



CITY OF
Swainsboro
Crossroads of the Great South



GEORGIA

City Council Meeting

September 10, 2012

The regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council, held Monday, September 10, 2012, at 6:00 P.M. at Swainsboro City Hall.

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

Members Absent:

Prayer of Invocation: Pastor Bishop Bertha Jones

Mayor Schwabe presented the “Our Home Town Hero” award to Billy Dawson for his efforts in stopping a robbery at the local Harveys Supermarket. Chief Ellison explained Mr. Dawson had seen a male grab a purse from a lady in the parking lot and ran. Mr. Dawson then headed the suspect off and wrestled him to the ground holding him until the police arrived. His heroic act makes him the perfect choice for the September 2012 Our Home Town Hero.

Motion to accept minutes from the previous meeting was made.

Motion: by Stafford Seconded: by Stroud 6-0

A. Consensus Business

None

B. New Business

1. Don Norton of 419 Azalea Circle asked council to abandon the dead end portion of Azalea Circle that has not been worked or paved in many years. Adm. Lawson stated he had seen the property and there are trees growing in the right-of-way. Mr. Norton owns both sides of the property in question. Motion was made to abandon the stated portion of Azalea Circle and deed it back to the surrounding land owners.

Motion: by Faulkner Seconded: by Stroud 6-0

2. Jen Meadows, representing the Emanuel Arts Council, ask the city to close some streets for the Second Annual Hispanic Festival on September 10, 2012. She requested Roger Shaw Street be closed from 10:00am to 11:00pm. Motion was made to grant the request.

Motion: by Stroud Seconded: by Edenfield 6-0

3. Lynn Brinson, DDA Director, ask the city to close some streets for the Third Annual Fall Festival on October 25, 2012. She requested Roger Shaw Street be closed from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Motion was made to grant the request.

Motion: by Stafford Seconded: by Faulkner 6-0

4. Lynn Brinson, DDA Director, ask the city to close some streets for the Annual Christmas Parade on December 06, 2012. She requested Roger Shaw Street be closed from 4:00pm to 9:00pm. Motion was made to grant the request.

Motion: by Stafford Seconded: by Faulkner 6-0

5. Zackery Wood, a local Boy Scout, ask permission of council to build a shelter at the fire training facility. This shelter would give the firefighter a place to rest and gather during training. Mr. Wood stated he was raising funds for his project. This project would be his Eagle Scout Project. He presented a drawing of the facility to the council. Motion was made to grant the request.

Motion: by Stafford Seconded: by Stroud 6-0

6. Building Inspector, Bruce Kirby, presented a recommendation from the Planning Commission for council consideration. The recommendations was read as follows;

To amend the C6-D (Downtown District) Section 5-4.2A to allow residential use for the street level floors with 50% of street level remaining as store front and the back 50% could be used as residential.

To amend the C6 (Central Business District) Section 5-4.2 to allow residential use for the street level floors with 50% of street level remaining as store front and the back 50% could be used as residential.

Inspector Kirby explained that the current zoning regulation in place allows residential use of the upper floors and basement areas only. Motion was made to accept the recommendation of the Planning Commission and accept the amendment.

Motion: by Stroud Seconded: by Edenfield 6-0

7. Adm. Lawson explained to the council that as part of the DCA requirements, the city must file a five year short term work program document with the DCA. In conjunction with Emanuel County and the Heart of Georgia Regional Commission the document was prepared. Adm. Lawson stated he had met with each of the Department Heads and came up with the plan for the next five years. Council was given a copy of the plan. As part of the requirement a resolution must be passed allowing the document to be sent to the DCA. The Resolution is as follows;

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Georgia Planning Act of 1989, Georgia Laws 1989, pp. 1317-1391, requires all local governments in Georgia to prepare and adopt a comprehensive plan and requires an update of the government's Short Term Work Program at least every five years; and

WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Community Affairs has established "Minimum Planning Standards and Procedures" under the Georgia Planning Act of 1989 for coordinated and comprehensive planning, including standards and procedures for the preparation of local comprehensive plans and implementation thereof, public participation, coordinated review, and preparation of Short Term Work Program updates; and

WHEREAS, the City of Swainsboro, Georgia participated with Emanuel County and the cities of Adrian, Garfield, Nunez, Oak Park, Stillmore, Summertown, and Twin City in a coordinated and comprehensive planning process under the Georgia Planning Act of 1989 and the Minimum Planning Standards and Procedures; and

WHEREAS, this coordinated and comprehensive planning process and the subsequent formal review by the Heart of Georgia Altamaha Regional Development Center and the Georgia Department of Community Affairs resulted in the approval of the joint plan titled **The Emanuel County Joint Comprehensive Plan: Emanuel County, Adrian, Garfield, Nunez, Oak Park, Stillmore, Summertown, Swainsboro, and Twin City, 2007**, including a separate Five-Year Short-Term Work Program for the City of Swainsboro; and

WHEREAS, the City of Swainsboro adopted **The Emanuel County Joint Comprehensive Plan: Emanuel County, Adrian, Garfield, Nunez, Oak Park, Stillmore, Summertown, Swainsboro, and Twin City, 2007**, including its separate Five-Year Short-Term Work Program, as its official comprehensive plan and general policy guide to its future growth and development in January, 2007; and

WHEREAS, the City of Swainsboro prepared an updated Short Term Work Program, with the assistance of the Heart of Georgia Altamaha Regional Development Center, in accordance with the Minimum Planning Standards and Procedures and adopted the updated Short Term Work Program in January, 2007; and

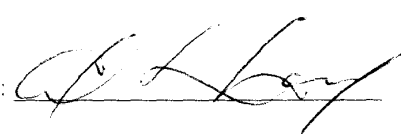
WHEREAS, five years have elapsed since the last update of the City of Swainsboro's comprehensive plan and Short Term Work Program, and it is now time to update the Short Term Work Program in accordance with the Minimum Planning Standards and Procedures, and;

WHEREAS, the City of Swainsboro has now prepared a Short Term Work Program Update, including a Report of Accomplishments and a new Five-Year Short-Term Work Program, to its adopted comprehensive plan in accordance with procedures, including holding a joint public hearing on the Short Term Work Program Update on August 30, 2012.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the City of Swainsboro certify that requirements of the Minimum Planning Standards and Procedures have been met, and that the Short Term Work Program Update to the City of Swainsboro's adopted comprehensive plan, **The Emanuel County Joint Comprehensive Plan: Emanuel County, Adrian, Garfield, Nunez, Oak Park, Stillmore, Summertown, Swainsboro, and Twin City, 2007**, is hereby authorized to be submitted to the Heart of Georgia Altamaha Regional Commission and the Georgia Department of Community Affairs for their formal review, comment, and recommendation before formal adoption by the Mayor and Council of the City of Swainsboro as mandated by the Minimum Planning Standards and Procedures of the Georgia Planning Act of 1989.

SO RESOLVED, this 10th day of September, 2012.



ATTEST: 

Motion to adopt resolution was made.

Motion: by Stafford Seconded: by Stroud 5-1
Faulkner opposed

8. Mr. Michael Bright ask the city to close some streets for the Second Annual Fall Festival Car & Truck Show on October 27, 2012. He requested Roger Shaw Street be closed from 7:30am to 4:30pm. Motion was made to grant the request.

Motion: by Edenfield Seconded: by Stroud 6-0

9. Ms. Raven Hall, a Public Relations major at Georgia Southern University and an advocate of Breast Cancer Awareness ask permission of the council to once again in October 2012 dye the fountain pink in remembrance of Breast Cancer Awareness month. Motion was made to honor the request.

Motion: by Faulkner Seconded: by Stafford 6-0

10. Members of the Bicentennial Monument Committee were present to give a presentation to council. Spokesperson Butch Frye explained what the committee was doing and where the monument would be placed. He asked the council to participate by purchasing pavers to help pay for the monument. Council stated it was not a budgeted item but would be considered. Mayor Schwabe thanked the committee for doing such a great job and stated they had the support of the city.

C. Old Business

1. Council heard the application, of Amitaben Patel dba D & I Food Mart 334 North Main St., for beer and wine package only. Motion was made to approve.

Motion: by Faulkner Seconded: by Stafford 6-0

2. Council heard the application, of Amitaben Patel dba Mike's Food Mart 504 North Main St., for beer and wine package only. Motion was made to approve.

Motion: by Faulkner Seconded: by Stafford 6-0

3. Administrator Lawson presented the 2013 Budget. Mayor Schwabe stated this was a Public Hearing and was anyone here to speak for or against the budget. No one had any comments on the budget. Motion was made to adopt the 2013 budget as presented and roll back the millage rate from 19.525 to 19.262.

Motion: by Edenfield Seconded: by Stafford 6-0

D. Committee Reports

Police: Councilperson Faulkner reported that Police Personnel Committee had met and interviewed applicants for the vacant Receptionist Position. She stated they interviewed 5 applicants and recommended, Amanda Jewell for hire.

Motion was made to accept the committee recommendation to hire.

Motion: by Faulkner Seconded: by Stafford 6-0

Councilperson Faulkner reported that Chief Ellison has transferred Christian Hadaway from part time to full time. She also reported, with the resignation of Joe Cephus, we needed to advertise to fill that position.

Executive: Councilperson Stroud had no report.

Public Works: Councilperson Parker brought up concerns of big truck parking on the sides of the roads. This is deteriorating the roads. He stated that no parking signs were put up but the trucks are still parking there. Chief Ellison stated he would look into the situation.

Councilperson Parker requested that Booker St. be closed on September 29, 2012 beside Brown Chapel Center Deliverance from 9:00am to 5:00pm for a celebration at the church. Motion was made to honor the request.

Motion: by Parker Seconded: by Faulkner 6-0

Fire: Councilperson Stafford reported that Mayor Schwabe, Councilperson Parker, and himself had met with representatives from the county and interviewed architects for the new Fire Station. Buckley and Associates were chosen to do the job. The first thing they will do is look at the site and design a building that will fit on the site and the needs of the city and county.

Recreation: Councilperson Collins reported about concerns of vandalism in DeAlva Park. She stated the picnic tables have been destroyed. The problems do not seem to be the youth in the neighborhood but adults hanging out and destroying the property after dark. Chief Ellison will up the watch of that area.

She reported that new lights were being installed at Vann Community Park to help with security.

Airport: No report

Water & WW: Councilperson Edenfield reported on the progress of the USDA project and the GEFA project. The treatment plant should be finished in October.

Downtown Development: Lynn gave her report earlier.

Administrative: Councilperson Stroud reported that taxes will be mailed out shortly and we hope to have them on line for payment.

Building Inspection: Bruce gave his report earlier.

Mayor : Mayor Schwabe reminded everyone about the 9-11 Observance at Patriot's Square at 5:50 on September 11, 2012.

An Executive Session was requested by Police Chair Faulkner to discuss a personnel issue. Motion to enter into execution session was made

Motion: by Edenfield Seconded: by Faulkner **Roll Call Vote all in favor 6-0**

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 tenth day of September, 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 tenth day of September 2012, which was closed for the purpose of personnel discussion requested by Councilperson Rita Faulkner 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 10th day of September, 2012

MAYOR / CITY OF SWAINSBORO

Council Re-entered regular session and no action was taken.

Meeting was adjourned.

Submitted: Al L Lawson, City Administrator