

**City Council Meeting
June 09, 2008**



The special called meeting of the Mayor and City Council, held Thursday, June 09, 2008, at 6:00 P.M. at Swainsboro City Hall

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

Members Absent:

Prayer of Invocation: Mayor Schwabe

Motion was made to adopt the minutes of the previous meeting.

Motion: by Stafford Seconded: by Stroud Pass 6-0

Agenda Items

1. Council heard the request from Oak Crest Investments to accept the water and sewage system for Pineland Estates. Adm. Lawson stated he had checked with OMI and they reported they have checked the system and it has operated properly for the last year. Motion was made to accept the water and sewage system and release the bond provided.

Motion: by Edenfield Seconded: by Parker Pass 6-0

2. Council heard the request from Rufus Youmans to accept a utility easement for the sewage system at the property located in front of WalMart on South Main Street. Adm. Lawson stated he had checked with OMI and they reported they have checked the system and it is operating properly. Motion was made to accept the sewage system and release the bond provided.

Motion: by Faulkner Seconded: by Stroud Pass 6-0

3. Council discussed the rising crime rate in the city. Many citizens were present to give their thoughts and opinions. Mayor Schwabe recognized the members of the Swainsboro Police Department that were present. Chief Johnny Shuman, Assistant Chief Clifford Young, Commander Richard Peacock, and Commander George Culbuth. Mayor ask each of the Police Officers to speak and give council an update on the current trends and some guidelines on what they see can be done. Commander Peacock spoke and told council it was a problem with the police making the arrest and the criminals not serving the time. He stated that they were seeing a lot of repeat offenders. He also stated that they have seen an increase in repeat offenders with the new release camp in Swainsboro. He stated that high visibility of more police officers would help. Commander Culbreth suggested a neighborhood watch program and increasing the personnel. Major Young suggested adding an additional police officer at night and giving him a golf cart to patrol the downtown areas. Chief Shuman stated that a lot of crimes were burglaries but a lot of calls were domestic violence. He stated one officer could not answer a domestic violence call alone. The Swainsboro Police Department runs 3 officers a shift and each have a vehicle. This is done to increase visibility but when a call comes in all of the officers respond. Councilperson Parker asked about the sub-station that was formed in the Swainsboro Housing Authority. Chief Shuman stated that they did not have enough personnel to keep it open.

Mayor Schwabe then explained that the Police Committee had met and offered the following suggestions.

- “Take The Neighborhood Back” which would consist of a Neighborhood Watch Program with 2 representatives from each ward.
- Having a temporary police officer patrol different neighborhoods.
- Having a juvenile curfew
- Installing more lights and possibly street cameras.

Motion to adopt all points as presented was made.

Motion: by Stafford Seconded: by Faulkner Pass 6-0

Council then discussed the juvenile curfew and the installation of more light and cameras and thought that more information and more study needed to go into this portion of the recommendations. A new motion was then made to resend the previous motion as presented.

Motion: by Stafford Seconded: by Faulkner Pass 6-0

A motion was made to implement the Neighborhood Watch Program as suggested and place a temporary police officer on part-time to patrol neighborhood and also investigate and consider the reinstatement of a juvenile curfew and installing more street lights and cameras.

Motion: by Faulkner Seconded: by Stroud Pass 6-0

Council Adjourned

Submitted: *M L Lawson*, City Administrator