

MINUTES

TOCCOA CITY COMMISSION WORK SESSION October 10, 2011 3:00 P.M.

Mayor English called the meeting to order.

Present were: Mayor Janice English, Vice Mayor David Austin, Commissioners Ron Seib, Bob Troup and A J Pavliscsak, City Clerk Fredda Wheeler, City Manager Mick Jackson and Department Directors. Sharon Crosby, Michelle Jamieson, Buddy Lawson, Lynn Cox, Terry Carter and Joann Raybon were also present.

I. Discussion of Listening Session / Next Steps

A roundtable discussion was held with the following comments being expressed:

- The City Manager was asked to formulate a plan as to whether Main Street or the Downtown Development Authority will be responsible for the mall restrooms
- Problem with the Historic Preservation Commission is either process or timing
- Promote a “turnkey” application process for obtaining a Certificate Of Appropriateness (COA).
- Money for facade grants must be substantial
- Impose a deadline on completion date to encourage business owners to move ahead with renovations
- Downtown businesses should be held to the same blight ordinances as homeowners
- Increase the amount of the facade grant
- City Manager will work on revising the Facade Grant Program. It was suggested that it should be changed to \$5,000 with a 50% match and the City of Toccoa would allocate a total of \$30,000 for the program
- The ordinances will be enforced by the City Marshall equally throughout the City

II. Discussion of Utilities Breaking Even or Being Profitable

The following comments were expressed:

- The Water Utility is currently subsidizing the Sewer Utility
- Customers that do not have Sewer service should not be paying for those customers who do through their Water Rates.
- Readdress the Design South Study

III. Discussion of Usage of Franchise Fees

- Part of the franchise fees obtained from Georgia Power, Windstream & Northland Cable should be used for Right-of-Way improvements and beautification projects
- Need to grow the tax base
- Franchise fees are “gravy”
- Should allocate 10% of franchise fees collected to Right-of-Way and blight projects

IV. Discussion of Hiring a Gas Coordinator

- Need someone to develop and foster a relationship with potential gas customers
- Hire independent contractor to get the mains in the ground
- Toccoa Natural Gas has unmet demand for gas service
- Priority should be putting gas mains in the ground
- Work with facts and figures given by Utilities Director Don Dye to get gas mains in the ground

V. Other Item of Discussion

There were no other items of discussion

The Work Session was adjourned.

Mayor

City Clerk