



CITY OF Swainsboro GEORGIA

Crossroads of the Great South

City Council Meeting

August 02, 2021

The regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council was held Monday, August 02, 2021 at 6:00 P.M. at the Swainsboro City Hall.

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

Members Absent: Stevens

Prayer of Invocation: Bishop Bertha Jones

Councilperson Parker stated that he had requested that the minutes reflect President Biden's Executive Order on Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government and he did not see it.

Councilperson Faulkner also commented she had ask Adm. Lawson to contact Mr Trent Hall with the Swainsboro Housing Authority about the trash and condition of the Housing Authority and it was not recorded. Adm. Lawson stated he had relayed the message to Trent Hall.

Motion was made to accept the minutes adding the two corrections.

Minutes were considered and motion was made to accept minutes as amended.

Motion by: Parker Seconded : Faulkner 5-0

A request from Zac Frye and John Levis to address council.

Motion to amend agenda and allow them to speak.

Motion by: Faulkner Seconded : Stafford 5-0

A. Consensus Business

None

B. New Business

1. Mayor Schwabe presented the contract negotiated with ClearWater Solutions. Mayor Schwabe stated that he was late getting copies to the council and they may wish to take time to review the contract.

Councilperson Parker asked about Article II #10 Section D if ClearWater would pick up tires? Members of Clearwater present, stated a location would be designated for tire clean up.

Councilperson Faulkner asked about the procedure of picking up debris. ClearWater explained about the Friday pickup procedure and the citizens had to schedule the pickup.

Motion was then made to delay the consideration of the contract to the August 16, 2021 meeting.

Motion by: Faulkner Seconded : Collins 5-0

C. Old Business

2. Council heard the application, of Eric Brown at 410 North Coleman St. dba New Image Sports Bar for beer and wine consumption on the premises. Motion was made to approve the application.

Motion: Parker Seconded by Faulkner 5-0

3. Council heard the application, of Dirav Dolatbhai Patel at 350 East Main St dba OM SAI Gateway LLC Sunoco 51 for beer and wine package only. Motion was made to approve the application.

Motion: Stafford Seconded by Sconyers 5-0

4. Mr. Zac Frye read a prepared statement about a group of business owners who had been meeting with the mayor on what could be done to save the city money on expenses. He then turned it over to John Levis, a local attorney. Mr. Levis stated that they were not there to make immediate changes in the city budget but would offer some suggestion for future budgets.

Changes offered;

A. Find a cheaper health insurance for employees. He stated this was a complex process and suggest a third party expert make recommendations.

B. Investigate all contracts with private contractors to examine the necessity of the contracts.

C. The demographic changes in the city. Work with the county to see if the county is paying it's fair percentage of the shared services.

Councilperson Stafford asked if the group was interested in lowering the city budget, how about the money given to the Country Club. Was that money still needed. Zac Frye, a member of the County Club Board, stated that Stacey Avery was the accountant for the board and he could not answer those questions. Mr. Frye then stated he would get someone from the board to come and give the council an update from the Board. Cason DeVain, newly elected President of the Board was also present.

Councilperson Parker asked for a further explanation of the Cares expenditures.

Councilperson Collins asked about the North Green St project and Mayor Schwabe explained this project was in the next LMIG Grant.

5. Adm. Lawson presented the 2022 preliminary budget. He stated he had met with each Department Head and the 2022 proposed was up for council approval. The 2022 budget was very similar to the 2021 budget and would not require any tax increase or water rate increase. Adm. Lawson informed council he had not received the consolidation sheets from the county so the millage rate could not be set. The council could approve the 2022 budget but the millage rate would have to be set after the county reports the new property appraisals to the city. Adm. Lawson reported he expects a decrease in the millage rate, using the rollback, but could not report on what the decrease will be, until the assessments from the county are complete .

Motion was made to adopt the proposed 2022 budget with no increase in the taxes and no increase in the water rates.

Motion by: Sconyers Seconded : Stafford 5-0

D. Department Head Request

Mayor Schwabe read the following prepared statement;

I have spoken with Chief Mike Strobridge. He is currently enrolled in a residential treatment program. Since Chief Strobridge was not on duty or in city vehicle at the time of his citation, any further action will be the responsibility of the City Administrator. Chief Strobridge has been a valued employee of the city for 18 years and we wish him well in his recovery.

Council Stevens is receiving medical treatment for his condition and we will know more about his status in a week. Our city charter requires Mayor and City Council to address any two consecutive absences by any council member or the mayor. To determine if they are allowed or excused. Given the fact that Mr. Stevens is seeking help at the present time, I would ask council for its deliberation and wisdom as to a motion concerning the status of this second absence.

Councilperson Parker stated that the charter of the city needs to followed and Mr Stevens need to be replaced. Councilperson Collins asked if Special Called Meetings count as an absence. Mayor Schwabe stated that because he had missed two consecutive regular meetings it would fall to the pleasure of the Mayor and Council according to the charter. Motion was then made, because of missing two consecutive regular meetings according to the charter, to remove Mr. Stevens from Council.

Motion by: Parker Seconded : Faulkner 5-0

Councilperson Faulkner suggested because of the recent increase in Covid, at it's next meeting, go back to some distancing protocol. Mayor Schwabe encouraged all citizens to get the vaccine.

Submitted: Al L. Lawson, City Adm.