

MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
IN PERSON & ZOOM
MONDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2020

Members Present:

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

Staff:

Brandon Douglas
Beverly Ragland
Lindsey Williams
Tara Benson
Lonnie Waters
Greg Lovell
Steve Roper-zoom

Guests in Attendance:

Green Suttles-zoom
Sunny-zoom
Gina Johnson-zoom
Spencer Bettis-zoom
David Toddy
Wesley Babcock
Frazier Prather
Edmond Evans
Gary Copeland
Scott & Tina O'Conner
Keith & Kathy Herndon
Gres Tilley
Michael Ledford
Lance Fried
Craig Meffert
Tom Gladin
Amberle Godfrey
Dr. Robert Keller

Members Absent:

Legal Counsel:

R. David Syfan-zoom

Press:

Mari Livsey-Know Pickens
Angela Rinehart-Pickens Progress-
zoom

Mayor Steve Lawrence asked Councilmember Jim Looney 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 Kirk Raffield to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Lawrence advised that an agenda is in front of them and before he entertained a motion to adopt the agenda, he made an announcement that there had been a change. Item H under new business entitled Request of rezone and annexation of Parcel No. JA08 042 & JA08 042.001 at 855 North Main Street & North Main Street to R-3 into the City of Jasper has had the application withdrawn by the applicant so there will be no discussion at the meeting. Councilmember Looney made a motion to adopt the agenda with Councilmember Raffield providing a second. Motion to approve carried unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence stated that Council has the minutes from the October 22, 2020 Work Session, November 2, 2020 Regular Council Meeting and November 9, 2020 Budget Public Hearing and entertained a motion to adopt all as presented. Councilmember Raffield provided a motion with Councilmember Looney providing a second. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence recognized the first item under old business (Item A) Final consideration and approval of Ordinance 2020-24 for the adoption of amendment of Chapter 94 City of Jasper Zoning Ordinance and the addition of Chapter 95 Signs to the Official Code of the City of Jasper, Georgia. Mayor Lawrence requested City Manager Brandon Douglas to bring forth information. City Manager Douglas commented that it was staff's request to table the item because a final zoning map had not been completed that would be presented in concert with the new ordinance. Mayor Lawrence asked for a motion to table with Councilmember Raffield making a motion to table and Councilmember John Foust providing a second. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence recognized the next item under old business (Item B) Consideration and approval for the extension of Resolution 2020-11 until February 1, 2021. Mayor Lawrence asked City Manager Douglas to bring forth information. The moratorium was originally set to expire with the December meeting after the passing of the new zoning ordinance. Unfortunately, with the oversight of the completion of the zoning map the zoning ordinance is not complete therefore an extension is requested. Mayor Lawrence asked for a motion for approval with Councilmember John Foust making a motion to approve and Councilmember Raffield providing a second. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence recognized the next item under old business (Item C) Consideration and approval of Resolution No. 2020-12 – GIRMA. Mayor Lawrence asked Finance Director Beverly Ragland to bring forth information. Staff solicited quotes for Property and Liability coverage and received a favorable quote from GIRMA. The required resolution is provided for approval and a letter has been sent to dissolve the current relationship with an

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independent insurance provider effective January 1, 2021 as directed by council at the November Regular Council Meeting. Mayor Lawrence asked for a motion for approval with Councilmember Foust making a motion to approve. Councilmember Dr. Sonny Proctor provided the second. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence recognized the next item under old business (Item D) Consideration and approval of Resolution No. 2020-13 Worker's Compensation. Mayor Lawrence asked Finance Director Ragland to bring forth information. GMA also provided a favorable quote for our Workers Comp insurance. The required resolution is separate from the property and casualty and is provided for approval. The letter dissolving the relationship with the current provider included this insurance as well. Mayor Lawrence asked for a motion for approval with Councilmember Foust providing the first and Councilmember Raffield providing the second. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence recognized the next item under old business (Item E) Consideration of utilizing SPLOST proceeds (2020) for necessary build out improvements at Jasper Police Department. Mayor Lawrence asked City Manager Douglas to bring forth information. The idea of utilizing the currently unoccupied area of the building was brought forth at the September meeting. The space would be beneficial to public safety for meeting and training space as well as monthly municipal court. The initial idea for a cost was more than anticipated at that time due to code requirements. The lowest quote received is \$22,850 however there is a desire to ask for an amount above that for contingencies. An item that is not in the council packet is a quote received today for the addition of a fence in area behind the building that will add another \$10,000. Staff is asking for an amount up to \$40,000 to complete the upgrade and fence. Mayor Lawrence asked for a motion to approve the use of up to \$40,000 of SPLOST funds with Councilmember Raffield providing a first and Councilmember Looney providing the second. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence recognized the next item under old business (Item F) Consideration and approval of the bid for the raw water vertical turbine pump and motor. Mayor Lawrence asked City Manager Douglas to bring forth information. The original bid did not return a viable quote. Staff learned from vendors that they were reluctant to bid on the entire project. The bid was advertised again with just the equipment. There was only one bid received from Pro Pump Solutions in the amount of \$69,776.45 for the required equipment. Staff will be soliciting electrical and plumbing services separately to complete the project at an estimated total cost of \$75-\$80,000. The money for this project is coming from the bond refund proceeds. Mayor Lawrence asked for a motion to approve an amount of up to \$80,000 with Councilmember Foust providing the first and Councilmember Looney providing the second. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence recognized the next item under old business (Item G) Consideration of request for a reduction in associated fees for Gateway at Grandview. Mayor Lawrence asked City Manager Douglas to bring forth information. This was tabled at the November 2nd meeting. The development is an age restricted community on 515 with current plans of 103 units. From an economic development standpoint, this is a viable project in the gateway of our community. The City currently requires a \$3,500 cost of construction per unit from developers. There has been ownership change and challenges experienced during the development of this project including the understanding this fee was incurred by previous owners. Staff did not recommend an amount for a blanket incentive but suggested a per lot amount if it was council's desire. Mayor Lawrence asked for discussion regarding the incentive. Councilmember Looney provided a motion of an amount of \$1,000 per lot as a reduction from the \$3,500 on the current phase of 103 units that is set to occur over a three-year period. It will not apply to future phases or development in the community. Councilmember Raffield wanted clarification on the three-year time frame and Developer Michael Ledford provided the information. A second was provided by Councilmember Proctor. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

At the conclusion of Old Business items on the agenda, Mayor Lawrence opened the first item under Public Hearing (Item A) Request to abandon a certain street and public rights of way described as an "Old Road-Bed" between Cove Road (R/W varies), Lawnview Road (80' wide R/W) and through property owned by Leslie Michelle Chumley Glover as Executor Under the Last Will and Testament of James Hall, Deceased and Doris Hall. Mayor Lawrence asked City Manager Douglas to bring forth information. Some months back the City was approached by attorney Phil Bettis regarding a platted property discovered during a title search that showed an old roadbed. Staff does not show a need or use of the old roadbed. In consultation with our City Attorney Syfan, the procedure to officially abandon a platted roadbed requires a public hearing. Mayor Lawrence asked if anyone in the audience was present to make comments on this agenda item. Keith Herndon from 1514 Cove Road stood and said he never knew that road had a name and that the driveway to his property intersects and joins the old roadbed for a portion of distance to his property. City Attorney Syfan reiterated that the old roadbed to be abandoned was in the parcel shown, not anything outside of the platted property. City Manager Douglas added that this action was necessary for the property owner in question to be able to get a permit for development. The plat would have to be redone to show the removal of the abandoned roadbed. Wesley Badcock was the next person to stand and make comments. He commented that Lawnview Road does not belong on the west side of Long Swamp creek. Lawnview Road belongs on his property and it is up the road. City Attorney Syfan commented the purpose of the hearing was to establish use of the old roadbed inside the acreage platted. From a title standpoint, the old roadbed inside the 3.11 acres is not used

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and should be abandoned in order for a development to be granted in the parcel because the old roadbed is currently shown going through the center. City Manager Douglas further explained the purpose of the hearing was to officially abandon the "old roadbed" inside the subject parcel only and not the entire road that is known by Lawnview that may be outside of the subject parcel. The advertisement required a point of reference. Spencer Bettis spoke on behalf of Phil Bettis and commented there was no obvious use of the old roadbed as trees had grown up in the middle of it. Mayor Lawrence asked if there were any other comments. With no other comments he moved on to the next section of the Agenda.

Mayor Lawrence recognized the first item under new business (Item A) Consideration of abandoning and quit claiming a certain street and rights of way described as "Old Roadbed" between Cove Road (R/W varies), Lawnview Road (80' wide R/W) in accordance with Resolution No. 2020-14. Mayor Lawrence asked for a motion with Councilmember Raffield providing the first and Councilmember Looney providing the second. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence recognized the next item under new business (Item B) Consideration and approval of Resolution No. 2020-15 Fiscal year 2021 Budget. Mayor Lawrence asked for a motion with Councilmember Looney providing the first and Councilmember Raffield providing the second. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence recognized the next item under new business (Item C) Consideration and approval of Resolution No. 2020-16 – City of Jasper 2021 Water Minimum Fee. Mayor Lawrence asked City Manager Douglas to bring forth information. There has been a need presented in the nine meetings held on the budget regarding the revenue needs for water to offset the cost of purchasing water from surrounding sources. The resolution before you is for an increase in the minimum fee for water of \$10 per month. Mayor Lawrence asked for a motion with Councilmember Raffield providing the first and Councilmember Looney providing the second. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence recognized the next item under new business (Item D) Consideration of engagement letter form Rushton & Company for auditing services for the 2020 audit. Mayor Lawrence asked Finance Director Ragland to bring forth information. The fee for services has been presented at the same rate as 2019. There is a favorable, established relationship with Rushton and work is set to commence the first week in January if approved. Mayor Lawrence asked for a motion with Councilmember Foust providing the first and Councilmember Looney providing the second. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence recognized the next item under new business (Item E) Consideration of Ordinance No. 2020-25 and 2020-26 – Request of rezone and annexation of Parcel No. 065 046.001 at Worley Crossroads to R-3 into the City of Jasper. Mayor Lawrence asked City Manager Douglas to bring forth information. At the November Planning and Zoning meeting there was a public hearing on this request. The County has provided a letter of non-objection to the City. Criteria was considered regarding land use and utilities. It is currently zoned in the County as residential. One resident did express concern over the additional traffic the development could create. Mayor Lawrence asked for a motion with Councilmember Raffield providing the first and Councilmember Looney providing the second. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence recognized the next item under new business (Item F) Consideration of Ordinance No. 2020-27 & 2020-28 - Request of rezone and annexation of Parcel No. 065 057 at 84 Lower Dowda Mill Road to C-2 into the City of Jasper. Mayor Lawrence asked City Manager Douglas to bring forth information. It is a candidate for annexation due to the contiguous nature to current city boundaries. It is currently zoned residential in the County. We did receive a letter of non-objection to rezone to commercial from the County and it was favorably recommended at the Planning and Zoning November meeting. Mayor Lawrence asked for a motion with Councilmember Looney providing the first and Councilmember Raffield providing the second. Councilmember Raffield inquired about the size of the lot on the East side of 515 and whether it was buildable. Development Director Waters commented that the lot was slated to be used for water retention, soil erosion and greenspace and not buildable. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence recognized the next item under new business (Item G) Consideration of Ordinance No. 2020-27 & 2020-28 – Request of rezone and annexation of Parcel No. 065 055.003 at Lower Dowda Mill Road to C-2 into the City of Jasper. Mayor Lawrence asked City Manager Douglas to bring forth information. Same applies as the prior parcels regarding prior approvals. Mayor Lawrence asked for a motion with Councilmember Raffield providing the first and Councilmember Proctor providing the second. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence recognized the next item under new business (Item H) 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 into the City of Jasper. Mayor Lawrence reminded everyone in attendance that the application had been withdrawn and this item has been removed and asked for a motion to table the item. Councilmember Raffield provided the first and Councilmember Proctor provided the second. Motion to approve

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passed unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence recognized the next item under new business (Item I) Consideration of utilizing 2 parking spaces along South Main Street for installation and operation of an electric vehicle charge station. Mayor Lawrence asked City Manager Douglas to bring forth information. Electric charging stations are an asset to our community as they have the potential to draw visitors to our community by way of an app that alerts them to the location of the charging station. When a private party offers to provide that at no expense to the City it is even more valuable. Dr. Robert Keller was asked to elaborate on the exchange. Georgia Power has provided the infrastructure needed for the power. The total cost of equipment and installation is roughly \$16,000 and is being funded by ACC. Mayor Lawrence asked for a motion with Councilmember Raffield providing the first and Councilmember Looney providing the second. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence recognized the next item under new business (Item J) Consideration and approval of purchasing a 2021 Ford F-250 for the Development Department utilizing the State of Georgia Contract for Purchasing and to amend the 2020 Budget for said purchase not to exceed \$38,000. Mayor Lawrence asked City Manager Douglas to bring forth information. There was direction given by council at the November meeting for staff to look at the cost to provide a vehicle for use by the Development Director. There is \$30,000 budgeted in 2020 that will not be used in the animal control budget for the IGA with Pickens County. Mayor Lawrence asked for a motion for an amount of up to \$40,000 with Councilmember Foust providing the first and Councilmember Looney providing the second. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence recognized the next item under new business (Item K) Consideration and approval of purchasing two 2021 Ford F-250s and one 2021 Service Truck for the Water/Waste-Water Department utilizing the State of Georgia Contract for Purchasing and to amend the 2020 Budget for said purchase not to exceed \$120,000 utilizing unallocated GEFA deferral monies. Mayor Lawrence asked for a motion with Councilmember Foust providing the first and Councilmember Looney providing the second. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence recognized the next item under new business (Item L) Consideration and approval of Service Delivery Map Amendment between city of Jasper and Pickens County relative to Water and Waste-Water Service Area. Mayor Lawrence asked City Manager Douglas to bring forth information. An amended map was presented highlighting two areas with one being changed to the city and one to the county. Upon approval the county would then need to approve. The Mayor Lawrence asked for a motion with Councilmember Raffield providing the first and Councilmember Looney providing the second. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence recognized the next item under new business (Item M) Consideration and approval of services for 2021 watershed monitoring and reporting. Mayor Lawrence asked City Manager Douglas to bring forth information. Our NPDES permit requires us to monitor watersheds for EPD permitting. Three vendors made a proposal through a request solicited on behalf of the City by Turnipseed Engineers. CCR was the low bid and is recommended by Turnipseed Engineers. Mayor Lawrence asked for a motion with Councilmember Raffield providing the first and Councilmember Proctor providing the second. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence recognized the next item under new business (Item N) Consideration of Verizon request. Mayor Lawrence asked City Manager Douglas to bring forth information. City Attorney Syfan was asked if it would be permissible to table due to the lack of information needed for a decision. Mayor Lawrence asked for a motion to table this item and to authorize City Manager Douglas to negotiate with them. Councilmember Raffield provided the first and Councilmember Foust provided the second. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence recognized the next item under new business (Item O) Consideration and approval of 2021 Municipal Court Calendar. Mayor Lawrence asked for a motion to approve the calendar with Councilmember Raffield providing the first and Councilmember Foust providing the second. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence recognized the next item under new business (Item P) Consideration and approval to advertise alcohol license for BP 585 LLC DBA Stop N Shop located at 585 East Church Street. Mayor Lawrence asked Deputy Finance Director Lindsey Williams to bring forth information. Ownership is changing and staff is asking for permission to advertise according to our ordinance. Mayor Lawrence asked for a motion with Councilmember Raffield providing the first and Councilmember Looney providing the second. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence recognized the next item under new business (Item Q) Consideration and approval of changing the registered agent for Murphy Oil USA Inc. DBA Murphy Express #8809 & Tater Patch Players. Mayor Lawrence asked for a motion with Councilmember Looney providing the first and Councilmember Raffield providing the second. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence recognized the last item under new business (Item R) Consideration and approval of 2021 alcohol

licenses for renewal. Mayor Lawrence asked Deputy Finance Director Williams to bring forth information. In November there was a list provided for approval that had paid at that time. The current list provided are the rest of the paid applicants for alcohol license renewals. Mayor Lawrence asked for a motion with Councilmember Raffield providing the first and Councilmember Looney providing the second. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence recognized Committee Reports.

Development Committee – Councilmember Proctor commended council for their willingness to be patient with the process of changing the zoning ordinance. Councilmember Raffield reminded council of the planning that is underway with peace park and Stegall drive.

Street/Parks Committee – Councilmember Foust commented on the younger children’s playground equipment being completed and invited everyone to go by and see it. Councilmember Anne Sneve also invited people to visit and thanked staff for their hard work in getting the project completed.

Administration Committee – Councilmember Looney made a request regarding part of the proceeds from the surplus equipment auction. The proceeds from that sale exceeded everyone’s expectations and the administrative committee would like to make a motion to use some of those proceeds to give each employee a \$250 bonus for their work over the year. The total cost would be around \$20,000. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Sneve. Councilmembers Sneve, Proctor and Raffield all commended the work done by City staff over the year. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Water/Waste-Water Committee – Councilmember Proctor commented on being close to starting the water treatment plant project. He also invited council to watch the Planning and Zoning meeting and commended City Manager Douglas on his explanation of the need for expansion. Councilmember Foust commented on how the new raw water pump will benefit the operations and the City.

Police/Fire Committee – Councilmember Looney has met with both Chiefs and commented the reports are included in the packets.

Financial Report – City Manager Douglas commented that the year’s success would not be possible without council’s leadership. The initial expectation of a \$400,000 shortfall has been reduced to a \$200,000 shortfall. Mayor Lawrence expressed his sincere appreciation for City Manager Douglas’ leadership.

Development Report – Development Director Lonnie Waters thanked council for recognizing the work done by staff and for the approval of his department’s new vehicle. He provided highlights from the development report.

Police Report – Police Chief Greg Lovell provided highlights from police activity for the month of November. He thanked council on behalf of his department for the \$250 bonus.

Mayor Lawrence recognized the Fire Report. Chief Roper was available via zoom but did not have the report in front of him to read. Council agreed they could read the information.

Mayor Lawrence asked who would be available for a zoom meeting the following Monday, December 14, 2020. Councilmember Raffield asked about a city calendar for 2021. City Manager Douglas said it would be available on the December 14th agenda.

Mayor Lawrence proudly read off a list of 54 significant accomplishments over the year. City Manager Douglas gave a recap of additional challenges that have been overcome and the enhancements that have been made. There is work still to be done and will be done in the coming years. Special recognition was given to the professionalism of public safety. He commented on improved staff efficiency and desire to do what was best for the community.

Mayor Lawrence asked for a motion to adjourn with Councilmember Foust providing a motion and Councilmember Raffield providing a second. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned.


Steve Lawrence
Mayor


Beverly Ragland
Finance Director/City Clerk