



**City of Demorest**  
**City Council Work Session**

Regular Session Minutes  
*Demorest Municipal Building*  
*Tuesday, September 29, 2020, 6:00 P.M.*

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**ATTENDEES**

Sean Moore, *Councilman*  
John Hendrix, *Councilman*  
Rick Austin, PhD, *Mayor*

Nathan Davis, *Councilman*  
Kim Simonds, *City Clerk*  
Joey Homans, *City Attorney*

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The September 29, 2020 Demorest City Council Work Session was held in the Demorest Municipal Building located at 125 Ivy Street.

**AGENDA ITEM I and II: INVOCATION AND PLEDGE TO THE FLAG**

Councilman Moore led with the invocation and pledge to the flag.

**AGENDA ITEM III: CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Austin called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

**AGENDA ITEM IV: APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Mayor Austin asked if there were amendments or changes to be made to the agenda as presented. When there were no changes, he called for a motion to approve the agenda. Such a motion was made by Councilman Moore and seconded by Councilman Hendrix.

***ACTION: The agenda was approved as presented (3-0).***

**AGENDA ITEM V: APPEARANCE AND PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mayor Austin called for public comments. Mayor Austin noted that two prominent figures in the City of Demorest recently passed away, Malcolm Hunnicutt (former Mayor) and Grady Tench (former City Councilman). The Mayor also said that the *Concerned Citizens of Demorest* (CCD) had submitted questions, some of which had previously been addressed.

**AGENDA ITEM VI: DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS**

**Ken Ranalli, Fire Chief:** Demorest firefighters have been participating in additional training with the City of Cornelia. Chief Ranalli is ready to place the order for a new fire truck should SPLOST be approved in the upcoming referendum.

**Robin Krockum, Chief of Police:** Chief Krockum told everyone that he is looking into grant opportunities and should have information at the next meeting.

**Bryan Popham, Director of Public Works:** The Garrison Road well has been out of service for six weeks. The motor has been repaired and it should be up and running within a week. The lift station that was damaged by lightning has been repaired. Water crews have repaired more than thirty leaks in the last month.

City Manager Simonds showed COVID kits that have been purchased for Demorest citizens. They will be available for pick-up at City Hall and can be delivered if needed.

A candidate's forum will be held at the beginning of the meeting on October 6. Each Council candidate will have an opportunity to speak.

**AGENDA ITEM VII(1): MILLAGE RATE**

Attorney Homans noted that the tax history ran in the paper last week and the public hearing for the millage rate will be held at the next meeting on October 6.

**AGENDA ITEM VIII(1): HANCOCK MEADOWS REQUEST**

Dale Holmes of Headwaters Realty spoke to the assembly regarding the purchase of land in Hancock Meadows. His client, Galilee Partners, wants to develop the property as was originally projected for PHASE II. It consists of 12.34 acres. Mayor Austin said there should be no problems and the ordinances are in place for such a development. All permitting and inspections are handled through the County.

**AGENDA ITEM VIII(2): RESOLUTION FOR GRANT APPLICATION**

Ms. Simonds has been working with Laurin Yoder, a representative from the Georgia Mountain Regional Commission to obtain a 50/50 grant for improvements in Demorest Springs Park. A resolution will need to be passed by the City Council supporting the grant effort. Mayor Austin asked that a list be provided at the next meeting detailing the expenditure of the grant money.

**AGENDA ITEM VIII(3): GENERATOR PURCHASE WITH FEMA GRANT FUNDS**

Following Hurricane Irma, the City applied for a GEMA grant for the purchase of 2 generators. That grant was approved and Council will be asked to approve the purchase at the next meeting.

**AGENDA ITEM VIII(4): HABERSHAM MEDICAL CENTER SECURITY CONTRACT**

Chief Krockum presented the draft for a new contract to provide security for the hospital. They currently reimburse the City \$60,000 per year for one full time officer's salary and benefits. Other officers working to staff the hospital are treated as 1099 employees for the hospital. The draft contains several changes such as only staffing with Demorest officers, raising the hourly salary from \$18.00 to \$22.00, and staffing 84 hours every 2 weeks – part time and full time. Councilman Hendrix said he believed that the City incurs increased liability when staffing for the hospital and that the contract is somewhat convoluted and should be very straightforward with the hospital reimbursing the City totally and in full for all costs. Chief Krockum said that might create the need to hire an additional officer. He was asked to "run the numbers" and bring his calculations to the next meeting where the issue will be re-visited.

**AGENDA ITEM IX: CONSIDERATION OF MOTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SERVICE**

There was no business requiring adjournment into Executive Session.

**AGENDA ITEM X: MOTION TO ADJOURN**

A motion was made to adjourn by Councilman Moore and was seconded by Councilman Davis and was unanimously approved (3-0). The meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

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*Rick Austin, Mayor of Demorest*

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*Kim Simonds, City Clerk*

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