



CITY OF  
**Swainsboro**  
*Crossroads of the Great South*

GEORGIA



## City Council Workshop

The workshop meeting of Mayor and City Council was held **Tuesday, October 18, 2022** at 6:00 P.M. City Hall.

**Members Present:** Sconyers, Stafford, Parker, Collins, Davis, & Quarterman

**Prayer of Invocation:** Councilperson Sconyers

### **Workshop:**

1. Ken Warnock with the airport committee presented a presentation on the benefits of de-annexation of the hangar area at the airport. Mr. Warnock requested that the city de-annex the portion of the acreage where the hangars are in the city limits. Mr. Warnock presented to council the surveyed plat of the airport acreage containing the hangars. He stated that of the 56 acres surveyed, only about 22 to 23 acres are in the city and they are requesting those acres to be de-annexed. Mr. Warnock stated that the county has agreed that if the city de-annexes this property the county will deposit these funds into a separate account designated for the airport. Councilperson Sconyers asked what would happen to the excess funds received above the operating expenses of the airport. Jerry Cadle stated that his son lives in Macon and could locate his airplane in Macon cheaper than he could in Swainsboro. Mr. Cadle stated that all of the airport expenses would be paid out of the account designated for the airport and theoretically if they got additional aircraft this would increase the tax revenue and other income to support the revenue. Mr. Cadle stated that the only time the city would have any airport expenses would be if there was not enough revenue to fund the airport 100% then the city would be responsible for 50% of the expenses. Mr. Warnock stated that if we proceeded with this agreement the city and county would still be responsible for 50/50 of the revenues and expenses just like they are currently doing. Mr. Warnock stated step two of this proposal is to make a recommendation of the commission to create an airport authority to give you an extra layer of oversight. Mr. Warnock stated that the tax revenue would go into an airport authority account and the airport authority has the authority to pay the bills and the excess funds would go into a capital sinking fund account to fund capital improvement projects. Councilperson Davis questioned if this would affect the federal and state grants. Mr. Warnock stated no. Mr. Warnock also stated that the airport commission discussed that the airport authority would create a budget in June or July before the city and county started creating their budgets. Mr. Warnock stated that if the airport authority knew they would need local matching monies they would request that from the city and county to approve the monies if they desired to fund the project. Mr. Warnock stated that at the last airport commission Airstar Charter agreed to fund the fuel at the airport and not the city. Mr. Warnock stated that if Airstar Charter does this then the cost of the fuel would come out of the city's budget. City attorney, Levis, asked Mr. Cadle if the city got rid of the city taxes how competitive is the county taxes with other airports? Is it equal to or within 1%? Mr. Cadle stated that it is competitive and within 1%. Councilperson Parker questioned who would be on the authority. Mr. Warnock stated if the city de-annex and the authority is created, we would still have three city representatives and three county representatives. Mr. Warnock stated that two of those would be mayor and council and/or a combination of mayor, council and/or city administrator and then two county people. Mr. Warnock stated that if an authority is created, they plan to meet quarterly unless the need arises to meet more often. Mr. Warnock presented to mayor and council a memorandum of understanding for the city and county to consider regarding the airport.
2. Council discussed the FY 2023 budget. Mayor Bennett recommended to council to increase the overall utility bills by 6%. Councilperson Parker questioned the roll back from last year and the roll back from this year. Mayor Bennett stated that the W&S fund

should be self-funding. Councilperson Parker asked if he was proposing an increase on the garbage? Mayor Bennett stated that he is proposing a six percent increase on everything. The clerk advised the mayor and council that there are no capital improvements in this budget. The clerk also advised that the items listed on the capital improvement list would need to be funded out of SPLOST or ARPA funds. Councilperson Sconyers stated that the change in late fees caused a loss of revenue. City attorney, Jon Levis, recommended getting with the county regarding an option for taxpayers to take a tax credit off their state taxes by donating into a fund for Law Enforcement Services.

3. Mayor Bennett informed council about the emergency repairs that had to be made to city hall to prevent harm to employees and visitors.

Mayor Bennett adjourned the workshop.

Submitted: ***Melissa Kirby***, City Administrator