

MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, October 4, 2021

Members Present:

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

Staff:

Brandon Douglas
Beverly Ragland
Lindsey Williams
Tara Benson
David Hall
Lonnie Waters
Greg Lovell
Steve Roper
Matt Dawkins
Stacey Johnson

Guests in Attendance:

Green Suttles
Paige Suttles
Jack Dunn
Marty Callahan
Adam Rizen
Cindy DeMaio
Jill Lovell
Tonia Dutton
Stacey Godfree

Members Absent:

Legal Counsel:

R. David Syfan

Press:

Angela Reinhardt
Know Pickens

Mayor Steve Lawrence asked Councilmember Dr. Sonny Proctor if he recognized a quorum. Seeing a quorum, Mayor Lawrence recognized meeting as open. He requested Development Director Lonnie Waters to provide the invocation. He requested Councilmember John Foust 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 Anne Sneve made a motion to adopt the agenda with Councilmember Kirk Raffiel providing a second. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence stated that Council has the minutes from the August 26, 2021, Public Hearing/Special called meeting and the September 13, 2021, Regular Council Meeting. Mayor Lawrence entertained a motion to adopt all as presented. Councilmember Raffield provided a motion with Councilmember Sneve providing a second. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence recognized the first item under old business (Item A) Consideration and approval of the bid for Sidewalk Repair Project. Mayor Lawrence also recognized (item B) the Consideration and approval of the bid for Gennett Drive Culvert/Bridge Repair. Mayor Lawrence called on Mr. Waters. Mr. Waters stated that the bid was put out for just the repairs to the damaged areas, approximately 14,000 square feet of concrete. Only one bid came in from Bruin Construction at \$392,598.00. On the Gennett Drive culvert/Bridge repair, two bids were received; Northwest Georgia Paving at \$608,766.57 and Bartow Paving at \$730,000.00. The engineer advised for this to be tabled. City Manager Brandon Douglas added that the amount was approximately \$300,000 more that the staff was expecting. Further discussion continued on tabling the items to meet with finance and securing some verbal commitments from FEMA. Mr. Waters stated that the bids are normally good for 30 to 45 days. Councilmember Jim Looney made a motion to Table item A and B for thirty days. Councilmember Raffield provided a second. Motion to table passed unanimously.

At the conclusion of Old Business, Mayor Lawrence recognized the first item under new business (item A) Consideration and approval of Resolution No. 2021-700 and appointment of Matt Dawkins to Interim Police Chief. Councilmember Sneve made a motion to approve. Councilmember Looney provided a second. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence suspended the meeting to recognize Police Chief Greg Lovell's retirement after a 34-year career in Law enforcement. He has been with The City of Jasper for 25 of those years. Mayor Lawrence read the Resolution No. 2021-700. Mayor and Council honored Chief Greg Lovell with the renaming of Dixie Street to G.G.Lovell Street. Chief Lovell thanked Mayor and Council for the big honor of the Street renaming. He also thanked council and administration for putting defined benefits into effect two years ago. Chief Lovell added that Mr. Dawkins will do a great job and leave the department better than he found it. Mayor Lawrence appointed Matt Dawkins as interim Police Chief

Mayor Lawrence recognized the next item under new business (Item B) Consideration and approval of Ordinance No. 2021-21 and Ordinance No. 2021-22 Request to annex into the City of Jasper Parcel JA10 052.001 consisting of 3.85 acres and rezone from County Highway Business to C-2 General Commercial. This property is located at the intersection of Noah Drive and West Church Street in Jasper, GA. Mayor Lawrence called on Mr. Waters. Mr. Waters provided background information with the staff recommendation to approve with the development plans to be

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altered to come into compliance. Mayor Lawrence called for a motion to approve with Conditions. Councilmember Sneve made a motion to approve. Councilmember Looney provided a second. Councilmember Proctor asked Mr. Waters if we have adequate sewer and water in that location. Mr. Waters said that yes, sewer is on the property and the water line is on two sides. Mayor Lawrence stated for the public that this is a request for commercial and not residential. With no further discussion motion to approve passed with one opposed. Councilmember Raffield voted in opposition to this proposal.

Mayor Lawrence recognized the next item under new business (Item C) Consideration and approval of Ordinance No. 2021–23 and Ordinance No. 2021–24 Request to annex into the City of Jasper Parcel 029B 061 consisting of 17.28 acres and rezone from County RR to R-2 Residential. This property is located off Gennett Drive in Jasper, GA. Mayor Lawrence called on Mr. Waters. Mr. Waters informed Mayor and Council that the applicant emailed a requesting this to be tabled due to the Moratorium and trying to get some questions answered before moving forward. Mayor Lawrence called for a motion to Table this item. Councilmember Raffield made a motion. Councilmember Foust provided a second. Motion to table passed unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence recognized the next item under new business (Item D) Consideration and discussion of Variance request on existing lots that are currently zoned R-3. Parcels JA12 056.008, JA12 056.012, JA12 056.015, JA12 056.017, JA12 056.007 & JA12 056.019 located off West Sellers and Mineral Springs Road. Mayor Lawrence stated this item has been requested to be tabled. Attorney David Syfan stated that he has been in contact with the attorney representing the applicant. The request to table is due to a legal issue regarding the City's ability to grant this variance. The applicant asked for 30 days to see what could be worked out regarding that legal issue. Mayor Lawrence called for a motion to table this item. Councilmember Sneve made a motion to table. Councilmember Raffield provide a second. Motion to table passed unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence recognized the next item under new business (Item E) Consideration and approval of Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Jasper and the Pickens County Board of Elections and Registration. Attorney Syfan provide information on the board of elections. He stated that the election requirements are getting more and more detailed that it would be wise to have a written IGA (Intergovernmental Agreement) with the County. The Board of elections will handle all of the election duties with the City and continue to act as the filing officer for all financial statements. The city will have to review and approve any calls of the elections that the election board is going to handle it for us. This will come with a cost that will be passed to the city for having to hold the election. The IGA is good for 6 years and at that time we can review it and renew it. The IGA can also be terminated with 60 days' notice. Council had questions on the cost of holding elections. Mayor Lawrence recognized Stacey Godfrey with the Board of election. Ms. Godfrey informed Mayor and Council that any polling location must have a manager and two assistants present. Other people may be needed to work with the election. For a Presidential or a State election it takes about 10 people to run absentee(advanced) voting. The cost would be divided between the three different municipalities. Mayor Lawrence called for a motion to approve the IGA. Councilmember Raffield made a motion to approve. Councilmember Sneve provided a second. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence recognized the next item under new business (Item F) Consideration and approval of a special event to be held October 23, 2021, on Stegall Rd by Pendley Creek Brewing Company. Mayor Lawrence called on Daniel Briordy with Pendley Creek Brewing Company. Mr. Briordy addressed Mayor and Council for approval of live music, food truck and playing a movie on October 23rd. Mayor called for a Motion to approve. Councilmember Raffield made a motion to approve. Councilmember Sneve provided a second. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence recognized the next item under new business (Item G) Consideration and approval of special events to be held October 21st & 29th & 30th 2021, on Stegall Rd. Mayor Lawrence called on Cindy DeMaio. Mrs. DeMaio addressed council seeking approval to hold events on Stegall Dr. The events are Thursday, October 21st for Rotary Club, Friday, October 29 to be hosted by LC Tacos & Margaritas to have a Mariachi Band and play a kid friendly movie. The final event to be held on Saturday October 30th will be hosted by Atlantic Coast Conservancy. Mayor called for a motion to approve the events on Stegall Drive. Councilmember Raffield made a motion to approve. Councilmember Proctor provided a second. Motion to approve passed unanimously. Councilmember Raffield made a motion to approve the closing of Stegall Drive from Thursday October 21 through the weekend and opening on Monday morning October 25. Councilmember Sneve provided a second. Motion to approve passed unanimously. Councilmember Proctor asked that staff notify the board of education.

Mayor Lawrence recognized the next item under new business (Item H) Consideration and approval of Resolution 2021 – 12 for Georgia Cities Week. Councilmember Raffield made a motion to approve. Councilmember Looney provide a second. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence recognized the next item under new business (Item I) Consideration and approval for First Mountain Tasting Room to advertise for an alcohol license. With no discussion from Council, Mayor called for a motion to approve The First Mountain Tasting Room to advertise for an alcohol license. Councilmember Looney made a motion to approve. Councilmember Sneve provided a second. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence recognized the next item under new business (Item J) Consideration and approval of contract with Universal Concepts for Main Street Lights and Christmas banners. Mayor Lawrence stated that the funds would be paid from the Hotel Motel Fund. Councilmember Raffield made a motion to approve. Councilmember Sneve provided a second. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence made a public announcement of the change in polling place. Notice of polling place change location for City of Jasper Municipal Elections and being City of Jasper Precinct #8 effective immediately and which shall be in effect for the November 2, 2021, Jasper Municipal General Election. This is to notify you that your polling place location has permanently changed. The new Jasper polling place location will be located at 55 Dixie Street, Suite C, Jasper, GA 30143 (beside the Jasper Police Department). On the date of the November 2, 2021, General Election, the polling place will be open to City voters from 7:00am until 7:00pm.

Mayor Lawrence recognized Committee Reports.
Development Committee
Street/Parks Committee
Administration Committee
Water/Waste-Water Committee
Finance Director Beverly Ragland provided the financial report.
Lonnie Waters provide the Development report.
Police Chief Greg Lovel provided the Police report.
Fire Chief Steve Roper provided the Fire report.

Mayor Lawrence called for a motion to go into executive Session. Councilmember Looney made a motion. Councilmember Sneve provided a second. Motion to go into executive Session passed unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence called for a motion to come out of Executive Session. Councilmember Sneve made a motion. Councilmember Raffield provided a second. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence called on Mr. Douglas. Mr. Douglas announced to public that there has been a resolution that has been presented in executive session. This enables Mayor Lawrence pursuant to our charter to be appointed as interim City Manager, with no compensation. This will allow Council to move forward with the interviews of the candidates on October 15th and 22nd. Mayor Lawrence made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-13. Councilmember Raffield made a motion to approve. Councilmember Looney provided a second. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Council thanked Mr. Douglas for his time at the city and told him he will be missed.

Mayor Lawrence called for a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Foust made a motion. Councilmember Raffield provided a second. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned.


Steve Lawrence
Mayor


Beverly Ragland
Finance Director/City Clerk