

1. Call to order and invocation by Mayor Burdette.
2. Minutes of the March 22, 1976, regular meeting, April 1, 1976, special meeting and April 3, 1976, special meeting read and approved.
3. Mayor's Comments: Mayor Burdette read a letter of commendation from Sheriff Baker for the outstanding cooperation of the City Police Dept. with the Sheriff's Dept. He also read a letter from Edward S. Bridges, a professor with Georgia Tech commending the City Police Dept. for their handling of a hit and run accident on Highway 53.
Mayor Burdette announced the spring GMA meeting to be held on April 20, 1976, at the Ramada Inn in Rome, Ga., at 2:30 p.m. He urged all Council members to attend.
Ald. Lewis made a motion to join other cities throughout the state in a "Bell Ringing" ceremony to be held at 12:00 noon on July 4, 1976, 2nd by Ald. Padgett and approved.
4. Aldermen's Comments: Ald Harwell stated that the Civil Defense Dept. had four vehicles with only one operational at this time, the new van. A complete report on these vehicles will be forthcoming.
Ald. Harwell stated that the senior citizen's meals served each day were averaging 55. The Plainville, Red Bud and Fairmount Recreation Commission will meet only monthly with the local City-County Commission.
5. No Public Comments.
6. Old Business: (a) The Mayor asked that the question of the First Baptist Church Building be discussed. He stated that he had received some 500 signatures requesting the building be preserved, another forty from the Calhoun Civic Chorus and from numerous ones from the public. A committee has been formed, headed by Tony King and their report furnished to the Council approximately one month ago. Their recommendation was to save the building as an auditorium for approximately a restoration cost of \$40,000.00 initially. The audience was asked for comments. Mrs. J. W. Thomas requested that the building be saved as a landmark. Mr. James Boyd asked what the cost of renovation and number of years use was expected from this cost. The cost was quoted from the study - \$40,000.00 with approximately \$10,000.00 or so annually and the years use was indefinite.
Aldermen's Comments: Ald. Padgett stated that this was a serious issue and had been given much thought by each Council member. Ald. Lewis asked if there was a possible buyer for the building. He stated that the City was in a position of seeking funds to repair the High School Auditorium this year or the next at a cost of approximately \$100,000.00. He stated that the City & County needed a private historical group that could determine which buildings were landmarks and should be saved. He stated

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that these matters should not be left up to the governments who must worry about cost and taxes.

Ald. Cox stated that he was not in favor of the City destroying the building but possibly selling the land and buildings in tact and using these funds to build a civic building as needed and the balance for renovations to the High School Auditorium or donate the buildings to a historical society or such.

Ald. Harwell stated that he had been a member of the Church for 24 years and had served on the maintenance committee and finance committee for years. He said he felt the cost of preserving and maintaining would be too great for the City to bear. He would be in favor of destroying the building or selling as is.

Mayor Burdette stated that he would not vote unless there was a tie vote but his personal feelings would be to preserve the building for historical reasons. He stated that the money could be raised over a period of time to renovate.

Ald. Padgett made a motion for the City to retain the land and buildings. There was no second.

Ald. Lewis made a motion to offer the land and buildings in tact for sell, with conditions to be stated, 2nd by Ald. Harwell - Ald. Cox voted affirmatively, Ald. Padgett negatively, Mayor Burdette negatively but the majority voted affirmatively and the motion was approved.

(b) Ald. Padgett made a motion to waive the 2nd and 3rd readings on the following ordinances of annexation and approved:

B. G. Gravitt, lot 25 Cherokee Acres Subdivision - R2

Eugene A. Holland, lot 24 Cherokee Acres Subdivision - R2

L.M. Lovingood, Henderson Bend Road - C2

Ebbie Mac Carney-Carol Weir Carney, land lot 265 Highway 53 - R1

W.B. Robertson, Rt 53 off I-75 - C2

2nd by Ald. Cox and approved.

(c) The Clerk read letters from the L & N Railroad and Federal Communications Commission concerning the Council's recent request to slow down the speed of trains passing through the City and a request to check on the CB radio interference in the local area.

(d) A first reading was given to the John Wayne Hall - Hall Realty Inc. property annexation ordinance involving 1.838 acres on Columbus Circle off the Red Bud Road to be zoned as R-2. A final voting will be on April 26, 1976.

(e) Ald. Cox made a motion to grant the beer license for the American Legion Post 555 provided the taxes and license fee are paid, 2nd by Ald. Padgett and approved.

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