



Council Meeting

January 03, 2022

Mayor Gregory Bennett, Councilperson Bobbie Collins of Ward #4, Councilperson Johnny Ray Stafford of Ward #3, and Gregory Quarterman of Ward #6 were sworn into office by Judge Don Wilkes.

The regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council was held Monday, December 06, 2021 at 6:00 P.M. at the Swainsboro City Hall.

Members Present: Sconyers, Stafford, Parker, Collins, Davis, & Quarterman

Prayer of Invocation: Pastor Nick Robertson, Consuming Fire Ministries

Pledge of Alliance

Minutes were considered from the December 06, 2021 meeting and motion was made to accept minutes.

Motion by: Sconyers

Seconded : Stafford

Passed 6-0

A. Consensus Business

None

B. Old Business

1. Council approved the alcoholic beverage license name change request from Kimberly Adams dba Moose Lodge 1930 located at 206 Harmon Road .

Motion by: Sconyers

Seconded : Stafford

Passed 6-0

2. Councilperson Sconyers questioned where Councilperson Parker's information regarding the quotes made about the Louisville Fire Department came from. Councilperson Parker stated that the information came from Fire Chief Strobridge. Councilperson Sconyers stated that he would be filing an ethics complaint against Councilperson Parker for misleading the council. Fire Chief Strobridge stated that he did not talk with the City Administrator of Louisville but he did talk to the Fire Chief. The Human Resource Director Angela Overstreet also verified the comment was made by the Louisville Fire Chief.

C. New Business

1. The council heard nominations for Mayor Pro-tem and voted as follows:

Councilperson Stafford nominated Sconyers Stafford, Sconyers

Councilperson Parker nominated himself Parker, Quarterman

Councilperson Davis nominated Collins Davis, Collins, Bennett

The council has elected Ms. Bobbie Collins as the Mayor Pro-tem for 2022.

2. Councilperson Parker made the motion to ratified the hiring of Andrea Bedgood as the new customer service clerk at city hall.

Motion by: Parker

Seconded by: Davis

Passed 6-0

3. Mayor Bennett appointed the 2022 council committees as follows:

Finance Committee Stafford, Davis, Parker

Water & Sewer Committee Sconyers, Quarterman, Collins

Parks & Cemetery Committee Stafford, Davis, Parker

4. Council postponed the Allgreen contract proposal adjustment at their request.

5. Council heard a request from Joseph Bynes regarding the use of the old recycling center for a pilot work program for veterans. Mr. Bynes stated that they would lease the building and maintain all equipment at no cost to the city. Councilperson Parker made a motion to allow Mr. Bynes to lease the building. Council approved Mr. Bynes request pending the approval of a written proposal from Mr. Bynes to the city.

Motion by: Parker Seconded by: Davis Passed 5-1
For: Stafford, Sconyers, Quarterman Against: Collins

6. Council discussed using the ARPA monies to do a city wide meter change out. The current meters were installed in 2005 and are at the end of their life expectancy. Councilperson Davis made a motion to obtain quotes.

Motion by: Davis Seconded : Stafford Passed 6-0

7. Council considered changing the due date of the water bills from the 3rd to the 6th and locking the drop box on the 6th at 4:30pm. Motion was made by councilperson Parker.

Motion by: Parker Seconded : Quarterman Passed 6-0

8. Council considered removing the late fees for bills less than \$50. Motion was made by Councilperson.

Motion by: Parker Seconded : Quarterman Passed 4-2
For: Davis, Collins Against: Stafford, Sconyers

9. Council discussed obtaining quotes on the installation of street lights and cameras in high crime rate areas. Motion was made by Councilperson Davis .

Motion by: Davis Seconded : Parker Passed 6-0

10. Council considered updating the city charter. Motion was made by Councilperson Parker to begin this process.

Motion by: Parker Seconded : Quarterman Passed 6-0

11. Council discussed taking sealed bids for all city surplus properties.

Motion by: Parker Seconded : Quarterman Passed 6-0

12. Council considered looking into obtaining property that could be used by the Boys & Girls Club of America.

Motion by: Parker Seconded : Stafford Passed 6-0

13. Council discussed the theater and gym projects. Motion was made to pause both projects until we received quotes to complete both projects.

Motion by: Sconyers Seconded : Davis Passed 6-0

Mayor Bennett open the floor to the public for comments. Ms. Rita Faulkner spoke to the council and requested that the Mayor meet with the members of the Community Action group that has been involved in the gym project.

Motion was made by Councilperson Stafford to enter executive session to discuss a personnel issues.

Motion by: Stafford Seconded : Davis Passed 6-0

AFFIDAVIT

Personally appeared before the undersigned attesting officer, duly authorized to administer oaths, Gregory Bennett, 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 3rd day of January 2022.

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 3rd day of January 2022, which was closed for the purpose of personnel discussion requested by Mayor Gregory Bennett 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 3rd day of January, 2022

Motion to re-enter Regular Session.

Motion by: Davis

Seconded : Sconyers

Passed 6-0

Councilperson Sconyers made a motion to hire Jon Levis as the new city attorney.

Motion by: Sconyers

Seconded : Davis

Passed 6-0

Council discussed renewing the Queensborough loan on the theater and gym project. Motion was made by Councilperson Stafford to pay the interest and renew the loan.

Motion by: Stafford

Seconded : Sconyers

Passed 6-0

Motion was made by Councilperson Stafford to adjourn.

Motion by: Stafford

Seconded : Sconyers

Passed 6-0

Submitted: Melissa Kirby, Interim City Administrator