



CITY OF
Swainsboro GEORGIA
Crossroads of the Great South

City Council Meeting

May 03, 2021

The regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council, held Monday, May 03, 2021 at 6:00 P.M. at the Swainsboro City Hall. Social distancing was observed.

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

Members Absent:

Prayer of Invocation: Rev. Chad Kennison

Minutes were considered and motion was made to accept minutes as presented.

Motion by: Sconyers Seconded : Stafford 6-0

A. Consensus Business

None

B. New Business

1. Council heard the application (for advertisement only) of Denise Miles at 406 Rentz St. dba Lounge 2020 LLC for beer and wine consumption on the premises. Council questioned the zoning of that location because it is in a primary residential area. Adm. Lawson informed council that the location is in a commercial zone and is acceptable.

Motion was made to advertise the application as presented.

Motion: Stevens Seconded by Parker 6-0

Councilpersons Stevens and Parker stated the zoning of these residential establishments needed to be looked into as to not hurt the neighborhoods.

C. Old Business

1. Councilperson Parker asked that the council revisit the junk car and junk ordinance. He stated that it was unfair to site residential and not other establishments. Chief Ellison stated that a door hanger giving the resident notice of the ordinance was ordered but had not come in. He reported that over 150 areas had been identified and over 75 had been cleaned up.

Councilperson Stevens asked what was the progress of the clean up on East Main location owned by Rodney Wilson. Mayor Schwabe stated that the federal government was handling the situation. Councilperson Stevens asked the Mayor to give a statement to the citizens because there are a lot of people who have a lot of questions. Mayor Schwabe agreed to give an update but be very cautious not to get the city involved with the investigation by the Environmental Protection Agency. Mayor Schwabe also added he had been given legal advise to let the EPD handle the situation.

Councilperson Stevens made a motion that the Mayor draft a statement to the citizens informing them of the progress. The motion died for lack of a second.

Councilperson Parker stated that the public was losing confidence in the council if something could not be done. Mayor Schwabe stated that we all agree something needs to be done but the EPD needs to be the lead agency on the case.

2. Council discussed the continuation of hazard pay. Council agreed to continue it until the Governor state of emergency was lifted at the end of this month. Motion was to continue.

Motion: Stevens Seconded by Parker 6-0

D. Department Head Request

Mayor Schwabe thanked everyone who participated in the city wide cleanup. He stated it was a big success and made a difference for our city.

Mayor Schwabe reported he was in the process of reviewing the proposal from Clearwater Solutions and would be getting with council for a review and suggestions.

Mayor Schwabe asked ways to cut the budget. He stated one item that would be looked at is the insurance and ways we could save in that area.

Councilperson Faulkner asked for a project manager for the Robin Rd. Project Clearwater has started the project but not finished it as of the date.

Mayor Schwabe asked council to consider the surplus of three police cars. These would be sold at action. No one objected.

Administrator Lawson explained that the project area for the 2021 CDBG application had been identified. The area was in the McMillen Dr area for water, sewage, and storm water rehab. The city needed to do some videoing of the area for the application. The cost of the video was \$8,000.00. Adm. Lawson asked permission to proceed. Motion was made to proceed.

Motion: Stafford Seconded: Stevens Vote 3-3 Mayor voting yes
Parker, Collins, Faulkner against

Administrator Lawson reported that he had done a cost analyst on changing the fluorescent light to LEDs in the major buildings for the city. He reported that city hall, police station, fire station one, and the DDA antique mall have been changed . He reported that a lot of work was done in house saving the city a lot of money. He reported the annual saving below:

City Hall ~ \$1,300.00 per year
Swainsboro Police Department ~ \$2,810.32 per year
Swainsboro Fire Department ~ \$ 4,789.86 per year
DDA Antique Mall ~ \$ 985.40 per year

Councilperson Collins expressed her concern about the recent newspaper article that was printed stating council members do not answer concerns. She asked council had any of them been informed about this. No one responded. Councilperson Parker stated that if the paper had printed an untruth a retraction needed to be made.

Mayor Schwabe reminded the public about the availability of the vaccine.

Mayor Schwabe invited everyone to the 74½ Pine Tree Festival this weekend.

Submitted: Al L. Lawson, City Adm.