

City of Woodland

Meeting Minutes

February 10, 2025

I. Call to Order

Mayor James Carter called to order the regular meeting of the Woodland City Council at 6:34 PM on February 10, 2025, at the Woodland City Hall.

II. Roll Call

The following persons were in attendance: Mayor James Carter, Mayor Pro Tem T. L. Carter, Councilwoman Allison Owens, Councilman John Haralson, City Clerk Allissa Gresham, Municipal Clerk Cynthia Powell, and City Attorney Gary Byrd. Councilman Jeffery Mitchell was absent.

III. Approval of Agenda

Mayor Pro Tem Carter made a motion to approve the agenda. Councilwoman Owens seconded. All approved. Motion carried.

IV. FY 2025 Proposed Budget Public Hearing

- a) Councilwoman Owens made a motion to table approving the FY 2025 City of Woodland Proposed Budget, pending amendments to the Election Qualifying Fee Section, until the March 10, 2025, Regular Council Meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Carter seconded. All approved. Motion carried.

V. Intent to Opt Out HB 581 Homestead Exemption Public Hearing

- a) No motion is required at this time.

VI. Approval of Minutes

The January 13, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes and the January 27, 2025, Special called Meeting Minutes were distributed.

Councilwoman Owens made a motion to approve the January 13, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes and the January 27, 2025, Special Called Meeting Minutes. Councilman Haralson seconded. All approved. Motion carried.

VII. Guest Speakers: None

VIII. Attorney Report

- a) Attorney Byrd stated he contacted the Talbot County Magistrate Court judge on October 11, 2024, to discuss the August 2024 City of Woodland theft of services report. He stated the Magistrate Court was closed for the Columbus Day holiday. He stated Clerk Powell was holding the report for corrections to be made by the HWR Water Solutions employee. Attorney Byrd stated on November 15, 2024, Clerk Powell emailed him the corrected report

City of Woodland

Meeting Minutes

February 10, 2025

from the HWR employee. He stated the email from Clerk Powell went into his junk email folder and was not printed until December 09, 2024. Attorney Byrd stated he contacted the Magistrate Court judge in November 2024, and she stated he should contact the Talbot County deputy and have him present his report to the Magistrate Court judge to issue a warrant for theft of services. Attorney Byrd stated he tried contacting the Talbot County deputy, but the deputy never returned his phone call. Attorney Byrd stated he tried contacting Sheriff Gates, but he never received a return call. Attorney Byrd stated he had met with Sheriff Gates on Thursday, February 06, 2025, about this matter. Attorney Byrd emailed Sheriff Gates the incident report on Friday, February 07, 2025. Sheriff Gates stated he would be moving forward with the case.

- b) Attorney Byrd discussed House Bill 581 with the Mayor and Council. He stated the House Bill 581 was passed by referendum, taking effect January 1, 2025. He stated it requires all Counties, Cities, and Boards of Education to opt in or opt out of the new homestead valuation rules by March 1, 2025. Attorney Byrd stated the City of Woodland held the first of three hearings before tonight's Regular Council Meeting. The second hearing will be held on Monday, February 17, 2025, and the third hearing will be held on Monday, February 24, 2025, at 6:15 PM at the Woodland City Hall. He stated the City of Woodland would hold a Special Called Meeting immediately after the third hearing to vote to opt out.
- c) Attorney Byrd stated he drafted the amendment to the nuisance statute to have the Code Enforcer initiate investigations and the Magistrate Court to hold misdemeanor hearings. Clerk Gresham will place the amendment in the City of Woodland Charter and Ordinance binder, and she will email a copy to the Code enforcer.
- d) Attorney Byrd discussed the first election notice he ran in the newspaper had errors. He stated he would redraft the notice and run it this month in the newspaper, and he would pay the cost of publication.
- e) Attorney Byrd presented Clerk Gresham with the monthly invoice for services.

Mayor Pro Tem Carter made a motion to accept the Attorney Report. Councilman Haralson seconded. All approved. Motion carried.

IX. Water Report

- a) Jeff Harrison of HWR Water Solutions stated the City of Woodland produced 1,581,800 gallons of water and billed out 761,860 gallons of water. He stated there was 519,940 gallons of water loss.
- b) Jeff stated HWR Water Solutions repaired leaks on Pleasant Valley Road, 7th and 8th Avenue, a service line on 2nd Street and a service line across from Mayor Carter's house. He

City of Woodland

Meeting Minutes

February 10, 2025

stated HWR will be repairing a small leak on 7th Avenue this Thursday. Jeff stated HWR also repaired a two-inch pipe that was damaged by the CDBG construction crew.

- c) Jeff stated the CDBG Project is progressing well.
- d) Clerk Powell distributed the Water System Totals Report and the Delinquent Account Report for January 2025. The water report shows the total billed was \$8242.85, and the total received was \$8565.18.

Councilwoman Owens made a motion to accept the water report. Councilman Haralson seconded. All approved. Motion carried.

X. Clerk Report

- a) Clerk Gresham stated Carter Enterprises of GA, LLC, is in the process of completing the Peach Drive Culvert Project.
- b) Clerk Gresham discussed the two gazebos were delivered for the park, and they were in the Community Building storage room until Talbot County could bring the prison detail to construct them.
- c) Clerk Gresham stated the two picnic tables and outdoor trash cans for the park were delivered. She stated Carsland had put the picnic tables together and placed the trash cans in the proper locations at the park.
- d) Clerk Gresham stated the four umbrellas for the park were delivered and Carsland is in the process of putting them together. She discussed having Carsland return the two bases ordered to Home Depot because they were too tall. Clerk Gresham will purchase two more bases that are shorter.
- e) Clerk Gresham stated Carter Enterprises of GA, LLC is in the process of completing the additional concrete projects and hand railing at the park.
- f) Clerk Gresham presented the month's financial reports.

Mayor Pro Tem Carter made a motion to accept the Clerk Report. Councilman Haralson seconded. All approved. Motion carried.

XI. Open Business: None

XII. New Business

- a) Clerk Gresham discussed the email she received from Blaine Hoskins from River Valley Regional Commission about the City of Woodland Comprehensive Plan being due for it's five-year update. She stated a countywide kick off meeting is scheduled for Tuesday,

City of Woodland Meeting Minutes

February 10, 2025

February 25, 2025, at 6:00 PM at the Talbot County Commissioner's Office and there will be a countywide meeting on June 11, 2025, for the public to have a chance to view the updated land use maps. Clerk Gresham stated Mr. Hoskins wants to hold two community input meetings for the City of Woodland specifically. One meeting in March and the second meeting in May. The Council suggested holding both community input meetings at the City of Woodland Community Building on Monday, March 17, 2025, and Monday, May 19, 2025, at 5:00 PM. Clerk Gresham will contact Mr. Hoskins to set these dates and times.

- b) Clerk Gresham discussed the City of Woodland submitting the 2025 LMIG application to resurface Club Court after the CDBG Project is completed. Mayor Pro Tem Carter made a motion to submit the 2025 LMIG application to resurface Club Court after the CDBG Project is completed. Councilman Haralson seconded. All approved. Motion carried.

XIII. Executive Session: No Executive Session was needed.

Mayor Pro Tem Carter made a motion to pay the bills. Councilwoman Owens seconded. All approved. Motion carried.

XIV. Adjournment

Mayor Pro Tem Carter made a motion to adjourn. Councilwoman Owens seconded. All approved. Motion carried.

Mayor James Carter adjourned the meeting at 7:25 PM.

Minutes Submitted By: _____

Allissa Gresham

City Clerk

Approval Date