



CITY OF
Swainsboro
Crossroads of the Great South

GEORGIA



City Council Meeting

The regular meeting of Mayor and City Council was held on **Monday, August 7, 2023**, at 6:00 P.M. City Hall

Prayer of Invocation: Pastor John Hancock III, Beacon of Hope Church of God

Pledge of Allegiance

Minutes from July 10, 2023, regular meeting, and July 24, 2023, special called meeting was presented. Councilperson Davis made a motion to approve the minutes of July 10, 2023, regular meeting and the minutes from July 24, 2023, special meeting as amended. Councilperson Sconyers seconded the motion. Councilperson Collins said that she wanted to make a correction on July 24 minutes to show that she abstained on item 1 under new business. Council considered the attorney's bill for June. The vote should reflect that Councilperson Parker made the motion. Councilperson Davis made the second and that the vote should have been 5 to 0 with Councilperson Collins abstaining.

Motion: Davis

Seconded by: Sconyers

Vote: 6 -0

A. Old Business:

1. Council will consider the drawings and reappropriations for the gym project. Mayor Bennett recommended that the classrooms be half as big as the building. The classroom should be extended at least five more feet so it would separate the building in half. Half classrooms and half community room. The classrooms need to be fifty percent of the building. Councilperson Parker responded that he could go along with that. Councilperson Davis asks if we are putting it out to bid? Didn't BAK say that they could already do this? Bennett states that the legal thing is that anything over \$100,000 has to be put out to bid. Attorney Levis told council that this is a substantial change in the project. Councilperson Sconyers made a motion for this building to be placed at the library, so that the library could be in charge of it. Councilperson Parker made a motion to expand the classrooms halfway of the building, put the breakroom in the community room and put it out to bid.

Motion: Parker

Seconded by: Quarterman

Vote: 5 – 1

For: Parker, Quarterman, Stafford, Collins, Davis

Against: Sconyers

2. Council will consider the intergovernmental agreement regarding recreational facilities and activities for the citizens of Emanuel County. Councilperson Davis made a motion to approve the Parks and Recreation Intergovernmental agreement along with the addendum.

Motion: Davis

Seconded by: Stafford

Vote: 3-2; 1

For: Davis, Stafford, Stafford Against: Parker, Quarterman Abstained: Collins

Motion failed.

3. Council considered the alcoholic beverage license application for Bradley Hooks dba The Stockyard restaurant located in the Walmart shopping plaza. Mayor Bennett abstained from this item. Councilperson Collins takes over the meeting as the Mayor Pro Tem. Councilperson Stafford made a motion to approve the alcoholic beverage license application for Bradley Hooks dba The Stockyard restaurant located in the Walmart shopping plaza.

Motion: Stafford

Seconded by: Sconyers

Vote: 5 – 0

4. Council will hear from Ms. Giselle White-Perry regarding the Robin Road Project. Mayor Bennett resumes meeting. Ms. White-Perry thanks council and staff for their help

- Motion: Davis** **Seconded by: Parker** **Vote: 6 – 0**

- Motion: Sconyers** **Seconded by: Stafford** **Vote: 6 - 0**

Motion: Davis **Seconded by: Stafford** **Vote: 6 – 0**

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

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

Motion: Davis **Seconded by: Sconyers** **Vote: 6 – 0**

C. Consent Agenda:

- Motion: Parker** **Seconded by: Quarterman** **Vote: 3 – 3**

Mayor broke the tie in favor of the motion.

None

The City of Swainsboro is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

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 7th day of August, 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 PROSECUTIONSL 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)**
- ☐ **INCIDENTIAL 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 7th day of August, 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
7th day of August, 2023.

NOTARY PUBLIC

My commission expires: _____

Councilperson Davis made a motion to go into executive session regarding pending litigation O.C.G.A. § 50-14-2(1).

Motion: Davis

Seconded by: Stafford

Vote: 6 – 0

Councilperson Parker made a motion to adjourn.

Motion: Parker

Seconded by: Quartermaster

Vote: 6 - 0

Submitted: **Herman Middlebrooks**, City Administrator