



CITY OF
Swainsboro GEORGIA
Crossroads of the Great South

City Council Meeting

March 04, 2019

The regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council, held Monday, March 04, 2019 at 6:00 P.M. at Swainsboro City Hall.

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

Members Absent: Sconyers

Prayer of Invocation: Pastor Gary Hackett

Motion to accept minutes from the previous meeting as amended was made.

Motion: by Parker Seconded: by Stafford 5-0

Addition to the minutes: The meeting planned for February 19th was postponed.

A. Consensus Business

B. New Business

1. Council heard the alcoholic beverage application, for advertisement only, of De G Zheng dba Dragon Loco located at 537 South Main St., for beer and wine consumption on the premises. Motion was made to advertise the application.

Motion: by Faulkner Seconded: by Stafford 5-0

C. Old Business

1. Council heard the alcoholic beverage application of Mitchell Nobles dba Bird's Sports Bar and Lounge Inc. located at 229 West Main St., for mixed drink consumption on the premises. Mayor Schwabe announced this was a Public Hearing for this application and was anyone here to speak for or against the application. Motion was made to grant the application.

Motion: by Parker Seconded: by Faulkner 5-0

2. Council heard the alcoholic beverage application of Vipula Patel dba Northside Beverage located at 332 North Main St., for liquor package only. Mayor Schwabe announced this was a Public Hearing for this application and was anyone here to speak for or against the application. Motion was made to grant the application.

Motion: by Stafford Seconded: by Bragg 5-0

3. Council considered the adoption of an amendment to Chapter 62 Offenses and Miscellaneous Provisions, Number Display Requirement. Mayor Schwabe asked if anyone was present to speak for or against the ordinance. No one spoke. Council discussed the owner getting the citation by registered mail. Chief Ellison stated if they could not serve the citation it would be transferred to state court using the county ordinance. Motion was made to adopt the ordinance.

Motion: by Parker Seconded: by Faulkner 4-1 Stafford opposed

D. Committee Reports

Recreation: Councilperson Bragg presented the Recreation report.

Councilperson Bragg reported that the Recreation Dept. has been busy with basketball and will be starting baseball, softball, T-ball and all spring sports.

The Recreation Department will be advertising for a maintenance position.

Councilperson Collins asked why was their not a sign in DeAvla Park naming the park? Councilperson Bragg stated she would check into that and bring it up at the next Recreation meeting.

Water and Waste Water: Councilperson Sconyers was absent.

Police: Councilperson Faulkner reported the Police Personnel Committee had met and interviewed a candidate to fill the vacant Police Officer position. The Committee was recommending Mauricio Cox a certified Police Officer for hire. Motion was made to take the recommendation of the committee and hire Officer Cox.

Motion: by Faulkner Seconded: by Parker 5-0

Councilperson Faulkner reported that with the recent crime activities at Latitude 105 the Police Department has been keeping an extra close eye on that establishment. Chief Ellison stated he had met with the owner and shared his concerns. Fire Chief Strobridge stated that they have answered many calls to that address and found unsafe conditions. He has met with the supervisor of the facility and those are being addressed. Councilperson Faulkner suggested a letter from the Mayor be sent to the owner expressing the concerns of council as well.

Fire: Councilperson Parker reported everything routine. Councilperson Parker stated the fire-fighter position would be advertised for two more weeks.

Chief Strobridge stated that the department would be checked next week by Standards and Training. He informed council the department is ready for that inspection.

Administrative: Councilperson Collins reported everything routine.

Administrator Lawson asked permission to bid the 2018 and 2019 LMIG projects. He stated the City of Twin City would like to join with Swainsboro in the bid process and include their roads in the bid. This would increase the amount of paving and hopefully get a better price on the job. Motion was made to proceed with the bid process.

Motion: by Stafford Seconded: by Parker 5-0

Administrator Lawson read a request from Joe Tarantino requesting that Roger Shaw St., from Main St to Green St., be closed on March 28th from 7:00 to 10:00 pm for a bike night charity fund-raiser. This would be a fund-raiser for the Animal Shelter. Motion was made to grant the request.

Motion: by Parker Seconded: by Stafford 5-0

Public Works: Councilperson Stafford gave the report from Jacobs.

Administrator Lawson presented a bid from Southern Landscape to maintain the islands in town. The bid was rejected by council and asked to rebid.

Mayor Schwabe talked about all of the trash in the town. He stated it is as bad as it has ever been. He would like to have a city wide clean up day on April 20, 2019. This Saturday citizens could bring trash to a certain location for disposal. There will be prizes and incentive for the clean up day.

Airport: No Report

Executive: No Report

Downtown Development: Councilperson Stafford thanked DDA Director Lynn Brinson for her work on the Dixie Theater Project and reported the project had received a donation in memory of Pete Leonard from his classmates.

Building Inspection: No Report

Mayor: Mayor Schwabe stated he had received a lot of complaints about dogs running loose in town. He asked the local media to reiterate to all citizens that the city has a leash law and it will be enforced.

An Executive Session was called for by Mayor Schwabe to discuss a real-estate issue.

Motion was made to enter into Executive Session

Motion: by Stafford Seconded: by Bragg 5-0

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 day of March 04, 2019.

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 4th day of March, 2019, which was closed for the purpose of land acquisition requested by Council member Mayor Schwabe 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 4th day of March, 2019

Council re-entered regular session.

Mayor Schwabe stated that the occupant that had leased the city building on West Moring St. had defaulted on the lease. He then asked council to declare the building surplus so it could be advertised and sold. Motion was made to surplus the building as recommended.

Motion: by Stafford Seconded: by Faulkner 5-0

Administrator Lawson asked council to approve the sale of a piece of surplus property located at 310 Gumlog Rd. This property was foreclosed on for non payment of taxes. It then was declared surplus and offered to public for sale. A bid of \$3,300 was submitted by Darwynn Palmer Sr. Motion was made to accept the bid.

Motion: by Bragg Seconded: by Stafford 5-0

Council met with Matthew Bright regarding his complaint about the city damaging a house he looks after, and is owned by Mrs. Barbara Coleman. Mayor Schwabe explained to Mr. Bright that the city had looked into this with great detail. Motion from council was that, due to the lack of evidence or proof that the city was at fault, no action would be taken.

Motion: by Bragg Seconded: by Faulkner 5-0

Mrs. Barbara Coleman was present and stated the city would be hearing from her attorney.

Submitted: Al L. Lawson, City Adm.