



CITY OF
Swainsboro
Crossroads of the Great South



City Council Meeting

June 07, 2011

The regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council, held Monday, June 07, 2011, at 6:00 P.M. at Swainsboro City Hall.

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

Members Absent:

Prayer of Invocation: Councilperson Faulkner

Motion to accept minutes from the previous meeting was made.

Motion: by Stafford Seconded: by Parker 6-0

A. Consensus Business

B. New Business

1. Mr. Lewis Akridge with Buddy's Redi Mix addressed council about the no truck traffic signs that have been placed on Calhoun and Mable Streets. He stated that it was very inconvenient for him hauling rock to Buddy's Redi Mix to have to come uptown. He requested a special permit to continue to use the road. He had been stopped by a Police officer and given a warning for violating the no truck traffic law. Mayor Schwabe stated that the city had spent a lot of money repairing the rail road crossing on that street and the no truck traffic signs were put up to help stop the deterioration of the rail crossing. Mr. Akridge stated that the train was the reason the crossing was in bad shape and that he always stopped at the crossing. Mayor Schwabe stated this was done to improve the road for all citizens and not to inconvenience anyone. After a long discussion Councilperson Parker stated he would let him travel the road. Mayor Pro Tem Collins asked how many times he would travel the road a week and Mr. Akridge stated that would vary. Chief Ellison stated that the truck traffic through that area was very heavy and doing a lot of damage to the rail crossing. The officers have been patrolling and stopping the truck but no one has received a citation so far. He stated most of the trucks were now taking alternate routes. Councilperson Parker made a motion to take the no truck traffic signs down and install stop signs at the rail crossing.

Motion: by Parker Seconded: by Stroud 5-1
Edenfield opposed

2. Mr. Danny Palmer spoke to council about a program called "Code Red". This is an early warning system that would call telephone numbers and warn them of inclement weather or any emergency situation. He stated this system could be used for weather alerts or could be programmed with special groups for other purposes. Mr. Palmer stated he had done some preliminary ground work and found that it would cost Emanuel County approximately \$18,700 a year to implement this program. County Administrator Ezra Price and County Commissioner James Canady were present and questioned by Mayor Schwabe as to why the county had not considered a program. Mr. Price stated that the county had looked into this program last year and the funds were not available. Mayor Schwabe stated this would be studied and discussed at a later date.

Mr. Palmer also presented a letter of complaint to Mayor Schwabe about the local cable company. He stated he had contacted the Federal Communications Commission with a complaint against Northland Cable Company. He then stated he was informed to present it to the franchising agent who was the city of Swainsboro.

3. Mayor Schwabe informed the council that the Georgia State Legislation had passed a law in the 2011 session giving the local authorities the right to hold a referendum to decide where it would allow Sunday sales of alcohol. He asked council if they wanted to hold a referendum in conjunction with the upcoming city election. This would be up to the pleasure of council. Councilperson Stroud and Stafford spoke against holding the referendum. Parker, Collins, Edenfield,

and Faulkner stated that it should be left up to the voters to decide. Mayor Schwabe suggested that this be postponed and give the council an opportunity to speak to others about this proposal.

Motion to postpone this issue to a later date was made.

Motion: by Parker Seconded: by Faulkner 6-0

4. Councilperson Edenfield reported to council that the city had taken bids on the 2010 Community Development Block Grant Project. This project would consist of sewage, water, and road improvements to the Lucky, Lewis, New, Green, and Jackson St. areas. The bids were as follows;

Contractor	Total Bid	Total Bid with Bid Alternate
1. Shockley Plumbing, Inc. Perkins, Georgia	\$471,035.00	\$471,035.00
2. Tapa EC, LLC Warner Robins, Georgia	\$465,918.00	\$481,098.00
3. Inland Waters Pollution Control, Inc. Atlanta, Georgia	\$484,019.70	\$498,972.00
4. Reynolds Inliner, Inc. Tucker, Georgia	\$499,093.58	\$540,929.66
5. American Infrastructure Technologies Corp. Hanceville, Alabama	\$514,100.00	\$552,050.00
6. Southeast Pipe Survey, Inc. Patterson, Georgia	\$515,148.60	No bid
7. Douglas Electrical & Plumbing Co., Inc. Douglas, Georgia	\$535,969.20	\$640,331.70
8. Insituform Technologies, Inc. Chesterfield, Missouri	Non-Responsive	

Councilperson Edenfield then made a motion to accept the low bid from Shockley Plumbing of \$471,035.00.

Motion: by Edenfield Seconded: by Faulkner 6-0

Councilperson Edenfield stated that the overall project would cost \$525,000 with the city receiving a \$500,000.00 CDBG Grant from the Georgia Department of Community Affairs and the city providing the remainder \$25,400.00. The city would also replace the old water lines in the area at material cost of about \$12,000. This is a good project to improve our aging utility infrastructure. Council then passed a Resolution naming Shockly Plumbing the contractor for the 2010 CDBG Project.

5. Mayor Pro Tem Collins reported to council that her committee on identifying blighted areas in the city had met and she gave a report of the committees progress. Committee members Jerry Cadle, Gloria Mason, Bill Rogers, and Bruce Kirby were also present. Mrs. Mason addressed council and stated that the committee was looking to council for some guidance on how to proceed. Jerry Cadle presented pictures the committee had taken on some potential sites. He stated the group was going to start on the four major corridors into Swainsboro; North Main, South Main, East Main, and West Main. The committee asked for the backing of the city. Mr. Rogers asked the council what the committee needed to do from here. Mayor Schwabe asked that the committee come up with some target properties. Mayor Schwabe stated that these areas were hurting everyone in the city. He thanked the committee for their work and looked forward to working with them on a hard task.

C. Old Business

1. Council heard the request for an alcoholic beverage application from Shelly Moore dba Jade Rabbit Restaurant and Bar located on 114 West Main St. for beer, wine, and mixed drink consumption on the premises. Mayor Schwabe announced this was a public hearing for this application. No one was present to speak against the application. Motion to grant was made.

Motion: by Stafford Seconded: by Faulkner 6-0

D. Committee Reports

Police: Councilperson Faulkner reported everything routine. She reported that the Police Committee had met and interviewed applicants for the Police Officer position. The committee recommends the hiring of Nicolas Roberts. Motion was made to hire Nicholas Roberts as a new Police Officer.

Motion: by Faulkner Seconded: by Parker 6-0

Chief Ellison stated that the Police Department had purchased two pre-owned vehicles with the drug forfeiture money it had received. He also reported that the city had received a car from the city of Augusta. The cars are being placed on the street as additional patrol vehicles.

Chief Ellison reported that there has been a constant juvenile problem and he would like to meet with Board of Education School Superintendent Erma Jenkins to see if there were some good ideas on how to help correct these issues.

Executive: Councilperson Stroud had no report.

Public Works: Councilperson Parker reported everything routine.

Recycle: Councilperson Parker reported everything routine.

Fire: Councilperson Stafford reported that the Fire Committee had interviewed applicants for the Fire Fighters position and a recommendation was forthcoming.

Recreation: Councilperson Collins everything routine.

Mayor Pro Tem Collins reported a problem with loud noises in the parks in the residential areas. She also stated that there has been a problem with citizens pulling vehicles into the parks. It is strictly prohibited to have motor vehicles in the park areas.

Councilperson Faulkner suggested that the city have a Fun Day for the kids. She stated with the water restrictions in place from the state, the city might want to have a Fun Day and rent some of the inflatable attractions for the kids. She stated that maybe the city could partner with one of the civic organizations to help with the cost of the day.

Mayor Pro Tem Collins reported that there will be some personnel changes at the Recreation Dept.

Airport: No Report

Water & WW: Councilperson Edenfield gave a report on all of the work going on in the Water Department. He stated that there will be a lot of contractors working in the city on various types of construction jobs.

Danny Wilkerson with CH2MHill reported to the council that there is a state wide water ban. No one should water outdoor landscaping except during the hours of 4:00pm to 10:00am.

Councilperson Edenfield reported that OMI had ordered a new motor for the sewage machine at a cost of \$6900.00. This was done under the emergency clause because this would put the city without a way to clean sewage lines.

Downtown Development: Lynn reported that this weekend was the Ultimate Yard Sale from 7:00am to 11:00 am at Patriots Square and that all of the spaces were full.

Lynn reported on the success of the Farmers Market and they have been having between 10 to 15 vendors each Friday.

Lynn also ask council to take notice of the fire hydrants in the downtown area. A local artist has painted them representing different departments of the city.

Administrative: Mayor Schwabe ask Adm. Lawson about the updated personnel manual.

Mayor : Mayor Schwabe had not report.

Mr. Bill Rogers, Chamber President, invited the Mayor and Council to the ground breaking of the new Nordson Facility on June 21, 2011 at 10:00am at the new site.

Council Adjourned

Submitted: Al L Lawson, City Administrator