



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

City Council Meeting

March 01, 2021

The regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council, held Monday, March 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. Ashley Roberson, Jesus Saves Church

Mayor Schwabe presented the March 2021 Hometown Hero to Christine Peebles. A local pastor who helped orchestrate the disbursement of food support from Crider Poultry. Steve Girard from Crider Poultry spoke how she assisted with getting the local churches organized for the food distribution. Mayor Schwabe presented Pastor Peebles with her award. Pastor Peebles stated she was speechless and very appreciative. She stated she was extremely blessed and told how God had always provided for her and she wanted to help provide for others.

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 asked council to consider a resolution to submit the application for the 2021 CDBG. The resolution reads as follows:

RESOLUTION

A **RESOLUTION** by the Mayor and Council Members of the City of Swainsboro, Georgia, to authorize submission of a FY 2021 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) for funding under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended.

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council Members of the City of Swainsboro, Georgia, find that the program is necessary and desirable in order to improve the living conditions of low and moderate income persons living in the City of Swainsboro, Georgia; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council Members of the City of Swainsboro, Georgia, desire that a FY 2021 CDBG application be submitted to the Georgia DCA for funding under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended;

Now, **THEREFORE**, be it resolved by the Mayor and Council Members of the City of Swainsboro, Georgia, that:

The Mayor of the City of Swainsboro, or his/her successor, is hereby authorized to submit to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs a FY 2021 Community Development Block Grant application and such supporting and collateral material as shall be necessary.

READ, APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Mayor and Council Members of the City of Swainsboro, Georgia on a motion made by Parker seconded by Sconyers, and adopted on this first day of March, 2021.

Motion to accept the resolution as read.

Motion: Parker Seconded: Sconyers 5-0

2. Randall Snellgrove addressed council asking why Prosperity Drive had been paved twice in 10 years and there were other roads that needed paving have not been paved. Adm. Lawson explained that 10 years ago when the Georgia Department of Transportation held a referendum to ask the citizens of Emanuel County about a TIA tax this road was included in the list of roads that was voted on. Before the referendum passed Prosperity Drive was approved by the GDOT for an LMIG project in 2012 and was paved. With the passage, later in the year, of the TIA tax in the road was scheduled again to be paved in 2020. Mr. Snellgrove asked why could that money not be used on another more needed project? Adm. Lawson explained once a referendum was voted on by the citizens the money had to be spent on that project or return the money to the state.

Mr. Snellgrove then addressed Chief Ellison about the stop signs and speeding in his neighborhood. Chief Ellison stated he would check into seeing if Prosperity Drive was on the road list in which radar could be used.

Mr. Snellgrove then talked about police cars with tinted windows? Police Chief Ellison informed him on the requirements of a private vehicle versus a police vehicle.

3. Alexander Archie addressed council with his concerns of the road condition in his neighborhood. He then asked about the citing of trash areas in the city. Police Chief Ellison explained the process and stated so far no one had been fined but many have been notified about potential ordinance violations. Mayor Schwabe then talked about addressing the trash problems in Swainsboro. The council has for many years been talking about these problems and now some action was being taken.

Mr. Archie asked why he did not get a chance to bid on any city contracts. The Mayor explained that a lot of the building projects go through a general contractor but if the city had any upcoming project Mr. Archie would surely have an opportunity to bid.

C. Old Business

1. Mayor Schwabe announced the second reading of the Occupation Taxes, Ad. Fee, and Regulatory fees ordinance amendment.

D. Department Head Request

1. Police Chief Ellison explained to the council that the radio system of the Swainsboro Police Department was outdated and some days they would have a hard time communicating with other agencies that had updated their systems. He stated that he had received a quote from McLaggan Communications for updating our communication system. The cost of the upgrade is \$61,835.75 and can be financed over a 5 year period. Councilperson Parker asked Adm. Lawson if this was an eligible SPLOST item. Adm. Lawson informed council this was an eligible expense and could be paid for with SPLOST funds. Motion was then made to accept the proposal as presented and pay for the project over a 5 year period using SPLOST money.

Motion: Sconyers Seconded: Stafford 5-0

Police Chief Ellison asked council consideration of moving part time office Kayleigh McVey to full time. He also reported the Police Committee had met recommended the hiring of Tyler McCardy and Cheyenne Blalock to send to the academy. Motion was made to accept the recommendation of the Police Committee.

2. Fire Chief Strobridge presented a presentation to the council for the purchase of some new chairs for the classroom. He explained that the chairs presently in the classroom were not holding up and causing a hazard. He proposed a chair that would hold 500lbs and stackable. The cost of the chair was \$127.99 each and the station needed 40 chairs. The total cost of the purchase was \$5,119.60. Motion was made to accept the proposal as presented.

Motion: Parker Seconded: Faulkner 5-0

3. Adm. Lawson recommended to council to hire Associates in Local Government Assistance Inc. as the grant writer and G.Ben Turnipseed Engineers for the engineers for the 2021 CDBG. He states the Department of Community Affairs requires a request for proposal be mailed out and review all proposal submitted. This process was followed by the city and each of the submissions were graded by a committee and this was their recommendation. Motion was made to accept the recommendation of the committee and hire Associates in Local Government Assistance for the grant writer of the 2021 CDBG.

Motion: Stafford Seconded: Sconyers 5-0

Motion was made to accept the recommendation of the committee and hire G Ben Turnipseed Engineers for the engineering of the 2021 CDBG.

Motion: Parker Seconded: Stafford 5-0

Mayor Schwabe gave council an update on the two major projects the city is involved with. Mayor Schwabe reported that the Veterans Center had a 75th celebration and congratulated them on their success.

Mayor Schwabe reminded all citizens that next year the City of Swainsboro will be celebrating the 200 anniversary of the city and a big celebration is planned. Any citizen wanting to get involved with the planning needs to contact DDA Director Lynn Brinson.

Councilperson Parker thanked everyone who sent condolences for the recent passing of his father.

Mayor Pro-Tem Collins stated her grandson had a missing dog and appreciated all the help they had received from the Animal Control personnel in and effort to find the animal.

Submitted: Al L. Lawson, City Adm.