

**Minutes**  
**CITY OF FOLKSTON**  
**WORK SESSION**  
**April 12, 2021**

Before the meeting Council Member, Jim Gowen was sworn into office by City Attorney and Notary Public, Patrick Brooks.

The Mayor and Council of the City of Folkston met in a work session on April 12, 2021 at City Hall.

**Members Present:** Lee Gowen, Mayor  
Ruby Baker  
Marion Davis Jr.  
Jim Gowen  
Rob Roberson  
Bruce Young

**Members Absent:**

**Also Present:** Leonard H. Lloyd, City Manager  
Hali Coffey, Deputy Clerk  
Patrick Brooks, City Attorney

**Visitors:** Mr. Gardener, Charlton County Herald  
Dana O'Quinn, Okefenokee Chamber  
Mandy Gowen, Julianna Gowen, Charlotte Gowen,  
Johnny Gowen and Debbie Gowen

**DANA O'QUINN / OKEFENOKEE CHAMBER:**

Dana O'Quinn gave a review of the activities of Rail Watch Day held on April 10<sup>th</sup>. She stated there will be a farmer's market on the second and fourth Saturdays. There will be no other events planned for June, July and August because of the heat. In September there are plans to have a hunter's expo for the local hunters. She further stated that plans are underway for the Historical Society to have traveling exhibits in the museum. The goal is to turn the museum into a Train / Charlton County Historical Museum.

She informed the council that because the chamber position is part time, the chamber could lose two designations; Regional Visitor Information Center (GA RVIC) and the Convention Visitors Bureau. The criteria for these are to be open five days a week and to have restrooms available.

Mrs. O'Quinn presented information about a project called Hometown Hero. It is banners for the lamp post in town. The people in the community would purchase a banner to honor a family member for \$150.00, this would include the banner and brackets. The city employees will have

to install the banners. The banners would be on the poles from May until Veterans Day in November. She is requesting the council consider voting on the project at the regular meeting.

The Chamber has received a request to partner with Camden Connection to assist in under-age youth substance abuse education and prevention for Charlton County. Camden Connection will know in September if the grant is awarded.

The Okefenokee Festival will be October 16, 2021. The board is recommending the festival be extended to two days, Saturday regular hours and Sunday 10:00 am until 4:00 pm. This would encourage more vendors to participate. Mayor Gowen stated concerns about security for the extended day.

**2019 DELINQUENT UTILITY ACCOUNTS:**

A list of the 2019 delinquent utility accounts in the amount of \$15,596.90 was presented to the council. The accounts are over one year old and need to be approved as uncollectable for audit purposes. The balance on these accounts can still be collected should a customer request utility service in the future. The council will need to vote to approve the delinquent accounts at the regular meeting.

**PROCLAMATION FOR CONGENITAL DIAPHRAGMATIC HERNIA DAY:**


Mayor Gowen informed the council that Kim Passieu requested a proclamation to declare April 19, 2021 as Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia Day. An article will be placed in the newspaper to promote the awareness of the congenital defect.

**AT&T LEASE:**

Mayor Gowen stated the city has received a letter from AT&T requesting the city to consider a modified contract. The council agreed this would not be in the best interest of the city. The council will need to vote on the request at the regular meeting.

Mayor Gowen recommended that stop signs be installed at Mt. Carmel and Laura Street to help slow down the traffic. The request for speed bumps on Mt. Carmel is still an issue. Mrs. Baker stated that the stop signs at Sixth Street have helped to slow traffic in that area.

The work session ended at 5:37 pm.

  
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Lee Gowen, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Hali Coffey, Deputy Clerk