



CITY OF
Swainsboro
Crossroads of the Great South



GEORGIA

City Council Meeting

March 07, 2016

The regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council, held Monday, March 07, 2016 at 6:00 P.M. at Swainsboro City Hall.

Members Present: Stafford, Sconyers, Bragg, Collins, Parker, & Faulkner

Members Absent:

Prayer of Invocation: Adm. Lawson

Motion to accept minutes from the previous meeting was made.

Motion: by Stafford Seconded: by Sconyers 6-0

A. Consensus Business

B. New Business

1. Council discussed the proposed 2016 CDBG options from Charlie Bridges of Carter and Sloope Engineering Firm. Councilperson Parker asked why they did not recommend Robin Rd. for the project and it was explained it would not fit the guidelines for a CDBG. Council then asked what other projects were discussed and Adm. Lawson explained all council members had a copy of the Engineers report. Councilperson Faulkner stated because the Robin Rd. project would not qualify for a CDBG to ask the Engineering Firm to do a study as to what would improve the drainage in that area. A motion was then made to take the recommendations of Carter and Sloope and proceed with the option # 5 in the report below.

Motion: by Stafford Seconded: by Sconyers 6-0

From: Charlie Bridges

Date: 2/10/2016 2:39:11 PM

To: city_admin@cityofswainsboro.org

Cc: Trey Gavin; Sara

Subject: City of Swainsboro Field Visit

Al,

It was a pleasure for me and Trey to meet with you last Friday to discuss various issues within the City of Swainsboro. Below is a brief summary of our findings for your reference and use. I am copying both Trey and Phil Davis with this email so that they may comment if they wish:

To aid in your review the items below will be listed in the order in which we looked at them:

1. **Wrens St. Drainage:** According to Mrs. Rita, the house in the bend that we looked at periodically floods. It appears that the old roadbed (aka; berm) may be preventing storm water from easily reaching the adjacent canal. A possible solution would be to grade the problematic yard to a new drainage swale around the house, collect the storm water and drain it towards the canal. A 15"-18" pipe would then need to be installed through the berm to convey the storm water to the canal. It is unlikely that these improvements could be funded via the CDBG program due to the lack of beneficiaries (only 5 houses.) Phil can comment further if necessary. Also, survey would be needed to verify our concept- we are guestimating this solution and it would need to be verified in the field.
2. **Robin Rd. Sewer:** We visited a lady's house who had experienced a sewer back-up in her house. This appeared to be a clogged service line (on the customers side of the main) as there were no other complaints of back-ups reported to OMI and unless evidence is found to the contrary would need to be remedied by the homeowner.
3. **Robin Rd. Drainage:** Two residents of Robin Rd. were present and voiced concerns about drainage issues in their backyards. The City had recently cut a drainage swale to the canal in an attempt to solve the problem, however the residents said that parts of their yard remain wet. It appeared that some minor grading in the residents yard may allow storm water to reach the constructed swale more quickly. However, it should be noted that the majority of the area along the canal is located within the 100 year flood plain according to the FEMA floodplain map (attached.) It is likely that shady yards, "water holding" soil types, and an abundance of rain this wet season are to blame for these recent issues.

****NOTE**** Given that the canal is subject to flooding it should be noted that any piping or swales cut in an attempt to convey storm water to the canal could allow floodwaters to more readily back up into the residents property. This is true on both Robin Rd. and Wrens St.

4. **General Canal Drainage:** In general, the area along the drainage canal is prone to flooding during times of heavy rain. Several observations were made that could allow increased drainage in the area. Dredging deposited silt, clearing of brush, fallen trees and other obstacles out of the canal would allow storm water to pass more freely through the area and lessen the effects of localized flooding. Any concept to increase the overall flow capacity of the canal beyond only maintenance efforts would require a full engineering storm study and survey to quantify the expense of the construction and permitting.
5. **FY 2016 CDBG:** We looked at several potential target areas and potential projects but, based on feedback from ALGA, could only find one project that could qualify; a combination sewer/storm drainage project in the Crump St./McMillan Dr. area. The proposed improvements would consist of storm drainage and street upgrades to McMillan Dr., Arden Dr., Emmanuel Rd., Lakeside Dr. and Crump St. The sewer work would consist of repairing/replacing the sewer trunk line that runs along the drainage canal from McMillan Dr. to the Crump St. lift station (LS #4.) Additionally, the City wishes to upgrade the Crump St. lift station as a part of this project, however, that would need to be done primarily with City funds.

Phil, please comment on what kinds of information (service calls, complaint letters, etc.) you would need to demonstrate "need" for both the storm drainage and sanitary sewer portion of this project.

Al, again Carter & Sloope appreciates the opportunity to work with and for the City of Swainsboro. Let me know if you have any questions or need anything else from me. My contact information is below. If the scope of the FY 2016 CDBG is OK with you I will begin working on cost estimates and maps immediately. I look forward to your response.

Charlie Bridges

Carter & Sloope, Inc.

2. Adm. Lawson stated the city was in the process of purchasing a Mini-Pumper at a cost of \$70,000. This Fire Truck would need to be financed because it was not a budgeted item. It reported he had contacted Georgia Pool Leasing with GMA and they had quoted a rate of 3.43% for 36 months. This would make the payments \$2052,78 per month for 36 months. Motion was made to accept the GMA Pool Leasing offer and finance the truck with GMA.

Motion: by Bragg Seconded: by Faulkner 6-0

3. Gary Wilson asked to speak to council but was not present.

4. Council considered the restatement of the City of Swainsboro's Georgia Municipal Association 401 (a) Defined Contribution Plan. GMA is changing providers and a new agreement must be put in place in order for the city to continue on with the program. Adm. Lawson informed council nothing would change as for as the contributions from the employees or the city. Motion was made to adopt the Resolution and Adoption agreement between the City of Swainsboro and the Georgia Municipal Association for the Georgia Municipal Association 401 (a) defined contribution plan.

Motion: by Faulkner Seconded: by Stafford 6-0

5. Adm. Lawson presented information on the local Hotel/Motel tax. At the present time the City of Swainsboro is collecting a 5% rate from Hotel/Motel tax to promote tourism, and other activities to draw visitors to our city. The council is being asked to increase the tax from 5% to 8% to help fund the renovation of the Dixie Theater. Adm. Lawson explained that this increase would have to go the Georgia General Assembly for approval. A letter of support requesting the change would be presented to our Legislators and they would bring it to the General Assembly for adoption. Adm. Lawson then explained if the increase accrued how the distribution of funds must be spent. After a brief discussion motion was made to send a letter to our legislative team requesting the City of Swainsboro Hotel/Motel tax be increased from 5% to 8% to help fund the operation of the Dixie Theater.

Motion: by Sconyers Seconded: by Bragg 6-0

6. East Georgia State College Student Government Association made a presentation to council and shared a student poll taken at East Georgia State College asking students what they thought would help Swainsboro. The participating students stated they would like to see more entertainment, more franchise stores, more dine in restaurants, a bowling alley, and more musical performances. The City Council thanked the students for their input. Mayor Schwabe stated council would like to work with them to see some of these requests fulfilled.

7. Mayor Schwabe presented a Proclamation in Recognition and Observance of the Smithsonian Exhibition Hometown Teams: How Sports Shape America. Angie Williams was present representing the college and explained the importance of the exhibition. She invited everyone to the opening ceremonies on March 19, 2016. Motion was made to adopt the Proclamation as presented.

Motion: by Stafford Seconded: by Sconyers 6-0

8. Mr. Jack Fordham addressed council informing them of a new program in the area called Just Serve. This service matches volunteers with a non-profit organization they could volunteer for. He stated some of the areas like the library, animal shelter, and others could greatly benefit from this organization. He is in the process of getting the program up and running in the area. He would be the local contact and he asked council to go to the website to gain more information about the program.

D. Committee Reports

Police: Councilperson Stafford stated he had been approached by Barb Moore, President of the Emanuel County Humane Society, asking for the council to reconsider some ordinances relating to the impoundment of dogs. Her request was as follows:

Amend Section 10-39 - Impoundment of dogs - Period of confinement.

We propose amending this section as follows; "Any dog impounded under the provisions of this article shall be kept in some convenient place, to be known as the dog pound or humane shelter, located in the city"

This removes the language "shall be kept for a minimum of five days". First, the shelter would not want to keep a dog for a minimum of five days if an owner or possessor comes forward to claim the dog. If the original language intended to read "for a maximum of five days" that language would be inappropriate because the shelter can accommodate a dog for a longer period; five days is not a reasonable time to adopt out or find other shelter for a dog.

Amend Section 10-40 - Humane disposition upon failure to claim

We propose amending this section to read:

"Any dog impounded under this article whose owner, possessor or representative shall not come forward after the impoundment and pay the impounding fees specified in the article may be put to death in a humane manner."

Our intent is to provide an opportunity for stray unclaimed dogs to be adopted locally or to be transported to some other animal rescue organization.

Council agreed with the intent of the request and asked that these ordinance changes be prepared and brought back to council for consideration.

Council also asked that Section 10-39 and 10-40 of the animal control ordinance be suspended until further notice.

Councilperson Stafford reported the Police Chief is getting pricing for the installation of some glass partition at the front of the Police lobby.

Councilperson asked council to consider the purchase of body cameras for all of the Police Officers. The quote he had was for 20 cameras at \$219.00 each. Council discussed ways to pay for the expense and Councilperson Bragg asked if they could be bought out of the money brought in from asset forfeiture account. Motion was then made to purchase the body cameras as presented.

Motion: by Bragg Seconded: by Faulkner 6-0

Public Works: Councilperson Faulkner reported she had met with Carter and Sloope about the Robin Rd. drainage issue.

Council discussed the issue for desposing of old tires.

Councilperson Faulkner brought to council two quotes for repairing the D5 Catapiller Bulldozer as follows;

Big M's Equipment Repair	-	\$12,292.95
Yancey Cat	-	\$21,204.54

Motion to take the low bid was made.

Motion: by Faulkner Seconded: by Stafford 6-0

Fire: Councilperson Bragg presented the monthly Fire Department report.

Councilperson Bragg asked council to consider the purchase of 14 sets of turn out gear for the Firefighters. The cost of the gear would be \$33,600.00. The funds are not budgeted for this equipment and alternative payments need to be sought out. Council discussed many other options to pay for the equipment.

Councilperson Bragg reported that the air bottles also would be out of date soon and would need replacing.

Recreation: Councilperson Parker reported that the Swainsboro/Emanuel Co. Recreational Leagues of 11 year olds basketball team has won the state title.

He reported that the Recreation Dept. is offering new baseball programs this year.

Councilperson Parker reported that new fencing and a new scoring tower was being built on the old fields on McLoud Bridge Rd.

Mayor Schwabe asked Councilperson Parker about the progress of the dog park. He suggested the Councilperson Parker meet with the Swainsboro Kiwanis Club about using the South Main area for a new dog park. He asked Councilperson Parker to check with the Recreation Authority about financing the project with Recreation Authority funds.

He asked Councilperson Parker to see if there are some programs that can be done jointly with the students from East Georgia State College.

He also suggested that some adult programs be added to the recreation programming.

Airport: No Report

Executive: No Report

Water & WW: Councilperson Sconyers reported he had received a report from CH2M that lift station 20 was in bad need of repair. One pump is down and the other is not running a full capacity. Mike Connolly with CH2M reported he had obtained a quote from their CH2M's repair unit of \$19,181.00 to repair the station. This would be an out-of-scope cost to the city. Motion was made to hire CH2M to make these out-of-scope repairs.

Motion: by Parker Seconded: by Faulkner 6-0

Downtown Development: No Report

Administrative: Councilperson Collins reported that city hall was having some issues with computer system. They have been corrected and hope no more problems will occur.

Building Inspection: No Report

Mayor: Mayor Schwabe asked council to respect others and work for the good of the city.

An Executive session was requested by Councilperson Faulkner to discuss a real estate issue.

AFFIDAVIT

Personally appeared before the undersigned attesting officer, duly authorized to administer oaths, Charles Schwabe, who, after being duly sworn, deposes and on oath states the following:

I was the presiding officer of a meeting of the Swainsboro City Council held on the day of March 07, 2016.

That it is my understanding that O.C.G.A §50-14-4(b) provides as follows:

When any meeting of an agency is closed to the public pursuant to subsection (a) of this Code section, the chairperson or other person presiding over such meeting shall execute and file with the official minutes of the meeting a notarized affidavit stating under oath that the subject matter of the meeting or the closed portion thereof was devoted to matters within the exceptions provided by law and identifying the specific relevant exception.

The subject matter of the closed meeting or closed portion of the meeting held on the 7th day of March, 2016, which was closed for the purpose of land acquisition requested by Council member Rita Faulkner as allowed by O.C.G.A., Title 50, Chapter 14, was devoted to matters within those exceptions and as provided by law.

This affidavit is being executed for the purpose of complying with the mandate of O.C.G.A. §50-14-4(b) that such an affidavit be executed.

This 7th day of March, 2016

MAYOR / CITY OF SWAINSBORO

Council re-entered regular session.

Councilperson Faulkner asked council to consider the gift of a piece of property located at the corner of Gumlog Rd. and Lewis St. Gloria Everett would like to give this property to the city. Council stated that there were a lot of unanswered questions about the property. Motion was made to accept the property as presented.

Motion: by Faulkner Seconded: by Bragg Defeated 4-2

Stafford, Sconyers, Parker, and Collins against

Meeting was adjourned.

Submitted: Al L Lawson, City Administrator