



CITY OF
Swainsboro GEORGIA
Crossroads of the Great South

City Council Meeting

February 01, 2021

The regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council, held Monday, February 01, 2021 at 6:00 P.M. at the Swainsboro Fire Department. Social distancing was observed.

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

Members Absent: Stevens

Prayer of Invocation: Rev. Pete Harden

Motion was offered to accept the minutes as read from the previous meeting.

Motion: Sconyers Seconded: Faulkner 5-0

A. Consensus Business

None

B. New Business

1. Adm. Lawson presented the 2020-2030 Emanuel County Solid Waste Management Plan prepared by the Heart of Georgia Altamaha RDC. This is a required document from the Department of Community Affairs that must be updated every 10 years. The RDC prepares the data and the county, along with all of the cities in the county, submit the plan. Motion was made to adopt the plan as presented.

Motion: Sconyers Seconded: Stafford 5-0

2. Council heard the application for a Game Room License from Chevette Fields-Goods at 406 Rentz St. dba Lounge 2020. Adm. Lawson presented the application and stated it was in order. Council asked about the zoning of the area and Adm. Lawson stated that council had re-zoned that area many years ago for commercial and the business would conform. Mayor Pro-Tem asked about what time the establishment could be open and Adm. Lawson explained it was in the ordinance for game rooms and read the Sec 10-6 (8) Operation Regulations. Motion was made to grant the application.

Motion: Parker Seconded: Faulkner 5-0

3. Adm. Lawson gave council a copy of the upcoming RFP for the continuous operation of the Water/Waste Water and Public Works Operation in the city. Adm. Lawson stated this RFP had been sent to our attorney and he had reviewed the copy presented. Mayor asked council to review the proposal and return it by Monday February 08, 2021 so it can be finalized and sent out.

4. Council was presented a amendment to the Business Licenses and Regulations portion of the city ordinances. This would give the authority to the Police Chief to lock a business down who has not conformed with obtained the proper business license or paying occupational taxes. This would constitute the first reading of the amendment as follows:

CITY OF SWAINSBORO

Chapter 18 BUSINESS LICENSES AND REGULATIONS

Article II: OCCUPATION TAXES, ADMINISTRATIVE FEES AND REGULATORY FEES

Sec. 18-42A Inspection of Premises

The city through its Fire Department, officers, or agents will inspect the said premises and provide deficiencies that are noted according to the National Fire Protection Agency code 101 of the life safety codes. The inspection will include the evaluation of fire extinguishers, proper emergency lighting, exit signs, electrical panels marked, that emergency exits are clear and free of blockage, fire alarms (if applicable) are installed and working properly, and sprinkler systems (if applicable) are working properly. Businesses that cook and serve food will have their hood system checked as well.

The Fire Department at the same time of the annual fire inspection will be updating their pre-plans for said establishment. Pre-plans are a part of the ISO (Insurance Safety Office) evaluations conducted every five years. Owner and contact information will be obtained for this purpose of the inspection.

Sec. 18-43. Revocation.

Failure or any person to pay an applicable administrative fee, regulatory fee, occupation tax, obtain annual inspection from Swainsboro Fire Department or their representative, or any part thereof before it becomes delinquent or upon failure to permit inspection of books as required shall result in any business tax certificate or regulatory fee certificate granted by the city under this chapter permitting such person to do business in the city for the current year being automatically revoked without any further action required of the city. The non compliance order will be given to the chief of police or his designee to make proper charges as related to any violation(s) under this ordinance and to command the business operations at the location(s) to cease until proper licences are obtained.

No new occupation tax certificate or regulatory fee certificate shall be granted by the city for the operation of a business for which any part of the occupation tax or fees herein required are unpaid, and such certificates shall not be issued to a person who has failed to submit adequate records for inspection as required by section 18-42.

(Ord. of 12-5-1999, § 191)

C. Old Business

None

D. Department Head Request

None

Mayor Schwabe reported on the progress of the two major projects the city is working on. He stated he should have some finance figures for each project at the next council meeting.

Mayor Schwabe reported that he and Adm. Lawson are continuing to work on securing an inmate detail from the State of Georgia. This will help with the clean up of the city. He suggested that the city have another clean up day when the weather gets better in April.

Mayor Schwabe reported that the city had donated some PPE suits to the Emanuel Medical Center.

Councilperson Faulkner encouraged citizens to continue to practice good measure to help combat the Covid .

Mayor Pro-Tem Collins asked why we now have a County Fire Chief? She stated that Chief Strobridge had filled that roll for many years. Mayor Schwabe explained that this was a decision by the Emanuel County Commissioners and not the city. He went on to explain that the County Chief would be housed in Swainsboro's Station One but would have no jurisdiction over the Swainsboro Department. She stated she needed to be informed of these changes. Mayor Schwabe again went on to say this was action of the County Commissioners and did not change the day to day operations of the city department.