

MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, October 10, 2016

Members Present:

Mayor John Weaver
Jim Looney
Tony Fountain
Anne Sneve

Staff:

Lisa Hoyle
Greg Lovell
Lonnie Waters
Steve Roper
Sonny Underwood
Von Headrick
David Buchanan

Guests in Attendance:

Eilene Steinhauer
Gerry Nechvatal
John Sneve
Susan Piantedosi
Sonny Proctor
Julie Mullins
Allyson Woody
Shane Fendley
Michael Piantedosi

Members Absent:

John Foust

Legal Counsel:

Bill Pickett

Press:

Angela Reinhardt

Mayor Weaver called the meeting to order promptly at 6:00 p.m. He requested Lonnie Waters give the invocation. Councilmember Anne Sneve led in the recital of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Weaver stated that Councilmember John Foust was not able to attend this Council meeting.

Mayor Weaver asked that the agenda be reviewed and approved by Council. Councilmember Anne Sneve made a motion to approve the agenda. Councilmember Jim Looney seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

City Clerk Lisa Hoyle read the minutes of the September 12, 2016 regular meeting. Councilmember Anne Sneve made a motion to adopt the minutes. Councilmember Tony Fountain seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Item A under Old Business, Mayor Weaver recognized Assistant Chief Von Headrick to present an update to Council on the Hazard Mitigation Grant for the emergency generators. Chief Headrick stated that the City had received notification that the additional money requested from FEMA and GEMA had been approved. He stated the original grant amount was \$361,231 with the City's share \$54,185. He stated the revised grant amount is now \$472,211 with the City share at \$70,832. The increase in the total cost of the project is \$110,980 with the City's responsibility increasing \$16,647. Finance Director Lisa Hoyle stated that we had room in the budget for the increase due to some 2016 projects moved to 2017 budget. Mayor Weaver entertained a motion to proceed with the project in 2016. Councilmember Jim Looney made such motion. Councilmember Anne Sneve seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Item B under Old Business, Mayor Weaver recognized Attorney Bill Pickett to present the second reading of the amendment to Chapter 10, Article IX Sales for Consumption on Premises, Section 10-309, paragraph (c) to change the food to alcohol ratio from 75/25 to 50/50. See attached ordinance change as read by Attorney Pickett. Councilmember Jim Looney made a motion to adopt the ordinance change as read. Councilmember Tony Fountain seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Item C under Old Business, Attorney Pickett presented the second reading of the amendment to Chapter 10, Article IX Sales for Consumption on Premises, Sections 10-343, 10-344 and 10-345 to change the interest and penalty calculations (required by House Bill 960) for delinquent alcohol taxes. Following the second reading of Section 10-343, Councilmember Tony Fountain made a motion to adopt the ordinance change as read. Councilmember Anne Sneve seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Following the second reading of Section 10-344, Councilmember Anne Sneve made a motion to adopt the ordinance change as read. Councilmember Tony Fountain seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Following the second reading of Section 10-345, Councilmember Anne Sneve made a motion to adopt the ordinance change as read. Councilmember Jim Looney seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Item D under Old Business, Attorney Pickett presented the second reading of the amendment to Chapter 74, Article V Hotel-Motel Excise Tax, Section 74-116, paragraph (b) to change the interest and penalty calculations (required by House Bill 960) for delinquent taxes. Councilmember Anne Sneve made a motion to adopt the ordinance change as read. Councilmember Jim Looney seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Item E under Old Business, Attorney Pickett presented the second reading of the amendment to Chapter 74, Article III Ad Valorem Tax, Section 74 – 51, paragraph (b) to change the interest and penalty calculations (required by House Bill 960) for delinquent taxes. Councilmember Jim Looney made a motion to adopt the ordinance change as read. Councilmember Tony Fountain seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Item A under New Business, Mayor Weaver recognized Alyson Woody with JYSA. Mayor Weaver stated that the Mayor's Golf Tournament fundraiser for JYSA was a success. Mayor Weaver then presented a check for \$10,000 to JYSA as a contribution from the 2016 Mayor's Golf Tournament. Ms. Woody thanked the City for the contribution.

Item B under New Business, Mayor Weaver recognized Shane Fendley of 125 Towne Creek Trail to discuss the noise levels at Rocco's Pub. Mayor Weaver also called on Chief Lovell to address Council. Mr. Fendley stated that he and his neighbors had made several complaints to the City regarding the loud music after 10 pm at Rocco's. Chief Lovell stated that the City Police had issued two citations to Rocco's for violation of the City's ordinance. Attorney Bill Pickett stated that the City could file an injunction with Superior Court. Mayor Weaver entertained a motion that the City Police give Rocco's one final warning if the noise continues and to notify Rocco's that if the violation is not corrected, the case will be turned over to Superior Court. Councilmember Jim Looney made such motion and Councilmember Anne Sneve seconded. Discussion followed. Motion passed unanimously.

Item C under New Business, the Mayor recognized Sonny Underwood, Director of Planning and Zoning to present an application for selling alcohol (Beer and Wine) by the package from the owner of Murphy Oil USA to be located at 1011 Noah Drive. Mr. Underwood stated that the background check was not yet received from the State, but he is requesting that the Council approve permission to continue the application process pending that upon receipt of the background check, there is nothing that would prevent him from obtaining an alcohol license. Councilmember Anne Sneve made a motion to approve the continuance of the license application, pending the background check comes back satisfactory. Councilmember Tony Fountain seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Item D under New Business, Mr. Underwood presented to Council a request for a license to sell distilled spirits (by the drink) from Hans Rueffert, owner of the Woodbridge Restaurant for the remainder of this year. He stated that the Woodbridge previously had a distilled spirits license, but had let the license lapse. He stated that the prorated cost of the 2016 license renewal would be \$750 and that if he renewed the license for 2017, the Woodbridge would owe the City an additional \$3,000 prior to the last Council meeting in 2016. Attorney Pickett stated that Mr. Rueffert must fill out the City's application for liquor license form and also notify the state and obtain a state license. Mayor Weaver entertained a motion. Councilmember Jim Looney made a motion to approve the license for the distilled spirits license for 2016 for the remainder of the year. Councilmember Anne Sneve seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Item E under New Business, Mayor Weaver called on Finance Director Lisa Hoyle to present the 2016 tax millage rate as advertised and as considered in the upcoming budget and the recommended homestead exemptions. She recommended Council adopt a millage rate of 4.683 mills for the upcoming 2016 tax billing. Ms. Hoyle also recommended to Council that the City continue to offer a \$3,000 homestead exemption and \$4,000 homestead exemption for citizens 65 and older. Mayor Weaver entertained a motion to adopt the millage rate at 4.683 mills and the homestead exemptions as recommended. Councilmember Jim Looney made such motion, and Councilmember Anne Sneve seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Item F under New Business, Lisa Hoyle presented to Council a resolution to submit an application for funding from the Georgia DNR Recreational Trails Fund. Mayor Weaver stated that if approved, the City could receive a \$100,000 grant and would be required to match a portion of the funding. Following discussion by Council, Mayor Weaver entertained a motion the City accept the resolution for the grant application and match by the City. Councilmember Tony Fountain made such motion and Councilmember Anne Sneve seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Item G under New Business, Mayor Weaver presented for the Council's approval a change in the City's Public Defender to Corey DeBord and Jenny Carver (Carver & DeBord, P.C.) of 360 W. Main Street, Canton, Georgia. The cost to the City for their services would be \$75 per hour. Attorney Bill Pickett stated that he was in agreement with the selection. Mayor Weaver entertained a motion for approval. Councilmember Jim Looney made a motion to approve Carver & DeBord as the City's Public Defender. Councilmember Anne Sneve seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Item H under New Business, Mayor Weaver recognized Councilmember Jim Looney to discuss the City's personnel policy. Mr. Looney stated that he would like a committee formed to review the City's current personnel policies. Mayor Weaver stated that he would appoint a committee of himself, Councilmember Anne Sneve, Attorney Bill Pickett, Finance Director Lisa Hoyle, and Human Resource Director Stella Brewer.

Item I under New Business, Lisa Hoyle presented to Council an application for reduced water/sewer rates for approval. Ms. Hoyle stated that the person met the requirements for reduced rates. Following review by Council, Councilmember Tony Fountain made a motion to approve the application and Councilmember Anne Sneve seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Councilmember Tony Fountain made a motion to go into executive session for the purpose of discussion of future real estate acquisition and Councilmember Anne Sneve seconded the motion. The meeting was closed.

Councilmember Jim Looney made a motion to come out of executive session. Councilmember Tony Fountain seconded the motion. The meeting was reopened.

Mayor Weaver stated that the City had made an offer to purchase property on E. Spring Street at a cost of \$165,000 upon approval by Council. He stated that the property was approximately one acre and had two buildings on the property. He stated that the buildings could possibly be used to house City restrooms in the future. This property would be purchased and financed by the Downtown Development Authority with the City being responsible for the debt payments. Councilmember Jim Looney made a motion to allow the City to move forward with the acquisition of the property, pending an inspection and an environmental study of the property. Councilmember Anne Sneve seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Motion passed unanimously.

Economic Developer Gerry Nechvatal gave a report to the City.


Finance Director Lisa Hoyle gave the financial report for the month of September 2016.

Lonnie Waters gave the animal control report for the month of September 2016. Mr. Waters also gave a report on the paving projects in the City.

Chief Greg Lovell gave a report of police activities for the month of September 2016

Chief Steve Roper gave a report of fire activities for the month of September 2016.

Being no other business to come before Council, Councilmember Jim Looney made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Council is scheduled to convene next at the regular council meeting to be held November 7, 2016.



John W. Weaver
Mayor



Lisa J. Hoyle
City Clerk/Finance Director