



CITY OF Swainsboro GEORGIA

Crossroads of the Great South

City Council Meeting

July 12, 2021

The regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council, held Monday, July 12, 2021 at 6:00 P.M. at the Swainsboro City Hall.

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

Members Absent: Stevens

Prayer of Invocation: Rev. Andrew Flowers

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

Motion by: Sconyers Seconded : Faulkner 5-0

Motion to accept amended agenda was made.

Motion by: Sconyers Seconded : Stafford 5-0

A. Consensus Business

None

B. New Business

1. Council heard the application of Michelle Stanford dba Lucy's Pool Hall at 210 Williams St. for a convenience store license. Due to the recent history of the location and at the advise of the City Attorney, Adm. Lawson presented the application to council for review. Council had some questions about the recent incidents at that location. Police Chief Ellison reported that there had been some altercations at this location. An individual had been shot, 27 containers of alcohol had been confiscated, and weapons on the premises. They also were cited for operating without a license. This was also the same applicant that was turned down at the previous meeting for a Game Room License Application. After consideration motion was made to deny the license request.

Motion by: Faulkner Seconded by Stafford 5-0

2. Council heard the application, for advertisement only, of Eric Brown at 410 North Coleman St. dba New Image Sports Bar for beer and wine consumption on the premises. Motion was made to advertise the application.

Motion: Parker Seconded by Faulkner 5-0

3. Council heard the application, for advertisement only, of Dirav Dolatbhai Patel at 350 East Main St dba OM SAI Gateway LLC Sunoco 51 for beer and wine package only. Motion was made to advertise the application.

Motion: Parker Seconded by Stafford 5-0

4. Mr. Gary Mason, Chairman of the Swainsboro DDA made a presentation to council asking council to consider an increase in pay for DDA Director Lynn Brinson. He stated her duties and gave council a comparison of salaries across the state. Mrs. Daisy Reeves a member of the Swainsboro DDA was present to support the request. Councilperson asked if funds from the local Hotel/Motel tax could be used to support the budget request. Adm. Lawson stated he was unsure but would research it and see. Council acknowledged the good work Mrs. Brinson is doing and stated this would be given very serious consideration during the upcoming budget process.

5. Rev. Shannon Boula, Blundale First Baptist Church Pastor, approached council with questions concerning the homeless in the community. Mayor Schwabe explained the city does not have a shelter or assistance for the homeless. The community on a volunteer basis along with the Emanuel Ministerial Association has taken the lead on this problem. Rev. Boula stated his

church was in the process of building a small residence where they could house a person for a night or two and assist them to get to a shelter. He asked council for some help with the security as he stated a lot of these people need a safe location to go. Mayor Schwabe stated the city would be interested in assisting the church.

6. Mrs. Darby Gates asked council to allow her to have food trucks around the square on the second Wednesday of each month. She stated this would bring citizens to the downtown area give them something to do. She stated she would be charging the vendors a fee to set up and the funds would be put into an account to be used for future festivals and celebrations. Council asked why this could not go through the DDA and Lynn stated that because there was a charge the DDA could not get involved. Council then decided to allow Mrs. Gates a six month trial period to see how this goes. Council also stated this was pending the approval of the county. Motion was made to extend the six month trial period pending the approval of the county.

Motion: Parker Seconded by Faulkner 5-0

7. Mr. John Terwilliger approached council with concerns about the handicap accessibility in the downtown area. He stated there needs to be a study done to make sure the ADA standards are being followed. He suggested the city could start with small steps and address the parking issue first. Mayor Schwabe stated that the city could do some public awareness to remind the public about parking in the handicap areas and how to properly use handicap permits. Chief Ellison stated the Police Department would be on the alert for violations. Councilperson Collins stated to be fair to the public we need to inform the people about the handicap rules.

C. Old Business

None

D. Department Head Request

Mayor Schwabe reported the Gumlog Gym project had started and was coming along good. The carpenter work and the plumbing work had begun.

Mayor Schwabe reported to the council that he was waiting on two items from Clearwater to get the new contract done.

Mayor Schwabe reported the Theater Committee had met with the architect and the project was back on track.

Adm. Lawson presented the bids opened at the last council meeting. He asked council to consider the sale of these properties. After consideration and a review of all bids, motion was made to accept the bids as follows:

1. Barbara Coleman \$1,000 for S22-067 Lincoln St
2. Darell Hall \$5,000 for S41-063 Mason Dr
3. Anthony Marion \$1,000 for 332 Lucky St.

All other bids were rejected.

Councilperson John Parker informed council there will be a meeting at the Vann Community Center on July 22, 2021 at 6:00 pm to provide information about the ARPA grant. Mr. Willie Burns former mayor of Washington, Georgia will be the guest speaker. The public is invited.

Council called a special meeting on July 26, 2021 at 5:00pm to discuss the 2022 budget.

Council call a special work session meeting on August 16, 2021 at 6:00pm to discuss the ARPA grant.

Submitted: Al L. Lawson, City Adm.