

**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Monday February 6, 2012**

Members Present:

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

Staff:

Tacie Williams  
Michael Castagna  
Greg Lovell  
Steve Roper  
Lonnie Waters  
Stella Brewer

Guests in Attendance:

Mari Livsey  
Dennis Dwyer  
Ralph and Joan Starnes  
Commissioner Robert Jones, Pickens Co.  
Marvin and Mary Moore  
Jennifer Forester  
Ken and Debbie Hulsey  
Thurman Sloane  
Steve and Reatha Davis  
Susan and Leah Vigil  
Jerry Wood  
Lee Watson  
Cheryl Duncan  
Darvin and Sherry Pickelsimer  
Tim Ghorley  
Kevin Moore

Members Absent:

None

Legal Counsel:

Bill Pickett

Press:

Angela Reinhardt

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

Mayor Weaver asked that the agenda be reviewed and approved by Council with the addition of Item B under New Business. Councilwoman Anne Morrow made a motion to approve the agenda as changed and Councilwoman Allison Brown seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

City Clerk Tacie Williams read the minutes of the January 18, 2012 regular meeting. Councilman Tony Fountain made a motion to adopt the minutes as read, and Councilwoman Anne Morrow seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Under Old Business, Mayor Weaver recognized Commissioner Robert Jones to address Council regarding the courthouse renovation. He explained his proposed changes for curbing and guttering as well as lighting around the courthouse as it pertains to City streets and sidewalks. He explained that they have now budgeted that in the total project. Also he requested that Court Street and Depot Street be closed from Main Street all the way back to Wheeler Street. Councilman Jim Looney made such motion starting April 2012 and Councilman Tony Fountain seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Next item under Old Business, Finance Director Tacie Williams presented changes to the GMEBS City of Jasper Retirement Plan, proposed by Georgia Municipal Association per the requirements of the Internal Revenue Service. Ms. Williams explained that there were no changes that affected the actual retirement plan for the employees, but that the language of the plan had been altered and additions had been made to the plan to maintain compliance with IRS regulations. Councilwoman Allison Brown made a motion to accept this as an amendment to the ordinance, as this was the second reading. Councilwoman Anne Morrow seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Under New Business, Mayor Weaver recognized Tim Ghorley, Chairman of the Planning Commission, to present the recommendations of the Commission. Mr. Ghorley presented for consideration of rezoning Parcel 065B-049, consisting of 27.7 acres, and Parcel 065B-049.004, consisting of 3.18 acres, owned by Kenneth Doonan. The Commission recommended the property not be rezoned from R-1 to C-2. When asked the reason for the recommendation, Mr. Ghorley stated that the decision was based upon the opposition from nearby residents.

Mayor Weaver then recognized Dennis Dwyer, representative of Kenneth Doonan and Kevin Moore, attorney for Mr. Doonan. Mr. Moore explained to Council that the original reason for denial by Mayor and Council was the question as to the relevance of covenants on the property. He presented an order from a judge that stated that the covenants no longer apply. Therefore, the only legal reason that the Council had to deny the rezoning in the past had been resolved. He and Mr. Dwyer presented the conceptual plan for the property and explained the lengths they were willing to go in order to have the property rezoned, e.g., buffer areas that extend past the requirements, limited permitted uses.

Mayor Weaver then gave the residents in the audience a chance to speak either in favor of the rezoning or in opposition to the zoning. After several residents spoke in favor and in opposition, Mayor Weaver called on Bill Pickett, city attorney, to give legal counsel to the Council. He agreed that the issue with the covenants no longer applied per the documentation he was provided. He advised that the only issue now was what type of zoning the Council thought was best suited for the property.

After discussion by Mayor and Council, Councilman Jim Looney made a motion that the property be rezoned to C-2, with the stipulation that 100 ft buffers be maintained. Councilman John Foust seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Last item under New Business, Finance Director Tacie Williams presented an application for reduced rates for water/sewer and sanitation. Councilman John Foust made a motion to approve the application and Councilwoman Anne Morrow seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Economic Developer Gerry Nechvatal was not in attendance to deliver his report.

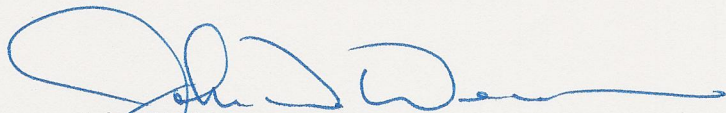
Finance Director Tacie Williams gave the financial report for the month of January 2012, as well as an update from the Clerk's office. During the report, Mayor and Council discussed Main Street Mania and whether to continue those events during 2012 given the construction of the courthouse on Main Street. Councilman Tony Fountain made a motion to cancel the events for 2012 and Councilwoman Anne Morrow seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Lonnie Waters gave the animal control report for the month of January 2012.

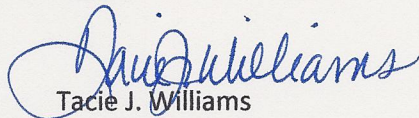
Chief Greg Lovell gave a report of police activities for the month of January 2012.

Chief Steve Roper gave a report of fire activities for the month of January 2012.

Being no other business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned. Council is scheduled to convene next at the regular meeting on March 5, 2012.



John W. Weaver  
Mayor



Tacie J. Williams  
City Clerk/Finance Director