



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

**City Council Meeting**

**January 06, 2020**

The regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council, held Monday, January 06, 2020 at 6:00 P.M. at Swainsboro City Hall.

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

**Members Absent:**

**Prayer of Invocation:** Rene Price

Emanuel County Probate Judge Don Wilks was present to swear in councilpersons Ricky Stevens, Julian Sconyers, and John E. Parker. Judge Wilks gave the oath of office to each councilperson elected in the November 2019 election.

Administrator Lawson presented the results of the 2019 election (see enclosed page) and asked council to ratify the affidavit of election. Motion was made to adopt the results as presented.

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

Councilperson Sconyers then nominated Councilperson Faulkner to serve as Mayor Pro Tem. She declined the nomination and nominated Councilperson Parker to serve as Mayor Pro Tem. Councilperson Stafford then nominated Councilperson Stevens as Mayor Pro Tem. Hearing no more nominations, Mayor Schwabe call for a vote. The vote was recorded;

Parker : Parker, Collins, Faulkner

Stevens: Sconyers, Stafford, Stevens

Mayor Schwabe asked what to do in case of a tie. Adm. Lawson stated the charter states a Mayor Pro Tem will be appointed by the city council. Councilperson Stevens then stated he would withdraw his nomination. Councilperson Parker was then named Mayor Pro Tem for the 2020 year.

Motion to accept minutes from the previous meeting.

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

**A. Consensus Business**

None

**B. New Business**

1. Adm. Lawson read a new proposal for reorganization of council committees as follows:

**PROPOSAL FOR COUNCIL COMMITTEE REORGANIZATION**

The purpose of this proposal is to eliminate confusion, streamline decision-making and make the problem solving process more efficient. Council should function as a policy making body, not as six managers trying to deal with day to day operations of any of the six departments of city government. Most of the problems that occur in the present system are the result of poor communication among too many people.

In order to simplify the system, this proposal calls for the following:

1. New committees will consist of 2 council members for each department.
2. The position of committee chairman will no longer be required.
3. The City Administrator will serve as the only point of contact for council members. All communication, control and direction of all departments will come only from the office of the City Administrator.
4. Council members will not be involved in day to day operations, expenditures, or management of any department, except through the yearly budget process.
5. The City Administrator will handle all valid requests of council members regarding city business and

keep them advised of the status of problems, situations, conditions or concerns involving any function of any department..

6. Department heads will have an authorized spending limit of \$750.00 for non-budgeted purchases of a justified nature. This will be monitored in the usual manner. For non-budgeted items over that amount, the department head, both committee members, and the City Administrator must agree on the expenditure and an authorization number will be issued by the City Administrator for that purpose. For non-budgeted spending amounts over \$5000. the approval of full council will be required along with 3 competing bids.

Council discussed the proposed policy changes and Councilperson Stevens made a motion to postpone this to the next council agenda to give member time to evaluate the proposal.

**Motion: by Stevens    Seconded: by Faulkner    6-0**

2. Councilperson Stevens made mention that he was working adding a new park in the Ward One area. He stated he had sponsors for the project and the land was being donated. He explained that more detail plans would be forthcoming.

### **C. Old Business**

None

### **D. Committee Reports**

**Police:** Councilperson Faulkner congratulated two Swainsboro Police Officers, Jonathan Jones and Mark Walden on their recent graduation of the Police Academy.

Councilperson Faulkner congratulated Officer Bobby McCoy on his recent retirement. She asked a council resolution be written congratulating his accomplishments.

**Mayor:** Mayor Schwabe stated that this year the council needs to return to a more business like environment and follow Roberts Rules of Order more closely.

Councilperson Faulkner invited council to the January 20, 2020 Martin Luther King Parade at 1:00pm.

Councilperson Faulkner invited council to the January 11, 2020 Prayer Breakfast at the Swainsboro Middle School at 8:00am.

**Submitted: Al L. Lawson, City Adm.**