

City of Woodland

Meeting Minutes

March 10, 2025

I. Call to Order

Mayor James Carter called to order the regular meeting of the Woodland City Council at 6:15 PM on March 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 Jeffery Mitchell, City Clerk Allissa Gresham, Municipal Clerk Cynthia Powell, and City Attorney Gary Byrd. Councilman John Haralson was absent.

III. Approval of Agenda

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

IV. Approval of Minutes

The February 10, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes, February 10, 2025, FY 2025 Proposed Budget Hearing Minutes, February 10, 2025, First Public Hearing Intent to Opt Out of HB 581 Homestead Exemption Minutes, February 17, 2025, Second Public Hearing Intent to Opt Out of HB 581 Homestead Exemption Minutes, February 24, 2025, Third Public Hearing Intent to Opt Out of HB 581 Homestead Exemption Minutes, and February 24, 2025, Special Called Meeting Minutes were distributed.

Councilwoman Owens made a motion to approve the February 10, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes, February 10, 2025, FY 2025 Proposed Budget Hearing Minutes, February 10, 2025, First Public Hearing Intent to Opt Out of HB 581 Homestead Exemption Minutes, February 17, 2025, Second Public Hearing Intent to Opt Out of HB 581 Homestead Exemption Minutes, February 24, 2025, Third Public Hearing Intent to Opt Out of HB 581 Homestead Exemption Minutes, and February 24, 2025, Special Called Meeting Minutes. Mayor Pro Tem Carter seconded. All approved. Motion carried.

V. Guest Speakers

- a) **Richard Hartley** reviewed the FY 2025 City of Woodland Proposed Budget with the Mayor and Council. Attorney Byrd discussed the proposed water revenue section increase. He asked Richard if he thought the water meters being replaced were going to increase the amount of revenue in that section. Richard stated it was highly possible and hopefully it would increase more than proposed.
- b) **Blaine Hoskins** from River Valley Regional Commission discussed the City of Woodland 2025 Comprehensive Plan. She stated plan updates are done every five years. Ms. Hoskins stated they would be updating the plan demographics, the Work Programs Section, the Report Accomplishments Section, and the Community Input Section. She stated a Community Input Meeting was scheduled for March 24, 2025, at the Talbot County Chamber of Commerce at 5:30 PM. Ms. Hoskins explained the

City of Woodland

Meeting Minutes

March 10, 2025

input meetings are important because it allows the community to have input on the plan and what the future holds for Talbot County and their city. Ms. Hoskins distributed the City of Woodland 2020 Comprehensive Plan packet for the Mayor and Council to review. She explained in previous years each municipality had a plan, but starting this year the plan will be combined, and each municipality will have a chapter in the plan in order to streamline the plan. Ms. Hoskins stated she has individual Community Input Plan Meetings scheduled for the City of Woodland on March 17, 2025, and May 19, 2025, and the Council will need to decide if they want to keep the individual meetings or have a joint Countywide meeting. Mayor Carter stated he had a list of items to be added to the plan. Clerk Gresham will email the list to Ms. Hoskins. Attorney Byrd discussed the importance of the plan is to help the City with the grant application process.

VI. 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 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. Attorney Byrd stated he had not received an update on the progress of the case as of tonight's Council Meeting.
- 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 necessary three hearings and voted to opt out of the House Bill 581. Attorney Byrd reviewed the package of materials he filed with the Secretary of State on February 26, 2025, which were attached to the Attorney Report he distributed to the Mayor and Council.

City of Woodland

Meeting Minutes

March 10, 2025

- c) Attorney Byrd reported that Clerk Gresham reached out to him regarding a visit by Talbot County Assistant Manager Ronnie Hendricks to City Hall last week. Mr. Hendricks informed her that Talbot County had just received the certified letter, which was sent in January, requesting the County clean up the old Adams Funeral Home lot it owns. Attorney Byrd explained that the County had not received the letter in time to meet the February response deadline. He also mentioned that he attempted to contact Mr. Hendricks on Monday, March 10, 2025, about the issue, leaving a voicemail, but had not yet received a return call. The Council suggested that Attorney Byrd reach out to Mr. Hendricks again and allow the County two weeks from their conversation to respond.
- d) Attorney Byrd presented Clerk Gresham with the monthly invoice for services.

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

VII. Water Report

- a) Jeff Harrison of HWR Water Solutions stated the City of Woodland produced 1,471,500 gallons of water and billed out 486,850 gallons of water. He stated there was 684,650 gallons of water loss.
- b) Jeff stated HWR Water Solutions repaired a two-inch main leak on Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive and cut a line off on Pleasant Valley Road that was running through the wood to an abandoned property.
- c) Jeff discussed a citizen on Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive who reported to City Hall that she got stuck in the mud in her driveway after the CDBG crew installed a new pipe. HWR determined the citizen was at fault for parking her vehicle in the ditch instead of her driveway.
- d) Jeff stated HWR would be replacing the fire Hydrant on Hwy. 41 as soon as possible. He stated they would send out a Code Red alert to shut the whole City's water system down in the middle of the day to replace the hydrant.
- e) Clerk Powell distributed the Water System Totals Report and the Delinquent Account Report for February 2025. The water report shows the total billed was \$7,322.25, and the total received was \$8,018.78.

Mayor Pro Tem Carter made a motion to accept the water report. Councilman Mitchell seconded. All approved. Motion carried.

VIII. Clerk Report

City of Woodland

Meeting Minutes

March 10, 2025

- a) Clerk Gresham stated the City of Woodland had received the 2025 LMIG Grant in the amount of \$ 9187.79 to resurface Club Court when the CDBG Project is completed.
- b) Clerk Gresham discussed the 90-day employment probation period had ended for Carsland Copeland, the Grounds Maintenance employee, on February 18, 2025.
- c) Clerk Gresham stated concrete and hand railing projects at the park and the Peach Drive culvert project had been completed and the contractor paid. Councilwoman Owens discussed Clerk Powell contacting the concrete contractor from Carter Enterprises of Georgia, LLC to repair the corner of the concrete pad they had damaged. Clerk Powell will contact Mr. Carter.
- d) Clerk Gresham stated the Talbot County Prison Detail completed the assembly and set up the two gazebos at the Community Park.
- e) Clerk Gresham stated Grounds Maintenance had taken all the umbrellas for the picnic tables and benches down to the park to complete installation.
- f) Clerk Gresham discussed the City purchasing new USA flags to put up on each pole along Hwy 41 and Hwy 36 during the holidays. She stated the City needed to make the purchase before the May 2025 Memorial Day holiday. Councilwoman Owens discussed purchasing six No Littering signs for the Community Park area. Councilwoman Owens made a motion to purchase twenty flags along with needed poles and hardware and six No Littering signs for the Community Park area. Mayor Pro Tem Carter seconded. All approved. Motion carried.
- g) Clerk Gresham presented the month's financial reports.

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

IX. Open Business

- a) Mayor Pro Tem Carter made a motion to approve the FY 2025 City of Woodland Proposed Budget Report. Councilwoman Owens seconded. All approved. Motion carried.

X. New Business

- a) Clerk Gresham discussed the 2025 City of Woodland Event and Holiday Calendar. Councilwoman Owens discussed holding the City of Woodland Spring Fling on Saturday, April 26, 2025, starting at 1:00 PM. Councilwoman Owens made a motion to hold the City of Woodland Spring Fling on Saturday, April 26, 2025, starting at 1:00 PM. Councilman Mitchell seconded. All approved. Motion carried. She

City of Woodland

Meeting Minutes

March 10, 2025

discussed Clerk Gresham making flyers to promote the event. The Council discussed the City renting a bounce house for the event. Clerk Gresham will get a rental quote for the bounce house from Taylor Foster Rental. The council discussed purchasing bleachers for the ball field. Clerk Powell will get price quotes for bleachers.

- b) Clerk Gresham discussed the Council approving Mayor Carter to attend the 2025 Annual GMA Convention on June 20-24, 2025, in Savannah, GA. Councilwoman Owens made a motion to approve Mayor Carter to attend the 2025 Annual GMA Convention on June 20- 24, 2025 in Savannah, GA. Councilman Mitchell seconded. All approved. Motion carried.
- c) Clerk Gresham discussed the Council approving her to attend a virtual class for Meeting Management 101 on March 19, 2025, at the cost of \$150.00. Mayor Pro Tem Carter made a motion to approve Clerk Gresham to attend the virtual class for Meeting Management 101 on March 19, 2025, at a cost of \$150.00. Councilwoman Owens seconded. All approved. Motion carried.

XI. 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.

XII. Adjournment

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

Mayor James Carter adjourned the meeting at 7:53 PM.

Minutes Submitted By: _____

Allissa Gresham

City Clerk

Approval Date