

MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
ZOOM
MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 2021

Members Present:

Mayor Steve Lawrence
Dr. Sonny Proctor
Kirk Raffield-zoom
Anne Sneve
Jim Looney
John Foust

Staff:

Brandon Douglas
Beverly Ragland
Lindsey Williams
Tara Benson
Lonnie Waters

Guests in Attendance:

Rebecca Keefer
Jess Guerra
Frazer Prather
Green Suttles

Members Absent:

Legal Counsel:

David Syfan

Press:

Mari Livsey-Know Pickens
Angela Reinhard

Mayor Steve Lawrence asked Councilmember Dr. Sonny Proctor if he recognized a quorum. See a quorum, Mayor Lawrence recognized meeting as opening. He requested Development Director Lonnie Waters to provide the invocation. He requested Councilmember Jim Looney to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Lawrence advised that an agenda is in front of them and he entertained a motion to adopt the agenda. Councilmember Looney made a motion to adopt the agenda. Councilmember Proctor provided a second. Motion to approve carried unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence motioned to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2020 Regular Council Meeting & the December 14, 2020 Special Called Meeting. Councilmember Anne Sneve motioned to approve. Councilmember Proctor provided a second. Motion to approve carried unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence recognized recently retired employees Virgil Chastain, Jimmy Howard, Charles Allen and Cliff Fisher.

Mayor Lawrence recognized item A under old business - Consideration of Ordinance No. 2020-29 & 2020-30 - Request of rezone and annexation of Parcel No. JA08 042 & JA08 042.001 at 855 North Main Street & North Main Street to R-3. Mayor Lawrence called on City Manager Brandon Douglas to provide the background information. Mr. Douglas requested this be tabled upon applicant's written request about an hour before the meeting. Mayor Lawrence asked for a motion to table the Consideration of Ordinance No. 2020-29 & 2020-30 - Request of rezone and annexation of Parcel No. JA08 042 & JA08 042.001 at 855 North Main Street & North Main Street to R-3. Councilmember Jim Looney made a motion to table. Councilmember Sneve provided a second. Motion to approve carried unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence recognized item B under old business - Consideration and approval of alcohol license for BP 585 LLC dba Stop N Shop located at 585 East Church Street. Mayor Lawrence called on Assistant Finance Director Lindsey Williams to provide the background information. Ms. Williams stated the applicant has met all the requirements and asked that final approval be made. Councilmember Sneve made a motion to approve the final approval of alcohol license for BP 585 LLC dba Stop N Shop located at 585 East Church Street. Councilmember Kirk Raffield provided a second. Motion to approve carried unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence recognized item A under new business - Consideration and approval for the Legal Services Agreement for General Legal Services as City Attorney for the City of Jasper for David Syfan from Hulsey, Oliver & Mahar, LLP as City Attorney and for Mayor and/or City Manager to execute Letter of Contract for 2021. Mayor Lawrence commended Mr. Syfan on the job he has done in the past year. Mayor Lawrence asked for a motion to approve. Councilmember John Foust made a motion to approve. Council member Sneve second. Motion to approve carried unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence recognized item B under new business - Consideration of Ordinance 2021-01 for the adoption of the amendment of Chapter 94 City of Jasper Zoning Ordinance, Zoning Map, and the addition of Chapter 95 Signs to the Official Code of the City of Jasper, Georgia by Ordinance 2021-02. Mayor Lawrence called on City Manager Douglas to provide background information. Mr. Douglas stated that this item was tabled at the last meeting to give staff time to update a new Zoning Map to coincide with the approval of the Zoning Ordinance. Rebecca Keefer with Clark Patterson Lee (CPL) detailed changes that had been made to the Zoning Ordinance. Mayor Lawrence asked for a motion to approve the introduction of the Ordinance 2021-01 for the adoption of the amendment of Chapter 94 City of Jasper Zoning Ordinance, Zoning Map, and the addition of Chapter 95 Signs to the Official Code of the City of Jasper, Georgia by Ordinance 2021-02. Councilmember Raffield made a motion to approve made a motion to approval the first reading of Ordinance 2021-01 and Ordinance 2021-02. Councilmember Sneve second. Motion to approve carried unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence recognized item C under new business - Consideration and approval of the City of Jasper's Development Department Application/checklist for Rezoning and Annexation applications. City Manager Douglas provided background information. He provided an example of the current application and the draft of Rezoning Checklist. If this information is not completed by applicant, it will not be processed. Councilmember Raffield asked a question about number 10. (Statement Campaign Contribution) City Attorney David Syfan stated that it is required by state law. Councilmember Looney asked if a change comes about to this application/checklist would it have to come to Council for approval or is this just Council voting on an original document. Mr. Douglas stated that normally this would not come before council, yet due to this never being done before staff wanted to bring it forward to Council. Staff to make any future modifications. Councilmember Looney made a motion to approve Application/checklist for Rezoning and Annexation applications. Councilmember Raffield provided a second. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence recognized item D under new business - Consideration and approval of Municipal Court Judge Service Agreement between the City of Jasper and Judge Robert Sneed for appointment thereof for January through December 31, 2021. Mayor Lawrence commended Judge Sneed on the job he has done in 2020. Councilmember Raffield made a motion to approve. Councilmember Sneve provided a second. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence recognized item E under new business - Consideration and approval of Municipal Court Prosecuting Attorney Service Agreement between the City of Jasper and Joseph Hudson for appointment thereof for January through December 31, 2021. Council member Proctor made a motion to approve. Councilmember Raffield provide a second. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence recognized item F under new business - Consideration and approval of Municipal Court Public Defender Service Agreement between the City of Jasper and Cortney Stuart for appointment thereof for January through December 31, 2021. Councilmember Raffield made a motion to approve. Councilmember Looney provided a second. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence recognized item G under new business - Consideration and approval of ETC service agreement for Appalachian water tank for data relay to water treatment plant. Mayor Lawrence called on Assistant Finance Director Williams to provide background information. Councilmember Sneve Made a motion to approve the ETC service agreement for Appalachian water tank. Councilmember Looney provided a second. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence recognized item H under new business - Consideration and approval of Agreement for Tourism Development Services between the City of Jasper and the Pickens County Chamber of Commerce. Councilmember John Foust made motion to approve. Councilmember Sneve provided a second. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence recognized item I under new business - Consideration and approval of Resolution 2021-01 to amend GIRMA Insurance Policy to add Firefighters Cancer Policy. Mayor Lawrence called on Finance Director Beverly Ragland to provide background information. Councilmember Sneve made a motion to approve. Councilmember Foust provided a Second. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence recognized item J under new business - Consideration of Ordinance 2021-03 for establishing the 2021 Municipal Election for the City of Jasper along with establishing the qualifying fee thereof. City Attorney David Syfan provided background information. Councilmember Looney made a motion to approve the first reading. Councilmember Raffield provided a second. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence recognized item K under new business - The Consideration and approval of releasing/writing off existing utility accounts outside the statute of limitations. Finance Director Ragland provided background information. Councilmember Sneve made a motion that we write off the balance of accounts with balances older than six years. Council member Loony provided a second. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence recognized Committee Reports.

Development Committee- Nothing added outside of what has already been discussed.

Streets/Parks Committee – Pleased with CPL and peace park moving forward with concept.

Administration Committee – Councilmember Looney made a motion to direct staff to work with legal to draft Charter changes for council to review prior to proposed retreat. Councilmember Sneve provided a second. Motion carried unanimously.

Water / Wastewater Committee – brief update on meters.

Financial Report - City Manager Brandon Douglas gave a brief update.

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Police / Fire Committee – report in packet

Mayor Lawrence asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Proctor motioned to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Sneve provided a second. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned.



Steve Lawrence
Mayor



Beverly Ragland
Finance Director/City Clerk