

MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, November 7, 2011

Members Present:

Mayor John Weaver
Tony Fountain
John Foust
Anne Morrow
Allison Ballew
Jim Looney

Staff:

Tacie Williams
Lonnie Waters
Greg Lovell
Von Headrick
Michael Castagna

Guests in Attendance:

Mari Livsey

Members Absent:

none

Legal Counsel:

Bill Pickett

Press:

Christie Pool

Mayor Weaver called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. He requested John Foust give the invocation.

Mayor Weaver asked that the agenda be reviewed and approved by Council. Councilman Jim Looney made a motion to approve the agenda as presented and Councilwoman Allison Brown seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

City Clerk Tacie Williams read the minutes from the October 10, 2011 regular council meeting. Councilwoman Anne Morrow made a motion to accept as read, and Councilman Tony Fountain seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

There was no old business on the agenda.

Under New Business, Planning and Zoning Director Michael Castagna presented to Council the list of businesses renewing their alcohol licenses for 2012. See attached list. Councilwoman Allison Brown made a motion to renew the licenses and Councilman Jim Looney seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Lonnie Waters requested that Council give the staff permission to inventory items that could be sold at auction. He has tentatively made arrangements upon Council approval to combine a City auction with the Pickens County School Board and the Pickens County government. Councilman Jim Looney made a motion that he continue with plans to join the aforementioned entities' auction. Councilwoman Anne Morrow seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Ms. Williams presented the results of the Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) renegotiation between Mayor Weaver and County Commissioner Robert Jones. Mayor Weaver proposed that the percentages remain the same, as agreed to by Commissioner Jones. The percentages would be 25.7% for Jasper, 2.8% for Nelson, 1.5% for Talking Rock, and 70% for Pickens County. Councilman Tony Fountain made a motion to accept the results of the renegotiation and Councilwoman Anne Morrow seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Ms. Williams presented the proposed millage rate for 2011 ad valorem taxes on real and personal property. Based on financial analysis while preparing the budget for 2012, Ms. Williams proposed the millage rate should remain at 4.69 mils for the upcoming digest. Councilman Jim Looney made a motion to accept the recommendation, and Councilman Tony Fountain seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Ms. Williams also recommended that Council continue to provide exemptions for homestead and elderly citizens age 65 and older. Exemptions would be \$3,000 for homeowners and \$4,000 for homeowners age 65 and older. Councilman Jim Looney made a motion to accept the recommendation, and Councilman John Foust seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Ms. Williams presented to council a proposed Fund Balance Policy in accordance with Government Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 54. After discussion, Councilman Tony Fountain made a motion to adopt the financial policy and Councilwoman Allison Brown seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Ms. Williams presented to Council a resolution for Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority regarding the 2010 loan for the elevated water tank project on Liberty Lane. The dates for completion and interest rate dates were changed along with additional funding for a beacon on the tank. Councilman Jim Looney made a motion to adopt the resolution, and Councilman John Foust seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

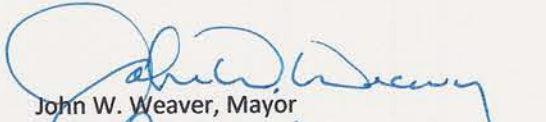
Finance Director Tacie Williams gave the financial report for the month of October 2011, as well as an update from the Clerk's office.

Lonnie Waters gave the animal control report for the month of October 2011.


Chief Greg Lovell gave a report of police activities for the month of October 2011.

Assistant Chief Von Headrick gave a report of fire activities for the month of October 2011.

Being no other business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned. Council is scheduled to convene next at the regular meeting on December 5, 2011.



John W. Weaver, Mayor



Tacie J. Williams, City Clerk/Finance Director