



CITY OF GEORGIA
Swainsboro
Crossroads of the Great South

City Council Meeting

August 03, 2009

The regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council, held Monday, August 03, 2009, at 6:00 P.M. at Swainsboro City Hall.

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

Members Absent:

Prayer of Invocation: Councilperson Faulkner

Mayor Schwabe presented the “Our Home Town Hero” Award. He explained that the city would be giving this award each month to a citizen who displays an extra effort to make our town better. The Swainsboro “Our Town Hero” award for the month of August was presented to Jim Crowdis for his efforts in supporting the city through his position at the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. Jim has always had Swainsboro’s best interest in mind all the years he has worked for the DCA. In his retirement Mayor Schwabe and all the citizens of Swainsboro wish him the best. Bill Rogers Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce was also present to present Mr. Crowdis with a proclamation from the Chamber for all of his support over the years.

Motion to accept minutes from the previous meeting was made.

Motion: by Stafford Seconded: by Parker 6-0

A. Consensus Business

None

B. New Business

None

C. Old Business

1. Council heard the request for an alcoholic beverage license for Mixed Drink Consumption on the premises from Sarah Hackle dba North Main Grill located at 317 North Main St. This application was advertised and met all the requirements. Mayor Schwabe announced this was a public hearing for the application and no one spoke for or against it. Motion to grant was made.

Motion: by Edenfield Seconded: by Stafford 6-0

2. Administrator Lawson presented the 2010 Budget for adoption. Mayor Schwabe announced this was a public hearing for the budget and asked if anyone was here to speak for or against the budget. Mr. Danny Palmer stood and questioned the council why the milage rate for Swainsboro was higher than other surrounding cities. Mayor Schwabe then explained that the milage rate was only one indicator of the tax situation in a community. Many other factors played a roll in financing a city budget. Adm. Lawson explained that other cities subsidize their budgets with the sell of gas, electricity, cable, and other services. Swainsboro does not have that luxury. He also went on to explain that the milage rate in Swainsboro has not increased in many years, in fact it has decreased. A motion was then made to adopt the 2010 budget using the same milage rate as the previous year. This would be no increase in milage rate and no increase in water rates.

Motion: by Stafford Seconded: by Stroud 6-0

D. Committee Reports

Police: Councilperson Stafford presented the Police Report. Mayor Schwabe informed council that the cities application for the COPS hiring had been denied for 2009 but was under consideration for 2010. The city will not be informed until September if it will receive the grant in 2010.

Building and Safety: Councilperson Faulkner had no report

Executive: No Report

Public Works: Councilperson Collins reported everything routine. Randy Scarboro with OMI reported the pot hole situation to the council. He informed them that the city was having to buy asphalt because the Georgia Department of Transportation asphalt plant has been shut down since Sept. 2008. Mayor Schwabe asked council to consider the use of some of the settlement money from the LAS to resurface some of the city streets. He stated the LARP money has run out and the state is not funding this program for 2009. He asked council to submit one road from each of their districts to consider for resurfacing. He then stated if there is no money from the 2010 LARP, the city would take bids and consider the cost of the project.

Recycle: Councilperson Collins reported everything routine.

Fire : Councilperson Parker reported everything routine. He reported that the Fire Department will be holding SPLASH Project on August 29th at he Recreation Department for the entire city. He stated that the water will be monitored and it will be staffed with volunteers.

Recreation: Councilperson Stroud reported everything routine.

Airport: Mayor Schwabe reported that Ken Warnock has been named to the Georgia Aviation Commission. This is a new board comprised of the Governor and others to oversee the Georgia Aviation Division. He offered his congratulations to Mr. Warnock.

Mayor Schwabe reported that the airport commission had met and discussed the possibility of building a community hanger at the airport. This hanger could be rented out for larger airplanes. He explained that this project would be funded by the entitlement money the city and the county is receiving. It would be funded at 97% federal money and 3% local money. Motion was made to support this project.

Motion: by Parker Seconded: by Stafford 6-0

Mayor Schwabe informed council that the Airport Commission had interviewed candidates for the Fixed Base Operator's job and recommended the hiring of Robert Barker. Motion was made to hire Mr. Barker as the new FBO for the airport pending ratification from the county.

Motion: by Edenfield Seconded: by Stafford 6-0

Water & WW: Councilperson Edenfield reported everything routine.

Downtown Development - Anthony Faris, DDA Director, addressed the council informing them of the annual Emanuel Arts Festival that has been planned for September 19, 2009. He stated that it would be different this year. He asked council to close the streets so the festival could use the Roger Shaw and Green St. areas. He requested that Roger Shaw and Green Streets be closed on September 19, 2009 from 7:00am to 6:00pm. Motion was made to honor that request.

Motion: by Edenfield Seconded: by Stafford 6-0

Administrative: Administrator Lawson informed council that the next city council meeting would fall on a holiday and asked council what they would like to do. Council then decided that the meeting would be moved to Tuesday September 8, 2009 at 6:00.

Mayor : Mayor Schwabe read a Thank You note from Mae Goodard at the Food Pantry. Mayor Schwabe informed council that the city and former Mayor, Ricky Stevens, had installed a new air condition at the Food Pantry.

Council Adjourned

Submitted: **A I L Lawson**, City Administrator