



CITY OF
Swainsboro
Crossroads of the Great South



City Council Meeting

July 05, 2011

The regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council, held Tuesday, June 05, 2011, at 6:00 P.M. at Swainsboro City Hall.

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

Members Absent:

Prayer of Invocation: Councilperson Stafford

Mayor Schwabe informed everyone that this month's Our Town Hero was presented Saturday to Dwight Howard II for his contribution to the Town Bar-B-Que on July 02, 2011 at the Swainsboro Jaycee Fairgrounds. Mayor Schwabe stated Mr. Howard received this award for his support of our youth in the community.

Motion to accept minutes from the previous meeting was made.

Motion: by Stafford Seconded: by Stroud 6-0

A. Consensus Business

1) Grant to the Swainsboro Jaycees for the Fourth of July fireworks - \$3,000.00

Motion to approve consent agenda as presented.

Motion: by Edenfield Seconded: by Faulkner 6-0

B. New Business

1. Administrator Lawson presented a lease agreement with GMA Pool Leasing to finance the new Fire Truck purchased by the city. The lease was for \$300,000.00 at 2.97% interest for 7 years. The money will be paid back starting in 2012 with the designated funds set a side in the 2012 SPLOST referendum. Motion was made to enter into the lease agreement with GMA Pool Leasing.

Motion: by Stafford Seconded: by Faulkner 6-0

2. Administrator Lawson presented a resolution to accept a Transportation Enhancement Grant to the City for the building of signs on the bypass. The Chamber of Commerce will be administering this grant. The grant in the amount of \$90,360.00 will fund the project.

Motion to pass a resolution authorizing Mayor Schwabe to accept the grant was made.

Motion: by Edenfield Seconded: by Stroud 6-0

3. Administrator Lawson explained to council that he was applying for Safety Grant for the Police Department and that the city needed a written policy on safety meetings and self inspections. He explained that our safety officer was Bruce Kirby and we already hold safety classes and self inspections but do not have a written policy. He explained that council had been sent a copy to review. Motion was made to adopt the policy as written.

Motion: by Parker Seconded: by Faulkner 6-0

4. Mayor Schwabe explained to council, every 10 years after the new census comes out each city, county, state and federal districts must be adjusted to match the new census. Last month Mayor Pro Tem Collins, Adm. Lawson, and Mayor Schwabe met with the Georgia Reapportionment Office in Atlanta and that they redrew the district map for Swainsboro. Council discussed the new districts and a motion was made to accept them as presented.

Motion: by Faulkner Seconded: by Stafford 5-1

Parker opposed

C. Old Business

1. Mayor Schwabe asked council what was their pleasure about holding a referendum to allow Sunday alcohol sales. He stated that the State Legislation passed the decision down to the local authorities and council should decide whether to call for a referendum or not. Council gave the following opinions.

Councilperson Stroud stated it did not need to be put to a vote because it was not good for the city and would be a tremendous added expense to our Police Department in enforcement.

Councilperson Stafford stated it did not even need to be considered.

Councilperson Edenfield stated he had received calls asking to let the citizens vote on it.

Councilperson Faulkner stated she was not in favor of Sunday sales but the citizens of Swainsboro had the right to vote on it.

Councilperson Parker stated he does not drink but the people should have the right to drink and purchase alcohol on Sundays if they so choose.

Councilperson Collins stated that the citizens should have the right to make the decision.

Mitch Hall a local business owner stated that the surrounding counties were going to pass it and it would hurt Swainsboro if they did not pass it. He stated he did not want them to "Beat us to the Punch".

Mayor Schwabe stated he was in favor of the citizens having the right to decide.

Motion was made to hold a referendum to allow the citizens of Swainsboro to vote on whether they wanted alcohol to be sold on Sundays in the city of Swainsboro.

Motion: by Faulkner Seconded: by Collins 4-2

Stafford and Stroud opposed

2. Council considered moving the August meeting to August 8th so the council could consider the contract for the Nordson Project. Motion was made to move the meeting.

Motion: by Parker Seconded: by Faulkner 6-0

D. Committee Reports

Police: Councilperson Faulkner reported the Police Department has been taking applications for an officer to take the place of Craig Morris who resigned. The Police Committee will be interviewing applicants and making a recommendation at the next meeting.

Mayor Schwabe commended the Police Department for doing such a good job with the Dwight Howard Day on Saturday.

Executive: Councilperson Stroud had no report.

Public Works: Councilperson Parker reported that OMI was requesting the following items;

1) Replacing the booms on the Boom Truck because they were old and wore out.

2) Replacing the back hoe

3) Replacing the side arm tractor

4) Acquiring an asphalt roller

5) Acquiring another arrow sign board

Mayor Schwabe explained the city was facing a tough budget year and there would probably be no money to purchase these items for OMI.

Recycle: Councilperson Parker reported he had met with Mr. Johnson the manager of the recycle center. He reported that the center was in need of a refrigerator, air conditioner, chairs, and a table. He also mentioned that the poly-carts were old.

Fire: Councilperson Stafford reported that the Fire Committee had interviewed applicants for the Fire Fighters position and recommended Brian Elbert for employment. He is not certified and will have to attend the Fire Academy for certification. Motion was made to hire Brian Elbert as recommended.

Motion: by Stafford Seconded: by Parker 6-0

Recreation: Councilperson Collins everything routine.

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.

Downtown Development: Lynn was not present.

Administrative: Administrator Lawson gave each council member a copy of the requested 2012 budget from the Department Heads. Mayor Schwabe called a special meeting for July 25, 2011 to review the proposed budget.

Mayor : Mayor Schwabe had not report.

Mayor Schwabe asked Police Chief Ellison to strictly enforce the Juvenile Curfew because of the recent surge in petty theft.

Council Adjourned

Submitted: A L Lawson, City Administrator