



CITY OF
Swainsboro
Crossroads of the Great South



GEORGIA

City Council Meeting

March 05, 2012

The regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council, held Monday, March 05, 2012, at 6:00 P.M. at Swainsboro City Hall.

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

Members Absent:

Prayer of Invocation: Apostle Alice Davis

Mayor Schwabe presented the “Our Home Town Hero” Award to Dess Smith and Wilder Smith. The Smith brothers have been very instrumental in guiding the local Boy Scouts for many years. Mayor Schwabe thanked the two for all they do and all their family means to Swainsboro. Dess and Wilder Smith are a true asset to our community and a perfect “Our Home Town Hero”.

Motion to accept minutes from the previous meeting was made.

Motion: by Stafford Seconded: by Faulkner 6-0

Mayor Schwabe presented the winners of the “If I Were Mayor” Essay Contest. These sixth graders from Swainsboro Middle School wrote an essay about what they would do if they were mayor. The essays were judged by local members of the community and the winners were as follows.

- 1st Place - Jacob Ellis
- 2nd Place - Sidney Hood
- 3rd Place - Brianna Tapley

Each student was present and read their essay. The students also received a cash prize for their winning entries.

Mrs. Donna Lee representing the American Red Cross was present along with a good group of leaders of the American Red Cross to make a special presentation. She honored two local citizens Stacy Mills with a volunteer award and Johnny Mills with a National Volunteer Award. She stated that the award presented to Johnny Mills came from the National Red Cross in Washington DC for his, over and above, efforts in assisting a local citizen after his house had burned. Many friends and Red Cross Members were present for the presentation.

A. Consensus Business

None

B. New Business

1. Administrator Lawson presented a request from the GMEBS DB Retirement Plan to do away with an old amendment that was added when the city signed OMI. This amendment stated that all of the employees that lost their jobs because a department was eliminated to privatization would receive a \$3500 compensation. The new plan states that employees would receive \$5,000. Motion was made to approve the elimination of the amendment.

Motion: by Edenfield Seconded: by Stafford 6-0

2. City council reviewed proposals received from Bob Roberson and Associates, Associates in Local Government Assistance, Inc., and The Steedly Firm for administration and Stevenson & Palmer, Hofstandter and Associates, Inc., and G. Ben Turnipseed for engineering services for the Community Development Block Grant. City Council also reviewed the Criteria for Evaluation including in the Request for Proposals. Motion was made to use Associates in Local Government, Inc. as the grant writer and G. Ben Turnipseed as the engineer.

Motion: by Edenfield Seconded: by Stafford 6-0

3. City council heard a presentation from Adm. Lawson that the mayor had received a letter from our cable provider Northland Cable stating that the cable franchise agreement needed to be updated. This agreement will allow Northland Cable to collect a 5% franchise fee that will be paid

to the city of Swainsboro as pursuant of Georgia State law 36-76-4(c)(5). Motion was made to adopt the resolution as follows;

CITY OF SWAINSBORO RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF SWAINSBORO AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL TO ESTABLISH A FRANCHISE FEE APPLICABLE TO HOLDERS OF CABLE AND VIDEO FRANCHISE ISSUED BY THE STATE OF GEORGIA

WHEREAS, the City of Swainsboro shall be notified by the Secretary of State's Office and a cable or video provider of an application for a state issued franchise in the city;

WHEREAS, the City currently collects a franchise fee from any current cable or video provider;

WHEREAS, the City considers collecting a franchise fee from a cable or video provider utilizing the public rights of way as compensation to the public for the use of the rights of way and a means of promoting the public health, safety, welfare and economic development of the City and to protect public works infrastructure;

WHEREAS, the City is authorized to collect a franchise fee of up to 5%, the maximum amount established by federal and state law, of each cable or video providers gross revenues generated within the city;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the City of SWAINSBORO hereby requires a franchise fee of 5% for any cable or video state franchise issued in its corporate boundaries by the State of Georgia pursuant to O.C.G.A. 36-76-1 et seq. known as the "Consumer Choice for Television Act" of 2007.

RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of SWAINSBORO this 5th day of March, 2012.

Honorable, Charles Schwabe, Mayor

ATTEST:

By: _____

Al L. Lawson, City Adm.

SEAL

Motion: by Faulkner Seconded: by Stroud 6-0

C. Old Business

1. Council heard the application request of Bharatkumar Patel dba Emanuel Discount 119 South Central St. for beer and wine package only. Mayor Schwabe announced this was a public hearing, was anyone present to speak for or against the application. No response. Motion was made to grant.

Motion: by Faulkner Seconded: by Stroud 6-0

3. Council heard the application request of Betsy Estrada dba Las Lomas Mexican Restaurant 686 South Main St. for mixed drink consumption. Mayor Schwabe announced this was a public hearing, was anyone present to speak for or against the application. No response. Motion was made to grant.

Motion: by Stafford Seconded: by Edenfield 6-0

D. Committee Reports

Police: Councilperson Faulkner reported the Police Banquet was very good. She congratulated all of the officers on their accomplishments and awards.

Police Chief Ellison presented a copy of the 2012 fine schedule. Council reviewed the schedule and requested that it be published in the local paper for two weeks. Motion was then made to publish the fine schedule in the local news paper.

Motion: by Parker Seconded: by Stafford 6-0

Executive: Councilperson Stroud had no report.

Public Works: Councilperson Parker reported on the removal of tires in the city. He reported that the transfer station was charging \$6.00 per car tire, \$7.00 per truck tire, and \$27.00 per tractor tire for a disposal fee.

He reported that the doors at the recycle center had not been repaired, and a bid was forthcoming for the repair work.

Fire: Councilperson Stafford reported on the January fire calls.

Recreation: Councilperson Collins reported softball was getting started.

Airport: No report

Water & WW: Councilperson Edenfield reported that the old 2" water line on Kite Hwy was being replaced with a new 6" line.

City water loss is being looked into. We are checking to make sure that all water is metered and we will be sounding the pipes in the downtown area to check for leaks.

The recent rains have stretched the sewage system. The engineers are looking at solutions on the run times of the lift stations.

Downtown Development: Lynn had no report.

Administrative: Routine

Building Inspection: Administrator Lawson reported that Bruce had asked him to report that an abandoned house, located at 431 Rentz St., had been torn down by the owner Otis Williams.

Mayor : Mayor Schwabe reported that the Pine Tree Festival events will all be held in the downtown area.

Mayor Schwabe asked Administrator Lawson to check with City Attorney Sid Shepherd and get a clarification on code section 6-37 of the City Code to see if it could be amended or changed.

Mayor Schwabe reminded council that at the last meeting he had asked them to give one thing they would like to see accomplished this year. The responses were as follows;

Councilperson Edenfield : To improve the city's water loss ratio by identifying the problem areas and correcting them.

Councilperson Stroud: To meet with local industries and businesses to identify some of their needs and concerns and to see how the city can assist them.

Councilperson Parker: To establish Town Hall meetings to insure good communications between the council and all citizens.

Councilperson Collins: To identify and eliminate blighted properties in all areas of the city.

Councilperson Faulkner: To build a water recreation facility for the youth of our city.

Councilperson Stafford: To fill the empty existing buildings in the downtown area while working with existing businesses on expansions.

Mayor Schwabe: To resurface as many of the streets in town as possible. This will help with industrial recruitment, the quality of life, and many other aspects of our day to day lives.

Cleveland Doyle and Marie Johnson addressed council and informed them they had recently moved back to town and was interested in what was going on in the city.

Meeting was adjourned.

Submitted: Al L Lawson, City Administrator