



CITY OF
Swainsboro GEORGIA
Crossroads of the Great South

City Council Meeting

August 06, 2018

The regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council, held Monday, August 06, 2018 at 6:00 P.M. at Swainsboro City Hall.

Members Present: Stafford, Sconyers, Parker, Collins, Bragg, & Faulkner

Members Absent:

Prayer of Invocation: Rev. Bertha Jones

Motion to accept minutes from the previous meeting was made.

Motion: by Faulkner Seconded: by Bragg 6-0

A. Consensus Business

None

B. New Business

1. Henry Thompson, Sons of American Legion Post #103, gave an update on the Fire/Police/EMS monument at Pine Brook Park. He stated that the Sons of American Legion have been very proactive in their fundraising for this project. Groundbreaking will be this month. They expect to start this week, and have the Dedication Ceremony on 9/11.

2. Council discussed the amendment to the Offenses and Miscellaneous Provisions of the City of Swainsboro Chapter 62 Ordinance requiring the display requirements of 911 numbers. This was intended to be the Second reading, however, council discussed making changes. The Ordinance would be presented as follows:

CITY OF SWAINSBORO

Chapter 62

Offenses and Miscellaneous Provisions

Article VI: 911 Number Display Requirement

Sec. 62-200 911 Number Display Requirements

The 911 number shall be attached to the owner/occupier's mailbox, a post or like structure at the corner of the property line which abuts the roadway and driveway or other entrance way which services the such structure, residence and/or building. The numbers shall be no less than three inches in height and shall be located at least two feet above the existing ground level and shall be posted on both sides of the mailbox, post or other structure such that the numbers are visible from either direction on the roadway. They shall also be of a color which contrasts with the background of the numbers and/or the color of the structure to which they are attached. Any cost involved in complying with this section shall be the sole responsibility of the owner or authority over said property. The first offense would receive a warning issued to the property owner giving them 30 days to comply. On the second offense a citation would be issued to the property owner of \$25.00.

Motion was made to consider this ordinance as presented.

Motion: by Parker Seconded: by Bragg

Opposed: by Stafford and Faulkner 4-2

C. Old Business

1. Council heard the application, for the alcoholic beverage application of Niral Patel dba ABC Food Mart 208 North Main St., for beer and wine package only. Mayor Schwabe stated this was a Public Hearing and was anyone present to speak for or against the application. No one spoke.

Motion was made to Grant.

Motion: by Faulkner Seconded: by Parker 6-0

D. Committee Reports

Recreation: Councilperson Bragg asked that you keep all the players traveling in your thoughts and prayers. We hosted a basketball tournament on July 9th. There were 9 teams. We're getting ready to start up soccer camp. The Splash N Sports has hosted quite a few parties. We will have a quarterly meeting this month if anyone has any questions or concerns. Councilperson Parker asked if there was a completion date for the bathrooms at the DeAlva Park. Councilperson Bragg said no sir, there had been a few hold ups, the weather being one. There has been positive feedback on the applications regarding the bathrooms being locked until an event was held with a responsible person.

Councilperson Bragg asked about blighted properties. The city charter states it is the responsibility of the police department to enforce the ordinances pertaining to these properties. She sees two options. Option 1: Have the police department handle citations issued; or 2: revisit Jacobs's contract to see if code enforcement can be done through them.

Councilperson Bragg requests council meet August 20 to discuss some time sensitive things, and the early renewal of Jacob's contract.

Water and Waste Water: Councilperson Faulkner thanked Jacob's for hosting their retreat. She said they had pulled 9 water samples for submission to the EPD. At the retreat a discussion was had about the strengths and weaknesses of the city leaders; the responsibilities of the Mayor, council, and the city administrator.

She stated that our finances are not what they should be, and although we have had an audit, we might need to have a more intense audit.

Police: Councilperson Stafford reported everyone had the committee reports, and he had nothing new to report.

Councilperson Collins had a concern about receiving a note regarding an ordinance on parking beside the road while she was in a church service. She felt this inappropriate. Police Chief Ellison responded that the effort was made to get the streets as clear as we can for safety purposes, and the road there is narrow. This was not meant to inconvenience anyone, this was a problem throughout the city. He also stated there was a better way to handle the situation.

Councilperson Stafford said he would like the police chief to find out who sent the note into the church and talk to them about it.

Fire: Councilperson Sconyers reported the Fire Department will be hosting a fund raising event for one of their own with an illness. He asked that Roger Shaw Street be closed from 6:00 to 8:30 pm. That will be after business hours. Motion was made to close Roger Shaw Street.

Motion: by Sconyers Seconded: by Stafford

Administrative: Councilperson Collins reported everything routine. She asked for prayers for employees family members who are ill, and an employee who lost their home to a fire.

Councilperson Collins reported there had been some falling debris from the city hall building, creating a hazard. Jacobs is trying to alleviate the hazard, but we may need a contractor to assess and deal with the situation. This is a high traffic area and we need to manage this as soon as possible.

Public Works: Councilperson Parker thanked Jacobs for having a picnic for their employees at George L. Smith State Park. He thanked them for hosting a BBQ luncheon on July 3rd for the employees and the city officials, for hosting a retreat at Beaver Creek, and for also hosting a fire

extinguisher training. Johnny Mills with Jacobs stated that there would be an auction on August 11th for the Southern Company's surplus equipment, and asked council for permission to purchase a boom truck for \$20 to \$30K. The current truck is very unsafe. He explained that a new truck would be about \$100 to \$150K.

Councilperson Collins reported there was a hazard on the sidewalk on W. Church Street due to uneven concrete. Jacobs met with her and Councilperson Parker at the site, assessed the damage, and concluded it could be fixed by replacing 155' feet of concrete. The cost estimate was \$1K to \$1500K. Motion was made to replace the sidewalk for the safety of the citizens.

Motion: by Parker Seconded: by Faulkner 6-0

Councilperson Parker requested an Executive Session at the next meeting to discuss a personnel issue.

Airport: City Administrator Lawson polled council by phone on August 07&08, 2018 to inform the council that the city had applied for \$150K Federal Grant for the Airport. This grant would be a reimbursement grant to offset the cost of the Community Hangar Loan. Council agreed to accept it if we were awarded the grant. This was added to the minutes.

Executive: No Report

Downtown Development: No Report

Building Inspection: No Report

Mayor: Mayor Schwabe made a motion to adjourn.

Submitted: Cindy Gray, Adm. Asst.