# Molena City Council

# PO Box 247 10 Spring Street Molena GA 30258

# Meeting Minutes

Monday, July 11, 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. Amend Agenda
   1. Mayor Corley called for an amendment to the agenda to include Hayes Hofstadter of Hofstadter and Associates, Inc.
      1. Upon discussion, Council decided to include him in public comments.

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; 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. Invited Guests
      * 1. None
   2. Citizen's Comments
      1. Request received to move water meter at 84 Railroad Street out of the driveway.
         1. Customer next door feels it is in a spot where he will run over it and damage it. He has to drive out of the driveway into the yard to miss it. He states the meter is in his driveway and should be moved.
         2. Meter is not located in the driveway and is the meter that serves the neighbor’s property.
         3. Will be happy to facilitate the move if the gentleman requesting the move will be willing to pay for it. Since there is nothing wrong with the meter and it is not actually in the driveway, the city does not feel it should be responsible for this expense if we accommodate this request. A note will be made that if the meter is ever replaced, it should also be moved to a better location.
      2. Heidi Thompson 264 Allen Street requesting approval to have a second primary dwelling on their property and to use it as their main residence until repairs to water and electric have been completed on the main house.
         1. This small building is already set up as a mother-in-law suite of sorts, but is detached and is more than 10 feet from the main dwelling. City ordinances do not allow for two primary dwellings, nor does this second dwelling meet the requirements for a house by Molena Zoning Ordinances.
         2. Council approved the second primary residence as the primary dwelling on the property during repairs and as an ongoing residential structure not to be used as a rental.
         3. Motion was made by Councilmember Damon Riggins, Post 2, seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Jennifer Riggins, Post 1, and unanimously approved.
      3. Comments from the public via telephone, email, Facebook, in-person visit to City Hall
         1. Hofstadter and Associates Civil and Environmental Engineers
            1. Hayes Hofstadter presented his company as a potential engineering firm to represent City of Molena
            2. Currently represent 54 cities and counties in the state of Georgia.
            3. Of those, probably 40 are populations less than 2000 people.
            4. Council listened to what he had to say and then advised the big thing is knowing that there is someone to write grants.
            5. Councilmember Damon Riggins, Post 2 mentioned in the past the city has had trouble getting an engineering firm.
            6. Mr. Hofstadter responded with a promise to always answer and offered references.
         2. Lee Smallwood – Suez
            1. Made an offer to provide service for one year for free if Molena goes ahead and signs with Suez.

Will hang freeze-dried buzzards for us if we purchase them to keep the buzzards away.

* + - * 1. Mayor Corley asked about cancellation should the need arise. Mr. Smallwood said it would probably require a buyout. It would depend on the year of the cancellation.
        2. Mr. Mayfield will look at the contract and advise Council.
        3. No vote was taken on this matter.
      1. City Attorney Scott Mayfield asked if we are officially done with American Tank.
         1. Council discussed the deficiencies of American Tank such as no work having been done for two years, the exterior paint already flaking off just months after the exterior clean and paint.
         2. Mr. Mayfield asked if he needs to send them a notice.
         3. Mayor Corley advised we had waited to pay the current years bill until a decision was made on a new company, however due to the need for their assistance during the June water crisis, we had no choice but to go ahead and pay them. Councilmember Damon Riggins, Post 2 ted, ‘We were waiting to run through you.” Mayor Corley stated, “They were expecting us to cancel.”

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 and minutes with a second by Mayor Pro Tempore Jennifer Riggins, Post 1 .

1. Chief of Police Matthew Polk
   1. Chief of Police, Matthew Polk reported on the number of calls and citations.
      1. 67 Calls for service last month
         1. Nothing out of the ordinary
         2. Participated in Governor’s Office of Highway Safety License Check jointly with Zebulon Police Department
            1. Our check was on Hwy 18 and Dunn Street.
            2. Made a case for trafficking Heroin.

Got almost 22 grams of Heroin.

4 grams = trafficking

* + - * 1. There were other citations that were written
        2. Zebulon requested K-9 assistance

Yielded a substantial drug stop

* 1. Mileage on vehicles
     1. Explorer 17,867
     2. Tahoe 145,639
     3. Crown Victoria 141,723
        1. Excellent car.
        2. Currently having issues with the air conditioning.
        3. Quote on the A/C for between $800 and $1,000 for repairs to the compressor.
        4. Able to take parts from the spare car to repair. Only cost is for freon to charge the system. Hunter Martin is making the repairs.
  2. Explorer Loan Balance $37,836.19
  3. Verizon Mission Critical to resolve the radio issue.
     1. Better solution
     2. Less expensive than radios that still will have the same reception issue
        1. Cradle would sit in Zebulon attached to a router with one radio permanently attached.
        2. Calls would be routed via secure web over the Push to Talk instead of through the radios.
        3. No loss of signal due to Verizon’s secure network and priority placed on First Responder signals.
     3. Current quote
        1. Two phones – PTT one for Chief and one for the patrol car.
           1. $90.88 per month for service ($45.44 per phone)
           2. Free phones
           3. Roughly $3,000 for the router and cradle
        2. Would do away with portable radios in Molena
        3. Councilmember Damon Riggins, Post 2 moved to use Asset Forfeiture money as far as it would go and up to $1,000 from General Fund to cover the cost.
        4. Can cut the mifis off of the current bill because the phones will act as hotspots.

1. Reports from council and committees
   * 1. Buildings, Streets, and Grounds - Allison Turner –
        1. Hole in the road at Willis and Daniel
        2. “Sinkhole” in the greenspace across from Grace Baptist Church
           1. City Clerk Tina Lee to reach out to Hofstadter and Associates for assistance repairing.
     2. Public Safety - Damon Riggins – We have police
     3. Ways & Means - Luis Vazquez – Not available
     4. Technology and Engineering – No available
     5. Water - Jennifer Riggins – We have it now
     6. The Mayor's report –
        1. We have yet to get the bill from Griffin for the purchased water. Rough estimate for cost of water not including administrative fees and not including cost of transporting it - $564
        2. Since we filled the tank, it seems to be holding its own
2. Old/Unfinished Business
   1. Backhaul at Beckham is installed.
      1. Has been running for about a week and a half.
   2. Update on project from Mr. Stewart:
      1. Feed in place @ Beckhams
      2. Looking to move out to Dunn Street
      3. Will be in town tomorrow to discuss options of getting internet vendor in the buildout
      4. Project will be completed by the end of the month
      5. Will write out the monitoring and SLA agreement
      6. Monitoring is based on device
      7. Woodbury waited until 100 devices before make service commitment/ will work on a base number for Molena
   3. Power supply to Tower 1 has been overheating. That has caused internet outages. Need to find a way to cool the shop.
   4. Internet customers unable to use their service due to tree growth over the past year.
      1. Mr. Stewart’s suggestion is to move the HAM tower behind the shop and place it on top of the Molena water tower to raise the Tower 1, thereby boosting the signal range over the trees. That should get the signal to those who already have service and to people on the north side of town.
      2. Still do not have a quote
      3. John Strickland, Mayor of Concord offered to provide service the way Woodbury is should we need to make a change.
   5. City Clerk Tina Lee has not provided addresses for nuisance letters to City Attorney Scott Mayfield. – will do so ASAP
   6. House on Garland has requested a permit for removal.
3. New business
   1. Passed a copy of Thomaston’s FTA ordinance for review.
      1. Councilmember Damon Riggins, Post 2 clarified, “this is something that the judge asked for?”
      2. City Attorney Scott Mayfield will write a similar ordinance for Molena
   2. Approval of outstanding invoices from Crawford Grading and Pipeline
      1. Replace meter at city shop $585
      2. Leak detection service $568
      3. Leak repair at Hill Street, Depot Street and replace meters on Railroad and Willis $1,983
      4. July 3 two leaks just past convenience store on Hwy 18 in Molena from 7 am until 6 pm $4,571. This was the major leak causing issues in June. Required a lot of hand digging because the gas company never responded to the emergency locate.
      5. Mayor Corley called for an approval to pay the above bills to Crawford Grading and Pipeline.
      6. Councilmember Damon Riggins, Post 2 moved to pay the bills to Crawford Grading and Pipeline as stated above.
      7. Mayor Pro Tempore Jennifer Riggins, Post 1 seconded.
      8. Vote: Mayor Pro Tempore Jennifer Riggins, Post 1 Yes, Councilmember Damon Riggins, Post 2 Yes, Councilmember Andrea Ashby yes, Councilmember Allison Turner Yes.
   3. Request to purchase a tool for Molena Public Works.
      1. No approval required – amount within Mayor Corley’s discretionary approval limit.
4. Roundtable
   1. Jennifer Riggins nothing to discuss
   2. Damon Riggins nothing to discuss
   3. Andrea Ashby nothing to discuss
   4. Luis Vazquez nothing to discuss
   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
5. Adjournment

Mayor Joyce Corley adjourned the meeting at 6:47 p.m. following a motion by Councilmember Damon Riggins and a second by Councilmember Jennifer Riggins.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: City Clerk Tina L. Lee

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