

**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**  
**ZOOM ONLY**  
Monday, March 1, 2021

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mayor Steve Lawrence  
Sonny Proctor, M.D.  
Kirk Raffield  
Anne Sneve  
Jim Looney  
John Foust

**STAFF**

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

**GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE**

Cherie Martin  
Stephen Hall  
Dick Thomasson  
Cassie Rasco  
Green Suttles

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

None

**LEGAL COUNSEL**

R. David Syfan

**PRESS**

Mari Livsey – KnowPickens  
Angela Reinhardt – Pickens Progress

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 John Foust to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Lawrence advised that an agenda is in front of them he entertained a motion to adopt the agenda. Councilmember Anne Sneve made a motion to adopt the agenda with Councilmember Foust providing a second. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence stated that Council has the minutes from the February 1, 2021 Regular Council Meeting. Councilmember Kirk 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 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 asked City Manager Brandon Douglas to provide background information. Mr. Douglas provided some history on this item. He explained that the applicant will be asking to annex into the city as well as change the zoning to R-3 single Family Residential. This is conditional. If this is favorable, the applicant would be required to submit a site plan. Mayor Lawrence reiterated that this would be an annexation into the City of Jasper, and this would be the first reading. Mayor Lawrence made a motion to approve as presented.

Councilmember Sneve made a motion to approve the annex into the City and rezone it to R-3 with conditions of a site Plan. Councilmember Raffield provided a second. Councilmember Proctor asked if the motion on the table that is in support of the rezoning annexation that is stated in the Ordinance, specifically for a detached single family. Mayor Lawrence stated that was correct. Brian Westbrook asked what the conditions would be. Mayor Lawrence stated that the conditions are to provide a site plan for detached single family dwellings meeting the requirements outlined in the Zoning Ordinance. Mayor stated that we have a motion on the floor to approve with conditions as well as a second. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence recognized the next item under old business (Item B) Consideration of Ordinance No. 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. The county has approved a Resolution and the City's associated Ordinance. The second reading for this would be at the April 5th meeting if this matter is favorably considered. Mayor Lawrence called for a Motion to approve this first reading. Councilmember Raffield motioned to approve Ordinance No. 2021-03 for the request to de-annex Parcel No. 0292B 098 at 677 Lumber Company Road from the City of Jasper. Councilmember Sneve provided a second. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence recognized the next item under old business (Item C) Consideration and approval of the term sheet from United Community Bank from the solicitation of banking services for the USDA WPCP Expansion and for the Mayor, Mayor Pro-Tem and City Manager to execute necessary documents as approved by the City Attorney. City Clerk/Finance Director Beverly Ragland provided background information. She stated that the City ran ads in the paper on the 11th, 18th, and 25th. Only one term sheet/proposal was received from United Community Bank. Ms. Ragland asked for approval. Mayor Lawrence asked for a motion for approval. Councilmember Looney made the

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motion to approve. Councilmember Sneve provided a second. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence recognized the next item under old business (Item D) Consideration and approval of accepting the bid of \$86,098.00 from Nelson Tractor for purchasing 2 track hoes and trailer for the Water/Waste-Water Department from 2020 SPLOST & GEFA deferral proceeds for an amount not to exceed \$90,000.00. Mayor Lawrence called on Deputy Finance Director Lindsey Williams to provide background information. Mayor Lawrence asked for a motion to approve. Councilmember Sneve made a motion to approve. Councilmember Raffield provided a second. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence recognized the next item under old business (Item E) Consideration and approval of accepting the bid of \$36,318.00 from Core & Main for purchasing water pipe for necessary inventory from 2020 bond proceeds for an amount not to exceed \$50,000.00. Lindsay Williams provided background information. Councilmember Sneve made a motion to approve. Councilmember Raffield provided a second. Councilmember Proctor wanted to confirm that this is for inventory. Ms. Williams confirmed. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence recognized the next item under old business (Item F) Consideration and approval of accepting the bid of \$41,847.55 from Pro Pump Solutions for purchasing necessary components of a lift station for the Worley Crossroads development project. Cost to be expensed from the 2020 bond proceeds for an amount not to exceed \$65,000 which is to include the purchasing and staff install. City Manager Douglas provided background information. The apparent low bid was from Pro Pump Solutions. This would be coming out of the bond proceeds. Mayor Lawrence asked for a motion to approve. Councilmember Jim Looney provided the first and Councilmember Raffield provided the second. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence recognized the next item under old business (Item G) Review of development plans for Phase I of Gateway at Grandview. City Manager Douglas provided background information. This project was proposed October of 2018. Mr. Douglas provided council with a site plan for phase I and II of the Gateway at Grandview project. The Developer has moved forward with the construction of the single-family units (age restricted) as part of phase 2. The Phase 1 development is nearing construction insomuch as the plans for the Assisted Living Facility is currently being reviewed by the State Fire Marshall with a subsequent review by the City. The presentation was made to update Council on the progress of the project that was previously approved.

At the conclusion of Old Business, Mayor Lawrence recognized the first item under new business (Item A) Consideration of Ordinance No. 2021-04 for amending Chapter 2 of the Code of Ordinances as it pertains to Article 5, Division 3 & 4. Mr. Douglas acknowledged the approval of the revised Zoning Ordinance February 1. In light of the approval of aforementioned matters, the need to amend the appropriate code sections(s) of our code of ordinances is required. This would be considered the 1st reading and if approved, the 2nd reading, and final consideration would be April 5<sup>th</sup>. Attorney David Syfan provided background information on amending of the appropriate code section(s), thus having the codes reflect what is on our Zoning Ordinance. Mayor Lawrence asked for a motion to approve Consideration of Ordinance No. 2021-04 for amending Chapter 2 of the Code of Ordinances as it pertains to Article 5, Division 3 & 4. Councilmember Raffield made a motion to approve as presented. Councilmember Sneve provided a Second. Councilmember Looney stated that this is the first reading. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence recognized the next item under new business (Item B) Consideration and approval of the expenditure of not to exceed \$150,000 for the Joint City/County SPLOST project for the 136-project for which funding is available from the 2020 SPLOST proceeds. Councilmember Procter stated that this is a true partnership with the City and County. He went on to say that this would be a significant accomplishment that has been a long time coming. Mr. Douglas gave background information on the need to partner with the County on the replacement of the 136-water line. In discussion with the County, they will be the lead entity on this project since they have addressed design, permitting, etc. and our partnership will be monetary contribution along with assistance in the installation of line. Mayor Lawrence asked for a motion. Councilmember Sneve provided the first and Councilmember Raffield provided the second. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence recognized the next item under new business (Item C) Consideration and approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Jasper and Pickens County (BOC) as it pertains to the use of property at City Park. Mr. Douglas provided background information. Staff has spoken with the County and the County would have the ability to utilize the fields in any recreational manner that does not implicate a permanent change to the overall use without Council approval. The City would retain Ownership and the IGA would be valid for 1 year with potential for automatic renewals unless both parties choose to reexamine the IGA with sufficient written notice. The County would be responsible for any bills pertaining for the use of the field, water, trash pickup, etc. Mayor Lawrence called for a motion to approve the IGA with Pickens County. Councilmember Raffield made a

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motion to approve. Councilmember Foust provided a second. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Councilmember Proctor recognized councilmember John Foust for his many years with JYSA (Jasper Youth Sports Association). He hopes to see this partnership continued as well as adding more with the partnerships with our County.

Mayor Lawrence recognized the next item under new business (Item D) Consideration and approval of modifications to the City of Jasper Payscale to reflect the positions in administration and development departments. Mr. Douglas provided background. In light of recent employee hires, staff identified the need to modify the payscale to accurately reflect the positions and the accompanying salary range. 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 E) Consideration of the request from the Boys & Girls Club to utilize the area at Lee Newton Park (park and ride) for a single event on May 14th. Mayor Lawrence called on the City Manager for more information. Mr. Douglas acknowledged the ongoing pandemic and the need to continue to follow the State of GA Executive Order. Mr. Douglas recognized Cassie Rasco with the Boys and Girls club. Cassie provided background information on the Jeep Show'n Shine. She commented the event would not compete with the Sheriff's Jeep Fest and that everything would be spaced out following the state guidelines. Councilmember Raffield made a motion to approve. Councilmember Looney provided a second. The time of the event came in question, it would be on May 14th starting at 4pm. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence recognized the next item under new business (Item F) Consideration of request for reduced water rates (2). To protect the privacy of those individuals, the Council was provided with a list of applicates, and pertinent information required to determine eligibility. Mayor called for a motion to approve the request for reduced water rates. Councilmember Raffield made a motion to approve. Councilmember Looney provided a second. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence called for a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss Real Estate & Legal. Councilmember Looney made a motion to go into Executive Session. Councilmember Raffield provide a second. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence made a motion to end Executive Session and return to regular council meeting. Councilmember Raffield made motion and Councilmember Raffield provided a second. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence recognized Committee Reports.

Development Committee - Nothing more than what has been in tonight's meeting. Good things are coming.

Street/Parks Committee - Moving forward with the bathrooms. Moving forward with bike trails at Doris Wigington park.

Administration Committee – A revised and improved Employee handbook in the works.

Water/Waste-Water Committee – A lot of good things are underway as indicated from tonight's agenda.

Police/Fire Committee report in council packet. The construction at the Police Department for the courtroom is a work in progress and moving along nicely.

Ms. Ragland provided Mayor and Council with highlights from the February Financial report that has been provided in packet. She commented on the total of revenue received in February. It included the yearly Franchise Fee paid by Georgia Power that would be accrued back to 2020.

Development Report – Development Director Lonnie Waters provided highlights from the development report.

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

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Meeting adjourned.



Steve Lawrence

Mayor



Beverly Ragland  
Finance Director/City Clerk