



CITY OF
Swainsboro
Crossroads of the Great South

GEORGIA



City Council Meeting

The regular meeting of Mayor and City Council was held on **Monday, October 2, 2023**, at 6:00 P.M. City Hall

Members Present: Mayor Bennett, Councilperson Collins, Councilperson Quarterman, Councilperson Parker, Councilperson Stafford, Councilperson Sconyers, Councilperson Davis

Prayer of Invocation: Pastor Nicholas Robertson, Consuming Fire Ministries

Pledge of Allegiance

Minutes of regular meeting of September 5, 2023, was presented. Councilperson Sconyers made a motion to approve the minutes.

Motion: Sconyers

Seconded by: Parker

Vote: 6 - 0

A. Old Business:

1. Council opened and consider the sealed bids for Auctioneer. Councilperson Parker made a motion to rebid Auctioneer services for the sale of excess property.

Motion: Parker

Seconded by: Quarterman

Vote: 6 – 0

2. Council heard from Giselle White-Perry regarding Robin Road. Ms. White-Perry decided to defer her comments until she heard from the Robin Road Committee. Ms. White-Perry stated that she is hoping that there will be a written report as well as information about the culvert at the intersection of Robin Road and Racetrack Street.

3. Council heard from Julie Carswell concerning her neighborhood. Ms. Carswell addressed council to thanked the Police Department and Fire Department for their involvement in helping to control the violence and bring peace in her neighborhood.

4. Council considered the approval of the alcoholic beverage license for Leticia Vanzzini dba Ay Wey located at 426 South Main Street. Councilperson Parker made a motion to approve the alcoholic beverage license application for Leticia Vanzzini dba Ay Wey located at 426 South Main Street.

Motion: Parker

Seconded by: Stafford

Vote: 6 – 0

B. New Business:

1. Council considered the application for a taxicab license for Mac-Kam Taxicab & Logistics, LLC. **Postponed.**

2. Council considered an increase of our current fee schedules (building permit fees and city fees). Councilperson Sconyers made a motion to approve the fees as presented.

Motion: Sconyers

Seconded by: Davis

Vote: 3 – 2; 1

For: Davis, Sconyers, Stafford Against: Collins, Quarterman Abstained: Parker
Motion failed.

3. Council considered a request from the police department to change the status of employment of an existing employ to full-time. Councilperson Parker made a motion to approve the chief's request to move a part time employee to full time.

Motion: Parker

Seconded by: Davis

Vote: 6 – 0

4. Council considered leasing an additional seven police interceptors. Councilperson Parker made a motion to lease seven police interceptors.
Motion: Parker Seconded by: Stafford Vote: 6 – 0

5. Council considered the hiring of Brandon Brooks for a vacant full-time firefighter position at Swainsboro Fire Department. Councilperson Stafford made a motion to hire Brandon Brooks as a fulltime firefighter.
Motion: Stafford Seconded by: Davis Vote: 5 – 0; 1
Abstained: Quarterman

6. Council considered the approval for the repairs of the North Racetrack Street Culvert. Councilperson Parker made a motion to approve the repairs of the North Racetrack Street Culvert in an amount not to exceed \$31,010.53.
Motion: Parker Seconded by: Stafford Vote: 6 – 0

7. Council considered the change order request for the theater project. **Postponed**

8. Council considered the termination of the Recycling Building Lease. **Discussed in Executive session.**

9. Council will set and advertise the 2023 rollback millage rate of 12.000. Councilperson Parker made a motion to postpone items #9 and #10 to the next council meeting.
Motion: Parker Seconded by: Sconyers Vote: 6 – 0

- Councilperson Davis made a motion to amend the agenda to set a special council meeting for October 10, 2023, at 6:00 pm.
Motion: Davis Seconded by: Parker Vote: 6 – 0

10. Council considered the FY2024 Budget as proposed. Councilperson Parker made a motion to postpone items #9 and #10 to the next council meeting.

C. Consent Agenda

None

D. Committee Reports:

Robin Road Committee – Councilperson Sconyers gave the following report.

Present: Councilperson Quarterman, Councilperson Sconyers, Councilperson Parker, Chris Morton, Clearwater Solutions, and Herman Middlebrooks, City Administrator

Councilperson Parker stated that he has seen flood zone map and then he asked when it was identified and were the residents notified. Mr. Chris Morton, CWS, displayed a section of flood insurance rate map (Panel 0301 of Map #13107C0301C). These maps are effective as of December 17, 2010. Councilperson Sconyers explained that in 2010 the maps were digitized. After further discussion as to what could be done for the residents, it was determined that the city would be unable to provide any remedy for the resident whose yards are presently in the floodplain.

Councilperson Davis made a motion to go into executive session.

Motion: Davis Seconded by: Sconyers Vote: 6 - 0

E. Executive Session:

CLOSING MEETING AFFIDAVIT

Personally appeared before the undersigned attesting officer, duly authorized to administer oaths, the undersigned, who, after being duly sworn, depose and on oath state the following:

(1) The Mayor/ Mayor Pro Tem was the presiding officer of a meeting of the Swainsboro City Council held on the 2th day of October, 2023.

(2) That it is our understanding that O.C.G.A. § 50-14-2 provides as follows:

“This Chapter shall not be construed so as to repeal in any way:

(1) The attorney-client privilege recognized by state law to the extent that a meeting otherwise required to be open to the public under this chapter may be closed in order to consult and meet with legal counsel pertaining to pending or potential litigation, settlement, claims, administrative proceedings, or other judicial actions brought or to be brought by or against the agency or any officer or employee or in which the agency or any officer or employee may be directly involved; provided, however, the meeting may not be closed for advice or consultation on whether to close a meeting; and

(2) Those tax matters which are otherwise made confidential by State law.” And that O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3 (a) provides as follows:

“This chapter shall not apply to the following:

(1) Staff meetings held for investigative purposes under duties or responsibilities imposed by law;

(2) The deliberations and voting of the State Board of Pardons and Paroles; and in addition such board may close a meeting held for the purpose of receiving information or evidence for or against clemency or in revocation proceedings if it determines that the receipt of such information or evidence in open meeting would present a substantial risk of harm or injury to a witness;

(3) Meetings of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation or any other law enforcement or prosecutorial agency in the state, including grand jury meetings;

(4) Adoptions and proceedings related thereto;

(5) Gatherings involving an agency and one or more neutral third parties in mediation of a dispute between the agency and any other party. In such a gathering, the neutral party may caucus jointly or independently with the parties to the mediation to facilitate a resolution to the conflict, and any such caucus shall not be subject to the requirements of this chapter. Any decision or resolution agreed to by an agency at any such caucus shall not become effective until ratified in a public meeting and the terms of any such decision or resolution are disclosed to the public. Any final settlement agreement, memorandum of agreement, memorandum of understanding, or other similar document, however denominated, in which an agency has formally resolved a claim or dispute shall be subject to the provisions of Article 4 of Chapter 18 of this title;

(6) Meetings:

(A) Of any medical staff committee of a public hospital;

(B) Of the governing authority of a public hospital or any committee thereof when performing a peer review or medical review function as set forth in Code Section 31-7-15, Articles 6 and 6A of Chapter 7 of Title 31, or under any other applicable federal or state statute or regulation; and

(C) Of the governing authority of a public hospital or any committee thereof in which the granting, restriction, or revocation of staff privileges or the granting of abortions under state or federal law is discussed, considered, or voted upon;

- (7) Incidental conversation unrelated to the business of the agency; or
- (8) E-mail communications among members of an agency; provided, however, that such communications shall be subject to disclosure pursuant to Article 4 of Chapter 18 of this title.”
- (3) Close Executive Sessions are permitted pursuant O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(b) for:

“(1) Meetings when any agency is discussing or voting to:

- (A) Authorize the settlement of any matter which may be properly discussed in executive session in accordance with paragraph (1) of Code Section 50-14-2;
- (B) Authorize negotiations to purchase, dispose of, or lease property;
- (C) Authorize the ordering of an appraisal related to the acquisition or disposal of real estate;
- (D) Enter into a contract to purchase, dispose of, or lease property subject to approval in a subsequent public vote; or
- (E) Enter into an option to purchase, dispose of, or lease real estate subject to approval in subsequent public vote.

No vote in executive session to acquire, dispose of, or lease real estate, or to settle litigation, claims, or administrative proceedings, shall be binding on an agency until a subsequent vote is taken in an open meeting where the identity of the property and the terms of the acquisition, disposal, or lease are disclosed before the vote or where the parties and principal settlement terms are disclosed before the vote;

(2) Meetings when discussing or deliberating upon the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of a public officer or employee or interviewing applicants for the position of the executive head of an agency. This exception shall not apply to the receipt of evidence or when hearing argument on personnel matters, including whether to impose disciplinary action or dismiss a public officer or employee or when considering or discussing matters of policy regarding the employment or hiring practices of the agency. The vote on any matter covered by this paragraph shall be taken in public and minutes of the meeting as provided in this chapter shall be made available. Meetings by an agency to discuss or take action on the filling of a vacancy in the membership of the agency itself shall at all times be open to the public as provided in this chapter;

(3) Meetings of the board of trustees or the investment committee of any public retirement system created by or subject to Title 47 when such board or committee is discussing matters pertaining to investment securities trading or investment portfolio positions and composition;

(4) Portions of meetings during which that portion of a record made exempt from public inspection or disclosure pursuant to Article 4 of Chapter 18 of this title is to be considered by an agency and there are no reasonable means by which the agency can consider the record without disclosing the exempt portions if the meeting were not closed; and

(5) Meetings when discussing or deliberating upon cybersecurity plans, procedures, and contracts regarding the provision of cybersecurity services. No vote in executive session to enter into a cybersecurity contract shall be binding on an agency until a subsequent vote is taken in an open meeting where the identity of the contractor and the terms of the agreement that are not subject to paragraph (25) of subsection (a) of Code Section 50-18-72 are disclosed before the vote.”

- (4) The subject matter of the closed meeting or closed portion of the meeting held on the 2nd day of October, 2023, which was closed for the purpose of:

_____ **ATTORNEY-CLEINT PRIVILEGE REGARDING PENDING LITIGATION O.C.G.A. § 50-14-2(1)**

_____ **TAX MATTERS PURSUANT TO O.C.G.A. §50-14-2(2)**

_____ **STAFF MEETING HELD FOR INVESTIGATION PURSUANT TO O.C.G.A. §50-14-3(a)(1)**

- ☐ DELIBERATION AND VOTING OF THE STATE BOARD OF PARDONS AND PAROLE PURSUANT TO O.C.G.A. §50-14-3(a)(2)
- ☐ LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY OR PROSECUTIONS AGENCY O.C.G.A. §50-14-3(a)(3)
- ☐ MEDIATION EXCEPTION PURSUANT TO O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(a)(5)
- ☐ HOSPITAL MEETINGS EXCEPTION PURSUANT TO O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(a)(6)
- ☐ INCIDENTAL CONVERSATION EXCEPTION PURSUANT TO O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(a)(7)
- ☐ SETTLEMENT EXCEPTION PURSUANT TO O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(b)(1)(A)
- ☒ PROPERTY NEGOTIATIONS PURSUANT TO O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(b)(1)(B)
- ☐ APPRAISAL EXCEPTION PURSUANT TO O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(b)(1)(C)
- ☐ CONTRACT EXCEPTION PURSUANT TO O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(b)(1)(D)
- ☐ EMPLOYMENT EXCEPTION PURSUANT O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(b)(2)
- ☐ PUBLIC RETIREMENT SYSTEM PURSUANT TO O.C.G.A. §50-14-3(b)(3)
- ☐ PROTECTION OF EXEMPTION PORTIONS OF RECORD PURSUANT TO O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(b)(4)
- ☐ CYBERSECURITY EXCEPTION PURSUANT TO O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(b)(4).

(5) 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 2nd day of October 2023.

Greg Bennett, Mayor

Julian Sconyers - Council Person

Johnny Ray Stafford – Council Person

Bobbie Collins – Council Person

John E. Parker – Council Person

Gregory Quarterman – Council Person

D. J. Davis III – Council Person

Sworn to and subscribed before me this.

2nd day of October 2023.

NOTARY PUBLIC

My commission expires: _____

Councilperson Sconyers made a motion to come out of executive session.

Motion: Sconyers

Seconded by: Parker

Vote: 6 – 0

Councilperson Davis made a motion to terminate the use of the recycling contract of Mr. Jerome Bynes and give him at least forty days to move while rebidding the use of the building.

Motion: Davis

Seconded by: Stafford

Vote: 6 – 0

Councilperson Davis made a motion to adjourn.

Motion: Davis

Seconded by: Stafford

Vote: 6 – 0

Submitted: **Herman Middlebrooks**, City Administrator