# Molena City Council

# PO Box 247 10 Spring Street Molena GA 30258

# Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 14, 2022

1. Call to order

Mayor Joyce Corley called to order the City Council meeting of the Molena, Georgia City Council at 6 p.m.

1. Pledge and Invocation

Councilmember Damon Riggins, Post 2 led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag followed by a brief prayer.

1. Roll call

City Clerk Tina Lee conducted a visual roll call. The following persons were present: Mayor Joyce Corley; Mayor Pro Tempore Jennifer Riggins, Post 1; Councilmember Damon Riggins, Post 2; Councilmember Andrea Ashby, Post 3; Councilmember Luis Vazquez, Post 4; Councilmember Allison Turner, Post 5; and City Attorney L. Scott Mayfield. Also present were Chief of Police Matt Polk and City Clerk Tina Lee.

1. Public Comments and Invited Guests
   1. Citizen's Comments
      1. David Russell commented that the $6.00 Customer service fee should be removed from the water bill and should be included on the tax bill as a portion of the property taxes.
   2. Invited Guests
      1. Wayne Harper and Jessie Anthony representing AmWaste
         1. Mr. Harper presented the case for AmWaste stating they felt they have served the city well. He explained the reasons for some of the changes to service such as the reason for the one-arm truck.
         2. He pointed out he has personally responded many times when City Clerk Tina Lee has called, texted, or emailed him and rectified citizen's complaints. He provided examples.
         3. Mr. Harper provided 13 examples of emails from City Clerk Tina Lee to AmWaste over a seven-month period. This does not represent all of the complaints to AmWaste. He stated if you multiply this number of complaints by 10, this still represents a 90% accuracy rate.
         4. Councilmember Damon Riggins, Post 2 reminded Mr. Harper that each call, email, text or complain represented multiple complaints as well as multiple calls that were unsuccessful. He also stated that the one-arm truck frequently tossed trash onto the other side of the road when picking up instead of the trash going into the truck.
         5. Councilmember Luis Vazquez, Post 4 responded that even when drivers are confronted with this they do not pick up the trash, they just leave it.
         6. Citizen Brian Greene agreed to both of these comments.
         7. Mr. Harper asked that the city revisit the issue totally. He did remind the city that rates have been kept as reasonable as possible.
         8. Councilmember Damon Riggins, Post 2 stated they have had a shot, but complaints have not been resolved to which Mr. Harper responded, he has not been made aware of complaints.
         9. Mr. Anthony stated he believed the crux of the issue was communication due to the call center for AmWaste originally being located in Alabama.
         10. Citizen complaint about trash not being picked up four different times and being forced to wait for a week for pickup and he was witnessed the complaint being called in to AmWaste. The man on the route complained about being required to pick up a 750-can route alone.
         11. The mayor added her experience and that of her parents. She also mentioned the can that was left in front of City Hall.

City Attorney Scott Mayfield advised it was time to stop the discussion due to the threat of a lawsuit.

1. Approval of minutes from last meeting

Minutes from previous meetings were emailed to Council and posted on the web. Councilmember Damon Riggins, Post 2 moved to approve the current agenda with a second by Mayor Pro Tempore Jennifer Riggins, Post 1 . Mayor Pro Tempore Jennifer Riggins, Post 1 moved to amend the agenda to add a vote to approve the pressure washing bid. This was seconded by Councilmember Luis Vazquez, Post 4. Both motions were passed unanimously.

1. Chief of Police Matthew Polk
   1. Chief of Police, Matthew Polk reported on the number of calls and citations.
      1. Due to the absence of the appropriate personnel at Pike County Dispatch, there was no report on the number of calls. Thirty-one citations were issued over the past month.
      2. Call to gas station due to vandalism to window.
      3. Second Crown Victoria has been donated.
      4. Testing Body Cam for minimal cost
      5. In process of applying for Community Policing Grant
         1. Equipment, Training, etc
      6. Community Service Workers on Mondays
         1. Currently used for cleaning grounds
   2. Mileage on vehicles
      1. Explorer 11,738
      2. Tahoe 142,216
      3. Crown Victoria 142,797
   3. Explorer Loan Balance $41,067.45
   4. Computer in police department needed to be replaced.
      1. Purchased new computer with asset forfeiture money
2. Reports from council and committees
   * 1. Buildings, Streets, and Grounds - Allison Turner - Nothing to report
     2. Public Safety - Damon Riggins - Citations are up and traffic is less sporadic, more orderly
     3. Ways & Means - Luis Vazquez - nothing to report
     4. Technology and Engineering - We have a molenaga.com. Report on interest.
     5. Water - Jennifer Riggins - Defer to Mayor
     6. The Mayor's report -
        1. Met with person re county-wide grant to discuss. We provided her a list of some of the improvements on our wish list as well as providing her with information about our system. Based on that discussion, we have learned that the capped well in Molena is possibly still a viable well to be used as a back-up water source. The reason it was abandoned was because the pump was clogged up. Some time was spent attempting to determine the actual location of the well.
        2. Graffiti Foods will come weekly
        3. Angel P has offered to write grants for the city and would like a wish list
        4. July 2, 2022 is the Flag Retirement ceremony
           1. Start at 4 p.m., plans include historical items on display in City Hall and at Pavilion. There will be food and ice cream. There will possibly be a scavenger hunt. There will be ponies for children. The ceremony will be more elaborate than last year. We will wind up the evening with fireworks.
        5. Additional comments regarding garbage - Frequently not picked up.
        6. Past-due water bills.
           1. Decide when to cut off - late fees after one-week grace period and cut off by the end of the month.
           2. Specific water bill was passed for discussion.

Allowed a work-out agreement if 25% is paid up front + $25 reconnection fee.

10% of remainder must be paid each month in addition to her new water bill.

Okay to continue to work with people as long as they are making an effort. Bring people to Council on a case-by-case basis.

* + - 1. Discuss possibly updating personnel policies due to request by Office Assistant Ashley Vazquez to die her hair blue

1. Old/Unfinished Business
   1. Next PTMP location - waiting on a quote
2. New business
   1. Pressure Washing Quote
      1. Quote for pressure washing sidewalks, curbing, city buildings, park equipment and tennis court, and cemetery columns.
         1. Councilmember Damon Riggins, Post 2 moved to approve the quote. Mayor Pro Tempore Jennifer Riggins, Post 1 seconded and all approved.
      2. Discussed purchasing epoxy paint for tables.
      3. Have ordered picnic tables.
   2. Discussed Steven coming back part time to maintain the cemetery and park. His hours will be four hour per day, but not specific times due to working multiple shifts at KIA.
   3. Need for failure to appear ordinance? If we go through the state and file the DDS form, it does not always work in our favor. The city benefits from having an ordinance.
      1. Also discussed potentially hiring a prosecutor.
         1. Would potentially help keep cases in Molena and benefit Molena as opposed to cases moving to Superior Court.
         2. Judge Fowler recommended Mark Irvin.
            1. City Attorney Scott Mayfield stated if the City of Molena can afford it, we should have a prosecutor. He will develop an ordinance for the city of Molena.
      2. City Attorney Scott Mayfield stated his reasons why he felt it unnecessary to have a failure to appear ordinance.
3. Roundtable
   1. Jennifer Riggins Sign up at nursing Home
   2. Damon Riggins nothing to discuss
   3. Andrea Ashby nothing to discuss
   4. Luis Vazquez Request to purchase data package for Molena cams.
      1. Councilmember Damon Riggins, Post 2 moved to purchase packages
      2. Mayor Pro Tempore Jennifer Riggins, Post 1 seconded.
      3. All in favor
   5. Allison Turner nothing to discuss
   6. Mayor Joyce Corley nothing to discuss
   7. Chief Matthew Polk nothing to discuss
   8. City Attorney Scott Mayfield nothing to discuss
4. Adjournment

Mayor Joyce Corley adjourned the meeting at 7:32 p.m. following a motion by Councilmember Damon Riggins and a second by Councilmember Jennifer Riggins.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Choose an item.

Minutes approved by: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_