

MINUTES  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
Monday, July 12, 2021

Members Present:

Mayor Steve Lawrence  
Kirk Raffield  
Anne Sneve  
Jim Looney  
John Foust

Staff:

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

Guests in Attendance:

Eric Hendrix  
Greg  
Travis Herndon  
Andrea Wiggins  
Stephanie Ray  
Grant Schreek  
Green Suttles

Members Absent:

Dr. Sonny Proctor

Legal Counsel:

R. David Syfan

Press:

Angela Reinhardt  
Know Pickens

Mayor Steve Lawrence asked Councilmember Anne Sneve if she 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 Kirk Raffield to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Mayor Lawrence stated that Council has the minutes from the June 7, 2021, Regular council meeting, and June 24, 2021, Special Called/Work Session / Public Hearing. Mayor Lawrence entertained a motion to adopt all as presented. Councilmember Foust provided a motion with Councilmember Proctor providing a second. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence recognized the first item under old business (Item A) Consideration and approval of alcohol license for LC Taco Bar LLC located at 61 N. Main Street. Deputy Finance Director Lindsey Williams provided background information. 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 B) Consideration and approval of purchasing a vault with a 4-inch meter for Phase I of the Gateway at Grandview with allocated money from cost of construction aid for \$12,375.00 with a not to exceed cost of \$15,000 for installation. Mayor Lawrence called on City Manager Brandon Douglas to provide background information. Mr. Douglas went on to say that a portion of proceeds is being used to purchase the vault with a 4-inch meter. The meter has been ordered due to months delay for arrival. The amount exceeds staff's authority and that is why staff is bringing this to Mayor and Council for approval. Mayor Lawrence called for a motion to approve. Councilmember Foust made a motion to approve. Councilmember Sneve provide a second. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence recognized the next item under old business (Item C) Consideration and approval of modifying the existing purchase order for the raw water intake to accommodate the additional need for electrical work at a cost not to exceed \$50,000.00. Mayor Lawrence called on Water/Waste-Water Director David Hall to provide information. Mr. Hall updated Mayor and Council on the items already purchased for the project such as the pump, the motor and supplies to install. After looking at installation, an electrician noticed the need for a bigger disconnect fused before the VFD (furnished and installed by City) with additional wiring. Mr. Hall went on to state the city can do most of the work, however professional assistance is needed for the electric. Mayor Lawrence called for a motion to approval modifying the existing purchase order for the raw water intake to accommodate the additional need for electrical work at a cost not to exceed \$50,000.00. 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 D) Consideration and approval of Clark, Patterson, Lee to design downtown bathrooms at a cost not to exceed \$18,000 (including structural engineer) with proceeds from 2020 SPLOST. Mayor Lawrence called on Councilmember Foust. Councilmember Foust stated that with all the upcoming improvement it is important to have a professional design to ensure things are done correctly. Mayor Lawrence called for a motion. Councilmember Raffield made a motion to approve. Councilmember Looney provided a second. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence recognized the next item under old business (item E) Discussion of soliciting requests for qualified bids through a Request for Qualifications for mountain bike/multi-purpose trails at Doris Wigington Park. Mayor Lawrence went on to say we have an opportunity to have some hiking and biking trails at this 60-acre park, we have a preliminary design done so that we can solicit people that are qualified to build this project. Councilmember Sneve agreed that this needs to be put out for qualified people to submit bids. She would like to authorize staff to move forward in doing that. Mayor Lawrence called for a motion to enable staff to solicit qualified bids for mountain bike/multi-purpose trails at Doris Wigington Park. Councilmember Looney made a motion to approve. Councilmember Raffield provided a second. Councilmember Raffield thanked the committee for moving forward with the park improvements. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence recognized the first item under old business (Item F) Discussion of soliciting requests for bids for the sidewalk project (as suspended from July 2020 to accommodate the Georgia Power Reliability Project). Mayor Lawrence called on Mr. Douglas to provide background information. Mr. Douglas stated it has been a year since this was brought to Mayor and Council because it was suspended due to extensive underground Ga Power utilities project that would be disruptive. He went on to say in the grand scheme of things, it will prove to be valuable to the community. Mr. Douglas wanted to bring this back before Mayor and Council for review. A list of SPLOST sidewalk projects was provided to Mayor and Council. A discussion was had about adding Cove Road. Mr. Douglas stated that we will seek out an engineer to assist with any sort of construction of sidewalks to ensure that we are in the right of way. If any right of way easements is needed, we would need surveys and those exhibits would be presented. Mr. Douglas hopes to have all the information ready for the September Council meeting. Mr. Douglas stated all input is welcomed. Councilmember Sneve asked if anyone has an end date for Georgia Power and Mr. Douglas responded he did not know. Councilmember Raffield thanked staff and City Manager for being wise enough to look down the road, if we had not postponed this, we would be digging up and breaking up less than year old sidewalk. He went on to say we are excited to move forward with this project. It was just important for us financially to be fiscally responsible and not lay sidewalks we would rip up a year or less later. This patience has really paid off for our community. Mayor Lawrence called for a motion. Councilmember Raffield made a motion to approve. Councilmember Foust provided a second. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

At the conclusion of Old Business, Mayor Lawrence recognized the first item under new business (item A) Consideration of Ordinance No. 2021-15 for a request to rezone Parcel #s 041 015, 041 010.003 and 041 015.003 from C-2 Commercial and R-3 Residential to a Planned Unit Development (PUD) located at 1317 West Church Street, Jasper, Georgia. Mayor Lawrence called on Lonnie Waters. Mr. Waters stated that city staff has worked with the applicant. No one has come forward in favor or against this project. Mr. Waters said based on the analysis, staff recommends this be approved with conditions. This went before Planning and Zoning on July 22 and the board ruled in favor of it. No concerns came up at the public hearing. Mayor Lawrence called for a motion. Councilmember Kirk made a motion to approve with conditions. Councilmember Looney provided a second. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence recognized the next item under new business (Item B) Consideration of Ordinance No. 2021-16 for a request to rezone Parcel # JA07 051 from C-2 Commercial to R-1 Residential located at 197 Chambers Street, Jasper, Georgia. Mayor Lawrence called on Lonnie Waters. Mr. Waters provided background information such as the need to rezone so that the homeowner can resell the property. The current zoning would only be able sell to a cash buyer. Lending institutions do not like to loan money for a residential home in a commercial zone. Mr. Waters asked for permission to move forward with asking other homeowners on Chambers Street if they would also like to rezone. Mayor Lawrence called for a motion. Councilmember Sneve made a motion to approve. Councilmember Raffield provided a second. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence called for a motion to give permission to the Development Department to solicit the other property owners in that location to rezone to residential. 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 C) Consideration and approval of Resolution No. 2021-06 and maintenance agreement for TAP Grant Application (Transportation Alternative Program). Mayor Lawrence called on Mr. Douglas to provide details. Mr. Douglas provided background information on the Stegall Drive project such as the need to approve Resolution of support along with maintenance agreement as part of the application process. The minimum grant request is one million dollars. The City would need to match 20% from 2014 SPLOST. The application is due by the end of July. Mayor Lawrence called for a motion and approval of Resolution No. 2021-06 and maintenance agreement for TAP Grant Application. Councilmember Raffield made a motion to approve. Councilmember Sneve provided a second. Motion to approval passed unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence recognized the next item under new business (Item D) Consideration and approval of

Minutes

Regular Council Meeting

Monday, July 12, 2021

Page 3

requested letter of support for the Pickens County Hazard Mitigation Plan. Mayor Lawrence called on Mr. Douglas. Mr. Douglas made Mayor and Council aware that a request from Pickens County for a letter of support for soliciting a grant from FEMA (through GEMA) to fund the cost of updating the county's Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. At this time, the required match could in essence be substantiated through in-kind services of participation so there is not a monetary amount associated with it at this time. To demonstrate, our partnership with the county is what is being utilized currently to assist us with requesting financial assistance. Mayor Lawrence called for any questions. No one came forward. Mayor asked for a Motion to approve. Councilmember Sneve made a motion to approve. Councilmember Looney provided a second. Mayor Lawrence asked for any further discussion. Councilmember Looney requested the Technical College be included. Mayor Lawrence asked for any other discussion. No further discussion. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence recognized the next item under new business (Item E) Consideration of authorizing the purchase of 6 police vehicles utilizing the State of Georgia purchasing contract at a cost of \$225,600 with a total cost not to exceed \$285,600 for the additional equipment (e.g. lighting, striping) with proceeds from 2020 SPLOST. Mayor Lawrence called on Mr. Douglas. Mr. Douglas provided background information. The immediate need for 2 vehicles by Wade Ford (State Contract for Ford Police Vehicles with the other 4 vehicles would be ordered, but it is unknown when they will be available from Hardy Chevrolet (State Contract for Chevrolet Police Vehicles)). He went on to say we would need to have the pre-order in by the end of July. Major Dawkins provided additional information. Councilmember Raffield asked what the color would be. Major Dawkins said they will be white. Mayor Lawrence Called for a motion to approve of authorizing the purchase of 6 police vehicles utilizing the State of Georgia purchasing contract at a cost of \$225,600 with a total cost not to exceed \$285,600 for the additional equipment (e.g. lighting, striping) with proceeds from 2020 SPLOST. Councilmember Foust make 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 change in location for Folksy Ventures LLC dba Waldmet Cellars from 916 Old Philadelphia Road to 62 Ralph Hicks Circle. Mayor Lawrence called on Lindsey Williams. Mrs. Williams provided background information. 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 G) Consideration of utilizing Main Street for Jeep Fest Show & Shine. Mayor Lawrence stated the Sheriff will be using his own personnel. Mr. Douglas provided information on the upcoming signature events. This will be the Sheriff's Jeep Fest 10<sup>th</sup> year in preparing for this event. The Sheriff has requested to utilize the entire footprint of Main Street unencumbered with 53, meaning we would petition GDOT to request to close that section of 53 and reroute traffic. If GDOT denies the permit, we would go back to the old format. Mr. Douglas stated the City Police will aid in the closure and directing traffic and be present at the event. This service along with a monetary contribution of up to \$5,500 (Stage, etc.)

The Sheriff's Jeep Fest dates are September 2<sup>nd</sup>-the 5<sup>th</sup>. The Show & Shine will be held on Friday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> from 6:00 PM until 10:00 PM. It is anticipated that the closure of Main Street will be approximately 3:30 PM. Mayor called for a motion to approve utilizing Main Street for Jeep Fest Show & Shine. Councilmember Sneve made a motion to approve. Councilmember Raffield provided a second. Mayor Lawrence asked for any discussion. Councilmember Raffield asked Mr. Douglas if the restrooms would be finished by then. Mr. Douglas stated no, the event will have porta potties. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence recognized the next item under new business (Item H) Consideration of special event – Marble Festival. Mayor Lawrence Called on Mr. Douglas. Mr. Douglas spoke about the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Marble Festival. This is a signature event on October 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. The event will run from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm Saturday at Lee Newton Park and 10:00 am to 4:00 pm on Sunday. This event will have a parade on October 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10:00 am on Main Street. The City will provide the stage. This will necessitate the closure of Veterans Memorial Drive. Mr. Douglas stated that after speaking with Amberle Godfrey, the parade is not allowing anyone to throw out candy. If they want to give out candy they can walk alongside their float and hand out candy. Mr. Douglas added that a special request by the Cherokee Shrine Club to visit the Council meeting to discuss joining the parade for Marble Festival. Mr. Eric Hendrick with The Cherokee Shrine Club approached Mayor and council to discuss being part of upcoming parades including The Marble Festival. Discussion was had back and forth on what would be required. The Shrine Club would need to provide City with Certificate of Insurance with the City listed as additional insured and the parade application would be turned into the Chamber or person having parade. This would need to be done before each parade.

Mayor Lawrence recognized the next item under new business (Item I) Update on filming in and around Jasper. Mr. Douglas provided background information. Attorney David Syfan suggested having a film production

Ordinance so that The City can be consistent. Mr. Syfan and Mr. Douglas will work together on this.

Mayor Lawrence recognized the next item under new business (Item J) Update on water/sewer related projects. Mr. Hall approached Mayor and Council. Mr. Hall provided update on the 136 project, 2000 ft of pipe have been installed and PRV Valves have been installed. The project will be complete in late October. Leak detection will begin in September. JL White Drive (replacement of water line at the Hospital) bids are due back by July 22. Councilmember Looney asked if there was a target date on the wastewater project. Mr. Hall said that we are still waiting on the approval of specifications. The city is doing everything possible to move forward. Mayor listed the proposal for a belt press filter system. Charter Machine Company, BDP Industries, and Bright technologies. Mayor Made a Motion to add this into the original motion. Councilmember Raffield made the motion. Councilmember Foust provided a second. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence called on Mr. Douglas to discuss Weather Related Event/Impact. Mr. Douglas proved a brief update on Gennett Drive. Most likely it will be ready to bid out in September. No estimate on when job will be complete due to contract labor and material shortage.

Mayor Lawrence recognized Committee Reports.

Development Committee – Excited about all the work that staff continues to do with the community

Street/Parks Committee – Moving forward with bike trails at Doris Wigington Park and Peace park

Administration Committee – Discussion of safety during parades and events on main street. Councilmember Looney made motion for staff to conduct due diligence in the number and pricing of crowd control barricades and authorization to expend up to \$24,900. Councilmember Foust provided a second. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Water/Waste-Water Committee – commended staff on a great job continuing to progress forward with the generators.

Beverly Ragland provided the financial report.

Lonnie Waters provide the Development report.

Police Chief Greg Lovel provided the Police report.

Chief Steve Roper provided the Fire report.

Mayor Lawrence recognized Mr. Douglas to provide Mid-Year Report of Accomplishments. Mr. Douglas provide highlights from the year such as the adjusted increase Jasper Pay Scale, Completion of Zoning & Sign Ordinance that has not been updated in over 40 years, the Completed City Charter, the IGA and partnerships with the county, reinstated events after pandemic and many other great accomplishments listed in packet.

Mayor Lawrence thanked staff and City Manager Brandon Douglas for his great leadership.

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

Meeting adjourned.



Steve Lawrence  
Mayor



Beverly Ragland  
Finance Director/City Clerk