



CITY OF
Swainsboro GEORGIA
Crossroads of the Great South

City Council Meeting

October 25, 2021

The special called meeting of the Mayor and City Council, held Monday, October 25, 2021 at 6:00 P.M.

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

Members Absent:

Meeting called to order by Mayor Schwabe.

Prayer of Invocation: Reverend Mark Hardin

Minutes were considered from the September 7, 2021 council meeting and motion was made to accept the minutes. Councilperson Faulkner requested that the minutes be amended to reflect that Mr. George Rountree was the person representing the Shepard Law firm and to accept the amended minutes.

Motion by: Stafford Seconded by: Sconyers Voted on 5-0

New Business:

1. Council heard the request for an application for a name change on an alcoholic license (for advertisement only) from Clint Derek Crews dba Walgreens located at 390 South Main Street. Motion to advertise was made.

Motion by: Faulkner Seconded by Parker Passed 5-0

2. Mayor requested to postpone the Allgreen rate increase at Allgreen's request.

3. Mayor Schwabe requested the approval of Mr. Al L Lawson's contract and severance package and benefits.

Motion was made by Councilperson Faulkner to amend the meeting for an executive to discuss the personnel issue regarding Mr. Lawson.

Motion by: Faulkner Seconded by: Parker Roll call vote all in favor.

AFFIDAVIT

Personally appeared before the undersigned attesting officer, duly authorized to administer oaths, Charles Schwabe, who, after being duly sworn, deposes and on oath states the following:

I was the presiding officer of a meeting of the Swainsboro City Council held on the 25th day of October 2021. That it is my understanding that O.C.G.A §50-14-4(b) provides as follows:
When any meeting of an agency is closed to the public pursuant to subsection (a) of this Code section, the chairperson or other person presiding over such meeting shall execute and file with the official minutes of the meeting a notarized affidavit stating under oath that the subject matter of the meeting or the closed portion thereof was devoted to matters within the exceptions provided by law and identifying the specific relevant exception. The subject matter of the closed meeting or closed portion of the meeting held on the 25th day of October 2021, which was closed for the purpose of personnel discussion requested by Councilperson Rita Faulkner allowed by O.C.G.A., Title 50, Chapter 14, was devoted to matters within those exceptions and as provided by law.

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 25th day of October, 2021

Motion to re-enter Regular Session.

Motion by: Faulkner Seconded by: Parker Voted on 5-0

Motion made to accept the accelerated retirement of Mr. Al L. Lawson with no severance package given. To be compensated the 462 hours of sick pay and the 55.25 hours of vacation pay for Mr. Lawson.

Motion by: Parker Seconded by: Faulkner Voted on 3-2
Sconyers & Stafford against

Mayor Schwabe asked Mr. Rountree to address the previous vote. Mr. Rountree presented the Georgia Supreme court ruling on the City of Thunderbolt regarding an situation with an identical to the setup to the City of Swainsboro. Mr. Rountree stated that the supreme court ruled that three votes were not sufficient to pass and required a four votes in the affirmative. Councilperson Parker stated that per the city charter it states that it does not state six seats but the majority of the members present. There is five members on this council and the majority is three. Councilperson Parker stated that since there is no letter of representation from the Shepard Law firm stating Mr. Rountree that he accepts the information given but according to the city's charter a quorum is made up based on the majority present. Mayor Schwabe stated that he believes this vote is not binding but we need to proceed to the next item on the agenda.

4. Discussion of hiring an Interim City Administrator was brought up by Mayor Schwabe. Councilperson Faulkner made a motion to hire Melissa Kirby as the Interim City Administrator for at least sixty days.

Motion by: Faulkner Seconded by: Parker

Voted on 5-0

5. Police Chief Ellison requested to ratify before council the hiring of Tachondria Braswell who was hired October 20, 2021. Councilperson Parker requested that we buy her contract out with the City of Twin City and have her sign a contract with the City of Swainsboro.

Motion by: Faulkner Seconded by: Parker

Voted on 5-0

6. Mayor Schwabe requested the approval of the 2022 City of Swainsboro budget.

Motion by: Stafford Seconded by: Sconyers

Voted on 5-0

Mayor Schwabe requested that the millage rate be lowered to a 14.405. Council approved new rate to be advertised.


Motion by: Sconyers Seconded by: Stafford

Voted on 5-0

Mayor Schwabe requested that council consider delaying the November meeting. Councilperson Parker stated that according to the city charter meetings are to be held the 1st Monday of the month at 6pm. Motion was made to hold the meeting as the charter states and to adjourn.

Motion by: Parker Seconded by: Faulkner

Voted on 5-0

Submitted:  Kirby, Interim City Administrator.