and Public Works Director

January 8, 2009 – Attended the Public Service Authority (PSA) meeting

January 10, 2009 – Participated in the Camden County High School Parade

Mayor Eskridge and the City Manager were asked to make a presentation at the District 12 meeting regarding the visit from our State Representative this past year. The calendar of events, meetings and activities were read for the remainder of January.

REPORT OF CITY MANAGER:

The Public Works Director presented an update of the current projects. The Public Works Director and City Manager answered Council's questions regarding the projects. A copy of the report is attached as part of the minutes.

- Veterans Memorial Park – The design was chosen and Council direction will be needed on whether to proceed with the project and funding.
- Crepe Myrtle Grant – The grant was accepted and awaiting the evaluation.
- Trash Pickup – Staff has been pulled off other projects. Councilmember Hase questioned whether the Sheriff was approached about the use of county prisoners. The City Manager responded that he met with the Sheriff regarding a detail. The City Manager was tasked to invite Sheriff Gregory to the next meeting. Council member Weaver suggested looking into alternative sentencing for more community service.

GRANTING AUDIENCE TO THE PUBLIC:

John Morrissey requested a monthly review of financials as a flash report of forecasts and budgets.

Councilmember DeLoughy stated that the Finance Committee will be meeting before the next council meeting to discuss revenues, franchise taxes, insurance premiums, etc. and it would be a good time figure out what could and could not be done. Councilmember Trader commented that he would be willing to meet with Mr. Morrissey and bring it up at the next finance meeting. Councilmember Hase requested a copy of the monthly financial reports available for the public.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: *Property*

Councilmember DeLoughy made a motion to adjourn to executive session to discuss property/real estate. Councilmember Trader seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

The Mayor and Council adjourned to executive session at 9:22 p.m., returning at 9:36 p.m. with Mayor Eskridge calling the Council meeting back to order.

PROPERTY (Property/Real Estate)

No official action was taken at this time.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember Trader made a motion for adjournment. Councilmember DeLoughy seconded the motion. Mayor Eskridge declared the meeting adjourned at 9:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene M. Roellig, City Clerk