

**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**  
**ZOOM**  
Monday, February 1, 2021

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

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

**STAFF**

Brandon Douglas  
Beverly Ragland  
Lindsey Williams  
Tara Benson  
Lonnie Waters  
Steve Roper  
Shauna Coleman

**GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE**

Greg Moore  
Rebecca Keefer  
Cherie Martin  
Joel Neighbors  
Nick & Maddy Flint  
Ipad 3  
Cynthia Elliott  
Green Suttles  
Stephen Hall

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

None

**LEGAL COUNSEL**

R. David Syfan-zoom

**PRESS**

Mari Livsey – KnowPickens  
Angela Reinhardt – Pickens Progress

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Mayor Steve Lawrence asked Councilmember Anne Sneve if she recognized a quorum. Seeing a quorum, Mayor Lawrence recognized meeting as opening. He requested Development Director Lonnie Waters to provide the invocation. Mayor Lawrence lead Council in the Pledge Allegiance.

Mayor Lawrence advised that an agenda is in front of them and entertained a motion to adopt the agenda. Councilmember Sneve made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. Councilmember Kirk Raffield provided a second. Motion to approve carried unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence stated that Council has the minutes from the January 4, 2021 Regular Council Meeting & January 11, 2021 Special Called Meeting. Councilmember John Foust made a motion to approve. Council member Sneve provided a second. Motion to approve carried unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence recognized Partnering with Pickens Historical Society. Mayor Lawrence virtually presented Greg Moore with a check for \$7,500. Mayor Lawrence and Mr. Moore made arrangements to pick up the check the next day.

Mayor Lawrence recognized the first item under Old Business (Item A) 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 called on City Manager Brandon Douglas to provide background information. Mr. Douglas mentioned that the public hearing was held on November 24, 2020. In the December and January meeting, this item was asked to be tabled per the applicant in order to work on a site plan. Mr. Douglas provided background information along with staff analysis, included in the Council packet. After a lengthy discussion between Mr. Neighbors, Cherie Martin and council, Councilmember Raffield made a motion that we deny the 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 stated that we do not have enough information to move forward. Mayor Lawrence asked for a motion to table the item until we can get further information. Councilmember Sneve made a motion to table so that they can provide more information. Councilmember Jim Loony made a motion to second the table. Councilmember Dr. Sonny Proctor stated that we have an open motion to deny. Mayor Lawrence acknowledged that we did not have a motion to second the denial. Mayor Lawrence stated that we do have a motion and a second to table. Motion to table carried unanimously.

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Mayor Lawrence recognized the next item under old business (Item B) Consideration of Ordinance No. 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. He asked City Manager Douglas to bring forth information. Mr. Douglas reiterated the journey that had been taken to update the ordinances and development of the zoning map. The first reading was at the January meeting and this would be the second and final reading. Mayor Lawrence asked for a motion to approve. Councilmember Proctor made a motion to approve and Councilmember Sneve provided the second. Motion to approve carried unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence recognized the first item under new business (Item A) Consideration of Ordinance number 2021-03 for the request to de-annex Parcel No. 0292B 098 at 677 Lumber Company Road from the City of Jasper. Mr. Douglas provided background information and stated that the county would have to accept to land back into the county. The County Planning and Zoning did find the de-annex favorable, but the elected body would have to approve. A resolution from the County and an Ordinance from the City would be completed if approved and the second reading would occur at the March Regular Council Meeting. Mayor Lawrence asked for a motion to approve. Councilmember Sneve provided a first and Councilmember Proctor provided the second. Motion to approve carried unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence recognized the next item under new business. (item B) The Consideration and approval of Resolution No. 2021-02 revision of the Charter of the City of Jasper. Mr. Douglas provided the background information. Mr. Douglas stated that The Charter is our governing document of how we operate and the identity as a City. Mr. Douglas stated that we are taking an existing document that has inconsistencies and try to update as well as make it a more solid document. Council had worked directly with Attorney David Syfan with changes. Mayor Lawrence called for a Historic motion. Councilmember Sneve made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2021-02 revision of the Charter of the City of Jasper. Councilmember Looney provided a second. Motion to approve carried unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence recognized the next item under new business (item C) Consideration and approval of the proposed easement at Veterans Park for Georgia Power for the reliability project. Mr. Douglas provide background information. Back in August of 2020 the city was approached with 4 easements. This Is an additional easement. Councilmember Foust recused himself from the vote. Councilmember Sneve made a motion to approve the proposed easement at Veterans Park for Georgia Power for the reliability project. Council member Raffield provided a second. Motion to approve carried unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence recognized the next item under new business (item D) Consideration and approval of the appointment of David Keller to continue serving on the Planning and Zoning Commission. Mayor stated this is a new term that will end in 2026. Councilmember Looney made a motion to approve. Councilmember Sneve provided a second. Motion to approve carried unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence recognized the next item under new business (item E) Consideration and approval of the appointment of Marty Callahan to continue serving on the Downtown Development Authority. This will expire in the year 2026. Mayor Lawrence called for a motion to approve. Councilmember Foust motioned to approve. Councilmember Sneve provided a second. Motion to approve carried unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence recognized the next item under new business (item F) Consideration and approval of the appointment of Brad Stephens to continue serving on the Downtown Development Authority this term will expire in 2026. Councilmember Looney motioned to approve. Councilmember Sneve provide a second. Motion to approve carried unanimously.

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Mayor Lawrence recognized the next item under new business (item G) Consideration, and approval for soliciting & advertising banking services for a construction loan to service the USDA Water Pollution Control Plant Expansion Project. Mayor Lawrence called on Finance Director/City Clerk Beverly Ragland. Ms. Ragland provided background information, noting that the detail of the milestones is provided in council packet. Mayor Lawrence called for a motion of approval for soliciting & advertising banking services for a construction loan to service the USDA Water Pollution Control Plant Expansion project. Councilmember Looney motioned to approve. Councilmember Sneve provide a second. Motion to approve carried unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence recognized the next item under new business (item H) Consideration and approval of Joint Agreement with Pickens County (Mutual Aid). Mr. Douglas reminded Mayor Council that this document was considered about a year ago, it will expire in March. This new document will not expire until March of 2024. Mr. Syfan spoke up to say that the state as well as Federal Government require you to have a mutual aid agreement to be able to get reimbursed in emergency situations. Councilmember Raffield made a motion to approve Joint Agreement with Pickens County. Councilmember Sneve provided a second. Motion to approve carried unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence recognized the next item under new business (item I) Consideration and approval for advertising a four-way stop at the intersection of Old Philadelphia Road extension and Collins Road. Mr. Douglas provided background information. Councilmember Sneve made a motion to approve. Councilmember Raffield provided a second. Motion to approve carried unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence recognized the next item under new business (item J) Consideration and approval to purchase of four (4) 2021 Ford F-150 from Statewide Contract for Meter Reading Department. Brandon provided background information. Councilmember Raffield made a motion to approve. Councilmember Sneve provided a second. Motion to approve carried unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence recognized the next item under new business (item K) Consideration and approval for soliciting & advertising for two track hoes for the Water Department. Mr. Douglas provided background information. Councilmember Looney made a motion to approve. Councilmember Proctor provided a second. Motion to approve carried unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence recognized the next item under new business (item L) Consideration and approval for soliciting & advertising for pipe needed for the joint water project with Pickens County on 136. Mayor called on Mr. Douglas to provide background information. Mr. Douglas said SPLOST 2020 funds will be utilized for this project. The ad will appear in the Pickens Progress. Councilmember Raffield made a motion to approve Consideration and approval for soliciting & advertising for pipe needed for the joint water project with Pickens County on 136. Councilmember Foust provided a second. Motion to approve carried unanimously. Councilmember Proctor asked if the cost and supplies would be split 50/50 with County and City. Mr. Douglas stated that it would be split 50/50.

Mayor Lawrence recognized the next item under new business (item M) Consideration and approval for soliciting & advertising for a lift station needed for the water project at Worley Crossroads on 515. Mayor called on Mr. Douglas to provide information. Most of the work would be done by staff, we are advertising for materials and parts. Councilmember Foust made a motion to approve. Councilmember Raffield provided a second. Motion to approve carried unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence recognized the next item under new business (item N) Consideration, and approval of cost to repair Engine #2 at an amount not to exceed \$15,000. Mayor Lawrence called on Fire Chief Steve Roper provided background

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information. Councilmember Looney made a motion to approve. Councilmember Raffield provide a second. Motion to approve carried unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence recognized the last item under new business (item O) Consideration of request to develop a drive through area behind 61 North Main Street and to utilize by way of easement/agreement curb cuts Mark Whitfield & Stegall Drive. Owner of Jax coffee, Cyndy Elliot provided information on adding a drive thru. Drawings were provided to Mayor and Council. Mr. Douglas went over the traffic flow the cars would come off Whitfield and through the 2-car stack and exit off Stegal Drive. Some parking spots would be lost to accommodate this. Mr. Waters addressed the parking space and a power pole possibly being moved. He said PIKE would be in the area soon and if it needed to be moved it would be a good time. He supported having the drive through and sees no issue. He also stated that we are unaware of how the traffic will flow if the drive thru is backed up. Councilmember Sneve spoke up to say having this Drive thru would be a great asset to the downtown area. Mayor Lawrence called on City attorney Mr. Syfan to provide input on what the city can or cannot do. Mr. Syfan said the city has a legal power and authority to authorize it, he would advise to have a traffic study done. A traffic safety engineer could determine if this would work and not create a traffic hazard. Mr. Syfan said that the city could grant the easement rights over the sidewalk that the city would lose 2 parking spots. Ms. Elliot spoke up to say that they are flexible and will work with the city as well as the power company in anyway to make this project work. Mayor Lawrence called on council to make a motion. Councilmember Raffield made a motion to approve with a revokable license and an auto renewable. Councilmember Sneve made a motion to second. Councilmember Proctor asked if it was a possible to have a traffic study done, due to legal counsel suggesting it. Councilmember Foust agreed. After some discussion of traffic study. Councilmember Raffield asked to withdraw his motion and make another motion. Councilmember Raffield made a motion to approve the request with the revokable licensing pending a positive traffic study. Councilmember Sneve provided a second. Motion to approve carried unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence made a motion to go into Executive Session. Councilmember Looney motioned to approve. Councilmember Raffield provided a second. Motion carried to go into Executive session.

Mayor Lawrence made a motion to come out of Executive Session and return to the regular Council meeting. Councilmember Foust motioned. Councilmember Sneve provide a second. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Proctor asked for clarification over the last motion that was passed considering the drive-through. He would like to request that She (Cindy) go ahead and began construction. Mayor Lawrence asked if he would like to make an addendum to the motion. Councilmember Proctor make the motion. Councilmember Sneve provided a second. The addendum carried unanimously.

Mayor stated that the executive Session for the purposes of seeing legal questions from our attorney. Moving on to Committee Reports.

Development Committee – Traffic study on Mark Whitfield & Stegall Drive mentioned (indication that City is handling) comments on zoning ordinance.

Streets/Parks Committee – Perrow Park, Green space design work in the making. Moving forward with bike trails at Doris Wigington park. Due diligence being done on design.

Administration Committee – Personnel policy

Water / Wastewater Committee – lot of good things going as indicated from tonight's agenda.

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Financial Report provide by Beverly Ragland

Police / Fire Committee – report in packet

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

Meeting adjourned.



Steve Lawrence  
Mayor



Beverly Ragland  
Finance Director/City Clerk