



CITY OF
Swainsboro
Crossroads of the Great South

GEORGIA

City Council Meeting

January 09, 2012

The regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council, held Monday, January 09, 2012, at 6:00 P.M. at Swainsboro City Hall.

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

Members Absent:

Prayer of Invocation: Councilperson Collins

Middle Circuit Superior Court Judge Kathy Palmer was present to swear in the 2011 Elected Council Members. She gave the oath to Cleve Edenfield, Sandra Stroud, and John E. Parker.

Mayor Schwabe presented the “Our Home Town Hero” Award to Donald Jenkins. Councilperson Stafford assisted in the presentation. Mr Jenkins is a retired educator and served as Mayor Pro Tem for many years. Mr. Jenkins is a true asset to our community and a perfect “Our Home Town Hero”.

Motion to accept minutes from the previous meeting was made.

Motion: by Parker Seconded: by Stroud 6-0

A. Consensus Business

None

B. New Business

1. Ms Bernice Handberry addressed council with her concerns about the increase in the sewage rates. She asked council why the changes in water and sewage rates had occurred. Mayor Schwabe stated why the water bills had to be increased and why the bills looked different. He asked Adm. Lawson to give a history of what brought the council to this decision. Adm. Lawson gave an explanation to all citizens present about why the city had to make improvements to the waste water treatment facility and how it was financed and why the changes in the water and sewage rates had occurred. He also gave an explanation on why they had to be presented differently on the billing system. Options were then given by council. Councilperson Faulkner asked the Mayor to assign a committee to look into the situation. Mayor Schwabe stated a special called meeting would be held so the entire council could give input.

2. Mr. Randell Snellgrove a member of the Lake Luck sub-division, addressed council with his concerns of the speeders in the neighborhood. He asked council to consider installing 3-way and 4-way stop signs in the area. Mayor Schwabe asked Councilperson Stroud, Police Chief Ellison and Mr. Snellgrove to get together and study the situation and bring back to council a renomination for consideration.

3. Mayor Schwabe read a letter inviting all members of council to participate in the Martin Luther King Parade on January 16, 2012.

C. Old Business

D. Committee Reports

Police: Councilperson Faulkner reported the Police Department was routine.

Councilperson Faulkner gave a report that the committee assigned to looking into some of the stray dogs problems in the city had met and offered the following recommendations.

- (1) Have a stricter enforcement of the Dog Ordinances on record
- (2) Educate the citizens of the Dog Ordinances
- (3) Additional Rabies Clinics

(4) Identify the problem areas concentrating enforcement to help resolve the issues in those areas.

Chief Ellison, Shari Watt, and Betty Gambrell from the Animal Control Committee were present and offered information to council on the problems. Mrs. Watt gave council a report of the 2011 statistics from the animal shelter.

Councilperson Faulkner stated that the committee would also look at the progress made in 30 days.

Executive: Councilperson Stroud had no report.

Public Works: Councilperson Parker reported as follows: Repairs on roads and ditches.

Adm. Lawson reported that the city had received its 2012 LMIG list of streets that would be paved by the Georgia Department of Transportation in the up coming year. The list of streets are;

- 1). Miller Drive
- 2). Oaklawn Drive
- 3). Popular St.
4. Short St.

Fire: Councilperson Stafford reported everything routine. Councilperson Stafford read a Resolution honoring three Firefighters who had saved the life of a Swainsboro citizen in a recent house fire. The three Firefighters that were honored were James Ward, Matt Hendrick, and Brian Elbert. The Firefighters were present at the begin of the meeting but were paged out to a structure fire. The Resolutions will be presented to these Firefighters at a later date.

Councilperson Stafford presented the 2011 year end report on the fire calls.

Recreation: Councilperson Collins reported everything routine. She reported on January 12th a Blood Drive would be held at the Community House.

Airport: No Report

Water & WW: Councilperson Edenfield ask Danny with OMI to give council an update on the sewage projects.

Downtown Development: Lynn had no report.

Administrative: Councilperson Stroud reported that we are still waiting on the credit card company in order for the city to take credit cards but it should be completed by the end of the month.

Councilperson Stroud reported that the computer in the Building Department has been replaced.

Mayor : Mayor Schwabe had no report.

Mayor Schwabe informed council it was time to elect a new Mayor Pro Tem and he thanked Councilperson Collins for her service as Mayor Pro Tem in 2011. Councilperson Faulkner was nominated and no one had any opposition.

Mayor Schwabe requested an executive session to discuss a land acquisition issue. Motion was made and roll call vote all in favor.

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 9th day of January, 2012. 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 9th day of January, 2012, which was closed for the purpose of land acquisition requested by Mayor Charles Schwabe 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. S50-14-4(b) that such an affidavit be executed.

This 9th day of January, 2012

Council reentered regular session.

Motion was made to declare the property located at 501 Rentz St. owned by the City of Swainsboro surplus property also giving Adm. Lawson permission to sell the property in accordance with city policy.

Motion: by Faulkner Seconded: by Parker 6-0

Meeting was adjourned.

Submitted: Al L Lawson, City Administrator