

**City Council Meeting  
March 03, 2008**



The regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council, held Monday,  
March 03, 2008, at 6:00 P.M. at Swainsboro City Hall

**Members Present:** Edenfield, Stroud, Parker, Collins, Stafford & Faulkner,

**Members Absent:**

**Prayer of Invocation:** Councilperson Collins

Motion was made to adopt the minutes from the previous meeting as written

**Motion : by Stroud Seconded : by Collins Passed : 6-0**

**A. New Business**

1. Anthony Faris, Downtown Development Director, spoke to council about a proposed downtown cleanup. He explained the Downtown Development Authority would like to have a free clean up day for the downtown merchants. This would consist of providing dumpsters in certain locations for the merchants to use to get rid of any old or unwanted junk in their stores. The dumpsters would be dumped at no cost to the merchants. He also reported that they could call to make reservations for a scheduled pickup at their location for a one time pick up. Council asked what the cost would be and he reported it would cost the city the cost of disposal and \$38.50 a ton. He reported that Sam Sullivan would provide the dumpsters and dump them at no charge to the city. This service would be for customers in the C6-H downtown district only. The proposed dates for the cleanup is March 26, 27, and 28. He will notify the store owners about the date and the location of the dumpsters. Motion was made to allow Anthony to proceed with the cleanup project.

**Motion : by Stroud Seconded : by Edenfield Passed : 6-0**

2. Council heard a non-tobacco ordinance read. Council then considered the ordinance as follows:

**Chapter 47  
City Building and Vehicles**

**AN ORDINANCE**

**ARTICLE I. TOBACCO USE IN CITY FACILITIES**

To regulate the use of tobacco products in city building and vehicles subject to the jurisdiction of the City of Swainsboro; to provide definitions; to provide penalties and enforcement; to repeal conflicting ordinances; to provide an effective date; and for other purposes.

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF  
THE CITY OF SWAINSBORO, GEORGIA:**

**Sec. 47-1. Definitions.**

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this article, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

City facility means any building, office center, courthouse, community center, auditorium, jail, terminal, or other enclosed structure, not including motor vehicles, owned or otherwise under the exclusive control of the city.

City vehicle means any automobile, truck, van, or other vehicle designed primarily for on-the-road use which is owned or otherwise under the exclusive control of the city.

Smoking means the burning of any tobacco product in a cigarette, cigar, or pipe of any kind.

Tobacco product means any kind of tobacco, whether loose leaf, processed, or rolled, intended, packaged, or sold for the purpose of chewing, dipping, or smoking.

**Sec. 47- 10. Enforcement; violation of article; jurisdiction.**

This article shall be enforced by any authorized law enforcement officer of the city. Any person found in violation of this article shall be punished as provided in section 1-11 of this Code. Jurisdiction shall be in the municipal court.

**Sec. 47-11. Purpose.**

This section is enacted for the purpose of preserving and protecting the public health, safety, and welfare by reducing individual exposure to firsthand and secondhand tobacco smoke, by reducing the possibility of fire in city facilities, and by providing a generally more healthful and sanitary environment for working and for conducting public business.

**Sec. 47-12. Restrictions.**

No person shall smoke or otherwise use any tobacco product while in any city facility. After consultation with the appropriate department heads, the mayor may establish reasonable work rule restrictions governing smoking and the use of tobacco products in non-enclosed or outdoor employee work areas and upon the grounds of city facilities frequented by members of the general public. The mayor shall cause the erection and installation of signs necessary and appropriate to promote the purposes of this section.

**Sec. 47-18. City vehicles.**

No smoking or other use of tobacco products shall be permitted in any city vehicle.

Motion was made to consider the ordinance as read.

**Motion : by Stafford Seconded : by Parker Passed : 6-0**

3. Council considered bids for the installation of a new Well located at the site of the water tank on Hill Street. The following bids were opened and presented;

- |                        |              |
|------------------------|--------------|
| 1. Sam Martin Drilling | \$114,251.00 |
| 2. Graves              | \$122,500.00 |
| 3. Rowe Drilling       | \$117,533.00 |

Motion was made to take the low bid that met the specifications. The bids would be studied to make sure they met all of the required measures.

**Motion : by Stafford Seconded : by Collins Passed : 6-0**

**B. Old Business**

1. Council heard the proposal of an ordinance to amend the Hotel/Motel Excise Tax Ordinance to add the language recommended by the Department of Community Affairs. This would not effect or change the ordinance . This would add an additional clause suggested by DCA. Mayor Schwabe announced this was a public hearing and no one spoke for or against the ordinance. Motion to adopt the ordinance was made.

**Motion : by Edenfield Seconded : by Stroud Passed : 6-0**

2. Council heard the proposal of an ordinance for the regulation of wreckers and wrecker services. This would get a uniform set of rules for all wrecker services to adhere to. Mayor Schwabe announce that this was a public hearing and no one spoke for or against. Motion to adopt the ordinance as presented was made.

**Motion : by Parker Seconded : by Faulkner Passed : 6-0**

Administrator Lawson asked council, with the new guidelines in place, permission to bid out the wrecker services for the city. He stated that different wrecker service were taking advantage of the rotating basic and charging outrageous prices. Council ask if the city could regulate what the wrecker services charge and it was explained this was not possible and that was the reason for the request for bids. Adm. Lawson stated that each wrecker service that purchases a city license will be sent a request to bid. Motion was made to bid out the services.

**Motion : by Faulkner Seconded : by Edenfield Passed : 5-1 Stroud opposed**

**C. Committee Reports**

**Police:** Councilperson Stafford presented the Police Report. Councilperson Parker asked if the fine money that was collected could be designated to purchase police cars. Adm Lawson explained that would not be a problem but it would leave a shortfall in the general fund where the money was being placed a present time.

Mayor Schwabe gave a report on the new Police Building and reported it was on schedule. Councilperson Parker asked if it was on budget and Mayor Schwabe stated that there has been some thing added and deducted and it was still on track.

Councilperson Stroud asked why the speeding tickets were way down because she thought this was still a problem. Councilperson Stafford stated he would look into this and talk to Chief Shuman about this situation.

**Building and Safety:** Councilperson Faulkner had no report .

**Executive:** No Report

**Public Works:** Councilperson Collins reported everything routine.

**Recycle:** Councilperson Collins reported operations normal .

**Fire :** Councilperson Parker reported the Fire Department Committee will have a report on the realigning of the Fire Department forthcoming.

**Recreation:** Councilperson Stroud reported Recreation Director Ronnie Womack is a grandfather and offer her congratulations.

**Airport:** Councilperson Edenfield had no report.

Mayor Schwabe reported that Adm. Lawson had been working on a security grant for the airport and reported that the city and the county would have to come up with 25% matching money. The cost of a fencing project to secure the airport was approximately \$120,000. This would require the city and the county to come up with \$30,000 or \$15,00 each. Motion was made to go ahead with the grant procedure to get the money.

**Motion : by Edenfield Seconded : by Parker Passed : 6-0**

**Water & WW:** Councilperson Edenfield reported his business was on the agenda.

**Administrative:** Administrator Lawson presented sealed bids for the hay operations for 2008 as follows:

1/ Danny Wayne Faircloth \$12,000.00 with other conditions.

After a review of the proposal Adm. Lawson stated it met all of the requirement and motion was made to grant the contact.

**Motion : by Stroud Seconded : by Stafford Passed : 6-0**

Councilperson Faulkner presented a list of items for the council approval to surplus. The items were from all different departments and will be auctioned off to the public.

Adm. Lawson presented employee evaluation form to the council for their approval. They stated the forms looked good and applauded the efforts. Adm. Lawson stated that the employee would fill out a portion of the form, their supervisor would fill out a portion of the form, and then the Department Head would review the forms with the employee and the Department Head. Mayor Schwabe state the newly formed Personnel Committee would evaluate the Department Heads and the City Administrator.

Adm. Lawson reported that he had receive the paperwork on the 2009 LARP Program from the Georgia Department of Transportation and they would be paving two streets (.46 miles)in 2009 under that program. South Circle Drive and the West portion of Roger Shaw Street.

Adm. Lawson gave a special THANK YOU to the Swainsboro Police Department and their officers in helping City Hall collect on a bad check. It was turned over to the Sheriff's office in August and no action had been taken. It was then given to the Swainsboro Police Dept and in two weeks the person was caught and the fine had been paid.

**Mayor:** Mayor Schwabe asked the council for input what needed to be done in the city.

Councilperson Stroud started by stating the city needs to crack down on abandoned cars. She stated we have an ordinance on file that needs to be implemented. Councilperson Parker stated the city is spending a lot of money on cleanups and the land owners need to be held responsible. Mayor Schwabe asked Councilperson Stroud to head up this and follow it up. She stated she would meet with the Building Inspector to start things moving.

Councilperson Parker stated one of his big concerns was all of the pot hole. They were being fixed and they kept recurring. Mayor Schwabe stated that one of the reason the roads were in bad shape is the big truck traffic in the neighborhoods. This is a problem that needs to be addressed. Adm Lawson stated that an ordinance was proposed to council a few years ago and was not passed by council.

Councilperson Faulkner suggest that we have community work section and meet with the County Commissioners, Board of Education, Colleges, Chamber of Commerce, and others.

Councilperson Stafford stated he was very concerned about growing the population of Swainsboro. He felt this was very important to keep Swainsboro moving forward.

Mayor Schwabe commended Randy and the OMI staff on the job they have been doing in the city cemetery. Adm. Lawson reported that a back entrance was being added to the cemetery and new water line were also being added.

Mayor Schwabe also asked that a letter be drafted to the County Commissioners expressing the council's concern about the intersection of Lambs Bridge Rd. and Meadowlake Parkway and the potential dangers with the increase traffic going to the college.

Mayor Schwabe thanked the newspaper and reported on the citywide cleanup scheduled for March 22, 2008.

He reported that a meeting with the new Department of Transportation Regional Engineer, Tony Collins, was in the works.

He reported that there is a lot of changes in the Pine Tree Festival this year. He reported that the committee is working hard and the festival this year will be better than ever.

Mayor Schwabe

**Council Adjourned**

**Submitted:** *Al L Lawson* , City Administrator