



CITY OF  
**Swainsboro**  
*Crossroads of the Great South*



GEORGIA

**City Council Meeting**

**September 08, 2015**

The regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council, held Tuesday, September 08, 2015 at 6:00 P.M. at Swainsboro City Hall

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

**Members Absent:**

**Prayer of Invocation:** Ken Warnock

Motion to accept minutes from the previous meeting was made.

**Motion: by Stafford Seconded: by Stroud 5-0 Collins Absent**

Mayor Schwabe presented the September 2015 Home Town Hero Award to the Swainsboro Dixie Youth Team State Champions. Coaches Billy Chapman and Billy Lively were present along with members of the team and their parents to accept the award. Mayor Schwabe thanked the coaches, parents and kids for being good ambassadors for the city.

**A. Consensus Business**

**B. New Business**

1. Mr. Gary Wilson had petitioned to speak to council and did not show up.

2. Council heard the alcoholic beverage license application (for advertisement only) from David Bernard dba Berni's on West Main, 114 West Main St. for mixed drink consumption on premises. Motion was made to advertise the application.

**Motion: by Edenfield Seconded: by Faulkner 5-0 Collins Absent**

3. Council considered the adoption of a Resolution Pursuant to the Disaster Mitigation act of 2000 Authorizing Adoption of the Emanuel County Mitigation Plan. This is to adopt the changes in the Hazard Mitigation plan that the city shares with the county. Motion to adopt the resolution was made.

**Motion: by Stafford Seconded: by Stroud 5-0 Collins Absent**

4. Mr. Roger Richards made an appeal to the council to change the hours of operation so establishments selling alcoholic beverages can stay open on Saturday night. He stated most of his customers come to the club late. He also stated he realized he could not sell alcoholic beverages after 12:00 on Saturday. Council had a discussion on the subject and a motion was made to extend the hours of operation. Adm. Lawson explained this would take an ordinance change. Motion was made to change the ordinance in the Consumption on the Premises section 6.94 to replace the 1:00 o'clock closing requirement until 2:00am on Sundays.

**Motion: by Parker Seconded: by Stafford 6-0**

5. Mr. Mathew Bright addressed council with his concerns over a ditch on Brown St. Mayor Schwabe asked Mr. Connolly to meet with Mr. Bright. The meeting was set for Sept. 14, 2015 at 8:00am on location.

6. Mrs. Kristin Hall representing the Swainsboro/Emanuel Co. Chamber of Commerce was present to address council about what was going on at the Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Mitchell Fagler and Mr. Ken Warnock were also present to ask council to give them some time on an upcoming agenda to bring city council up to speed with what was going on at the Chamber.

### **C. Old Business**

1. Council considered the alcoholic beverage license application from Prakash Patel dba S & P Food Mart, 350 East Main St. for beer and wine package only. Mayor Schwabe called for a Public Hearing asking if anyone was present to speak for or against the application. No one responded. Motion was made to grant the application.

**Motion: by Stafford Seconded: by Edenfield 6-0**

### **D. Committee Reports**

**Police:** Councilperson Stafford announced the resignation of Officer Matt Davis and the city would be advertising to fill that position.

Police Chief Ellison spoke about the troubles in the Williams St. area and that the Police Dept was well aware of what they were. Mayor Schwabe suggested that the city needed the help of the neighborhood to come together to support the effort of the city.

**Public Works:** Councilperson Parker presented a list of items that needed to be surplus and sold by the city. No one objected

Councilperson Parker presented a bid for the repairs on the leaf machine. The cost of the repairs totaled \$2705.00. Motion was made to approve the expense.

**Motion: by Parker Seconded: by Stafford 6-0**

Councilperson Parker suggested that three streets in Ward 5 be paved, Green St, William Roundtree, and Mitchell St.

**Fire:** Councilperson Collins presented August Fire Report.

Fire Chief Strobridge reported that the city had received an All Hazards Grant from the State of Georgia in the amount of \$33,229.00. This would be used to upgrade and purchase new equipment for our Hazmat Squad.

**Recreation:** Councilperson Faulkner reported everything routine.

The Splash in Sports was a big success this year and would be closed for the winter. Private parties can still be booked through the Recreation Dept.

Council gave some suggestions for additional activities to explore at the Recreation Department as follows; A skate board park, a dog walking park, transportation for the students at EGSC.

**Airport:** No Report

**Executive:** No Report

**Water & WW:** Councilperson Edenfield reported that CH2M was working on our I in I problems.

**Downtown Development:** No report

**Administrative:** No Report

**Building Inspection:** No Report

**Mayor:** Mayor Schwabe introduced an ordinance addressing the upkeep of structures as follows;

Ordinance requiring upkeep of structures within the city limit.

It shall be unlawful for any property owner or anyone having control over property within the city limit of Swainsboro to fail to maintain any structure upon that property in a clean, orderly, and presentable fashion that does not degrade or negatively impact the visual character of the neighborhood or surrounding buildings. It shall be the judgement of the building inspector to determine when any structure is in violation. When it appears that a structure is in violation, the building inspector shall notify the Chief of Police who shall notify the property owner, in writing. The property owner shall then have 45 days to bring the structure into compliance as directed by the building inspector. Failing this, a citation will be issued requiring the property owner to appear in Municipal Court and be subject to possible fine and or imprisonment.

Motion was made to present this ordinance pending examination by the city attorney and being presented in final form at the next council meeting.

**Motion: by Stroud Seconded: by Stafford 5-1 Collins Against**

An Executive Session was called by Councilperson Stafford to discuss a personnel issue. Motion was made to enter into Executive Session.

**Motion: by Stafford Seconded: by Stroud All voting yes by called vote**

## **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 8th day of September, 2015.

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 8th day of September 2015 which was closed for the purpose of personnel requested by Councilperson Stafford 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. §50-14-4(b) that such an affidavit be executed.

This 8th day of September, 2015

Council re-entered General Session

Police Chief Ellison reported that an incident had occurred at the animal shelter and recommended the council accept the resignation of shelter director, Erin Gast, and termination for shelter worker Mary Gullede. Motion was made to accept the recommendation.

**Motion: by Parker Seconded: by Faulkner 5-1 Stafford against**

**Meeting was adjourned.**

**Submitted: Al L Lawson, City Administrator**