

A called meeting of the Conyers, Georgia, City Council was held at 10:00 a.m. on March 31, 2010, in the City Council Chambers at 1194 Scott Street, Conyers, Georgia. Mayor Randal Mills stated that this meeting was called to consider the February 18, 2010, appeal of Robert Todd Wood regarding the February 15, 2010, disciplinary action decision of City Manager Tony Lucas of a five-day suspension and a two-rank demotion.

Roll Call – Present: Mayor Randal Mills; Council Members Chris Bowen, Gerald Hinesley, Marty Jones and Cleveland Stroud. Absent: Council Member Vince Evans.

New Business:

1. **Robert Todd Wood's appeal of adverse disciplinary action** – City Attorney Mike Waldrop gave his opening statements to the Council on behalf of the City, and stated that he reserves the right to rebuttal. Ms. Mary Huber, attorney representing Todd Wood, gave her opening statements. City Attorney Mike Waldrop and Ms. Mary Huber provided legal arguments regarding the technical aspects of how the hearing should be conducted.

Mayor Mills asked for an executive session to discuss the legal issues of how the hearing should be conducted. Council Member Marty Jones made a motion to go into executive session to include the Council's legal counsel, Attorney John Nix, to discuss the disciplinary action of Lt. Robert Todd Wood. Council Member Cleveland Stroud seconded the motion. Mayor Mills called for a vote of the Council. All members present voted aye. Council Member Vince Evans was absent. Mayor Mills declared the motion carried.

The Council, along with Council's attorney, John Nix, convened for an executive session at 10:25 a.m.

Mayor Mills reconvened the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

City Attorney Mike Waldrop called Mr. David Michael Edwards to testify; and he was sworn in by City Attorney Waldrop. Mr. Edwards stated that he is the Re-certification Director of the Georgia Association Chiefs of Police. City Attorney Mike Waldrop conducted a direct examination of Mr. Edwards.

Attorney Mary Huber, counsel for Lt. Wood, cross-examined Mr. Edwards.

Mayor Mills called for a brief recess at 11:25 a.m.

Mayor Mills reconvened the meeting at 11:35 a.m.

City Attorney Mike Waldrop called City Manager Tony Lucas to testify; and he was sworn in by City Attorney Waldrop. Mr. Lucas gave a review of his approximately 25+ years law enforcement experience/background, as well as his position as City Manager. City Attorney Mike Waldrop conducted a direct examination of Mr. Lucas.

Attorney Mary Huber, counsel for Lt. Wood, cross-examined Mr. Lucas.

At 1:45 p.m. Mayor Mills convened the meeting for lunch.

Mayor Mills reconvened the meeting at 2:50 p.m.

Attorney Mary Huber, counsel for Lt. Wood, called Mr. Anthony Corey to testify as an expert witness; and he was sworn in by Attorney Huber. Mr. Corey stated that he was a retired Fulton County Deputy Chief of Police, and that he is currently a teacher. He also stated that he had assisted other agencies in state certification. Ms. Mary Huber conducted a direct examination of Mr. Corey.

City Attorney Mike Waldrop cross-examined Mr. Corey.

Mayor Mills called for a brief recess at 5:15 p.m.

Mayor Mills reconvened the meeting at 5:20 p.m.

Attorney Mary Huber, counsel for Todd Wood, called Lt. Wood to testify; and he was sworn in by Attorney Huber. Lt. Wood stated that he had been with the Conyers Police Department for over 20 years and has held several positions; i.e., Training Officer, community outreach, firearms training, Bailiff, D.A.R.E., etc., as well as Certification Manager. Ms. Mary Huber conducted a direct examination of Lt. Wood.

Lt. Wood was cross-examined by City Attorney Mike Waldrop.

Mayor Randy Mills stated the need for an executive session, to include Council's legal counsel, Attorney John Nix, to discuss the decision of the adverse disciplinary action of Lt. Robert Todd Wood. Council Member Marty Jones made a motion to go into executive session, to include Council's legal counsel, Attorney John Nix, to discuss the decision of the adverse disciplinary action of Lt. Robert Todd Wood. Council Member Chris Bowen seconded the motion. Mayor Mills called for a vote of the Council. All members present voted aye. Council Member Vince Evans was absent. Mayor Mills declared the motion carried.

The Council, along with Council's attorney, John Nix, convened for an executive session at 6:25 p.m.

Mayor Mills reconvened the meeting at 6:50 p.m. and stated that the Council will hold their decision until the next Council meeting, which is scheduled for April 7, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.



Randal S. Mills, Mayor

Attest:



Patricia I. Smith, City Clerk