

August 19, 2019

Approved 9-16-19 

MINUTES

The regular scheduled meeting of the Pooler City Council was held on August 19, 2019. Mayor Mike Lamb called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Present were Councilman Bruce Allen, Councilwoman Rebecca Benton, Councilman Larry Olliff, Councilman Mike Royal and Councilman Stevie Wall. City Manager Robbie Byrd, Finance Officer Chris Lightle and City Attorney Steve Scheer were also present.

The invocation was given by Councilman Allen and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Lamb.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as printed upon a motion by Councilwoman Benton, seconded by Councilman Royal, with no opposition.

The minutes of the August 5th Executive Session were approved upon a motion by Councilman Wall, seconded by Councilman Olliff, with no opposition.

Report from the Standing Committees:

FINANCE

Councilman Wall presented bills in excess of \$1500.00 and made a motion to pay, subject to funds. Motion was seconded by Councilman Royal and passed without opposition.

Councilman Wall made a motion to add Item #2 under Old Business to the agenda. Motion was seconded by Councilman Olliff and passed without opposition.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Councilman Royal reported that the fire department responded to 209 calls since the last meeting, totaling 2630 for the year and that the police department responded to 1252 calls, totaling 18,471 for the year. Police Chief Ashley Brown introduced new police officers Amanda Kelley, Carlos Campos and James Redd.

STREET/DRAINAGE

Councilwoman Benton reported that the street department picked up trash, repaired sidewalks on Rogers Street, performed road and pot hole repairs in multiple areas, delivered trash and recycle carts, installed and replaced various signs and swept 36 miles of streets. Further, that the drainage department performed routine maintenance in multiple outfall areas, cut and cleared a total of 5,344' of ditches, removed debris from Worthington Canal, graded ditches on Big Bend Road and Plantation Drive and Savannah River Utilities began work on the Old Town Drainage Project, Phase B.

WATER/SEWER

Councilman Olliff reported that the water department inspected 13 new construction meters, repaired a leak on the lateral at 613 W. Tietgen Street, assisted with lowering the existing water main at the new Aldi site, repaired three (3) leaking laterals, repaired 16 residential meters and MXUs, notified 32 residents of continuous water usage in an effort to reduce bill adjustments and water loss, witnessed the testing and certification of 22 backflow preventers and performed 340 line locates requested by the Utility Protection Center. Further, that EOM responded to one (1) grinder pump call, two (2) sewer leak repairs and performed routine maintenance on several lift stations and at the wastewater treatment plant.

RECREATION

Leisure Services Director Hugh Elton reported that all fall youth sports are ongoing and that the senior citizens activities continue for the month.

BUILDING/ZONING

Councilman Allen reported that four (4) single family residential and three (3) commercial permits were issued since the last meeting, with 268 inspections performed.

Mr. Byrd introduced the new City Planner, Phillip Claxton.

Under OLD BUSINESS the following was discussed:

1. Transfer and Assignment of Lighting Services Agreement with Mosaic Town Center Property Owners Association, Inc.

Mr. Byrd stated that the developer has requested the item be withdrawn. This request was honored.

2. City Attorney to address Board of Elections

Mr. Scheer presented information regarding a recent article published in the *Savannah Morning News*, stating that the opinion was false, that it had to be addressed and that he asked for the proposal for two (2) new polling precincts to be tabled in June for reasons involving a consent order with the Department of Justice. Further, that after finding that the Chatham County Board of Elections had not been following proper procedures since the 2010 Census figures were certified, the County adopted a resolution on August 9th to fix the issue. Mr. Scheer added that while the proposed precincts would reduce the number of voters in two (2) of the current precincts, it would add 47 to the precinct located at City Hall, which is discriminatory to the City and its electors. Further, that out of 90 precincts in the County, 40 have less than 2000 registered voters, with the proposed precincts in Pooler having over 3000.

Under NEW BUSINESS the following was discussed:

1. Revision to Savannah Quarters, Phase 5 Final PUD Development Standards

The developer is requesting to revise the previously approved Phase 5 Final PUD Development Standards to change the side yard setbacks for the 27 SF-3 lots from 10' to five feet (5'). Councilman Royal made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Benton, to approve the development standards. Motion passed without opposition.

2. Recombination plat for 1105 S. Rogers Street

Donny Tuten submitted a plat to combine approximately 11 acres with the existing mobile home park parcel. Councilman Wall made a motion to approve the plat. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Benton and passed without opposition.

3. Site plan for Garden Acres Mobile Home Park Expansion

The intent is to expand the existing mobile home park by adding 18 additional lots on approximately 1.9 acres. Councilman Olliff made a motion to approve the plan, contingent upon a paving detail being added to the plan using City standards and the landscape plan being approved by Planning & Zoning. Motion was seconded by Councilman Wall and passed without opposition.

4. Acceptance of maintenance bond/approval of final plat for Whitaker Park, Phase 2

Southwest Quarter Holdings submitted a final plat for Phase 2, consisting of 29 lots. Mr. Byrd stated that a final inspection was performed on August 9th and all of the punch list items have been addressed. Councilman Olliff made a motion to accept the maintenance bond in the amount of \$203,278.60 and approve the final plat, contingent upon the city attorney approving the bond. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Benton and passed without opposition.

5. Release of performance bond/acceptance of maintenance bond for Easthaven Boulevard Extension and lift station

A final inspection was performed on August 9th and all of the improvements and punch list items have been addressed. Councilman Wall made a motion to release the performance bond and accept the maintenance bond in the amount of \$478,529.85, contingent upon the city attorney approving the bond. Motion was seconded by Councilman Royal and passed without opposition.

6. Construction and Conveyance Agreement with Enmark Stations, Inc.

Mr. Byrd presented an agreement to quitclaim deed and release City property to Enmark to grant an easement to the City for drainage through the Enmark property and to construct drainage improvements within the easement area. Councilwoman Benton made a motion, seconded by Councilman Allen, to approve the agreement, contingent upon Enmark's attorney and the city attorney's approval. Motion passed without opposition.

7. Special event permit/waive fee for Narcotics Anonymous Convention on October 25th - 27th at Cottonwood Suites

Serenity in the South 4 is sponsoring a three (3) day, non-profit event at the Cottonwood Suites. Councilman Royal made a motion to approve the permit and waive the fee. Motion was seconded by Councilman Wall and passed without opposition.

8. Alcoholic beverage license for Todd Heckman at Rite Aid

Todd Heckman submitted an application to sell beer and wine at Rite Aid. Mr. Byrd stated that Police Chief Ashley Brown has performed the background investigation and recommends approval. Councilman Wall made a motion to approve the license. Motion was seconded by Councilman Olliff and passed with Councilman Allen in opposition.

9. Alcoholic beverage license for Khay Kham Dillon at Papaya Thai Cuisine/Sushi Bar

Khay Kham Dillon submitted an application to serve alcoholic beverages at the new Papaya Thai Cuisine and Sushi Bar. Mr. Byrd stated that Police Chief Ashley Brown has performed the background investigation and recommends approval. Councilman Royal made a motion to approve the license, including Sunday sales. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Benton and passed with Councilman Allen in opposition.

10. Special event permit for Summer Party at Premier Bowl & Bistro on August 31st

Mr. Byrd presented an application for a special event to be held at Premier Bowl & Bistro on August 31st. Police Chief Ashley Brown recommended denial, based on past history at the bowling alley and the request being contrary to the special event and live entertainment ordinances. Councilman Wall made a motion to deny the permit, based on Chief Brown's recommendation. Motion was seconded by Councilman Royal and passed without opposition.

11. Special event permit for Labor Day Party at Premier Bowl & Bistro on September 6th

Mr. Byrd presented an application for a special event to be held at Premier Bowl & Bistro on September 6th. Police Chief Ashley Brown recommended denial, based on past history at the bowling alley and the request being contrary to the special event and live entertainment ordinances. Councilwoman Benton made a motion to deny the permit, based on Chief Brown's recommendation. Motion was seconded by Councilman Allen and passed without opposition.

Councilman Olliff made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session at approximately 6:32 p.m. to discuss personnel, legal and real estate matters. Motion was seconded by Councilman Royal and passed without opposition.

Mayor Lamb called the meeting back to order at 6:41 p.m.

A resident of The Hunt Club Subdivision questioned what is being done to alleviate the long line at the polls, stating that she stood in line for nearly four (4) hours during the 2018 General Election and that everyone was not able to take that much time out of their day to vote. Mr. Scheer replied that the Board of Elections was not aware that the law states that if all electors had not completed voting one (1) hour following the closing of the poll, the superintendent shall either reduce the size of the precinct so that it shall contain not more than 2000 electors no later than 60 days before the next general election or provide additional voting equipment or poll workers or both before the next general election. Further, that all five (5) precincts in Pooler, including those proposed, would still have over 3000 electors, questioning why, since many in the County have less than 2000. Margaret & Rick Ellison, poll workers, stated that there were many issues at the 2018 election, including the lack of sample ballots and machines. Mr. Ellison asked that at least one (1) polling precinct be open for the November election. Carry Smith presented statistics on the 2018 election, also asking for an additional polling precinct in 2019. Beverly Waters, resident and former poll worker, stated that since she has quit working, she has experienced long lines at her precinct. Antwan Lang, member, Board of Elections of Chatham County, addressed Council, asking if they would support the Board in adding two (2) new precincts, with one (1) before the November election. Councilwoman Benton deferred the question to the city attorney. Aaron Higgins, resident, stated that the problem is not too late to fix and that "baby" steps can be taken, asking that the City support the Board of Elections. Shirley Wright presented statistics since 2015, stating that the County experienced an increased in all types of electors, adding that a better voting experience should be available to everyone. Further, that it is in the best interest for the electors in Pooler to open at least one (1) additional polling place. Herbert Singleton, resident, questioned what could be done to move forward and if the City would encourage early voting. Mayor Lamb replied that the polling precinct at City Hall has been approved as an additional early voting location.

There being no further business to discuss, Councilman Wall made a motion to adjourn at approximately 7:23p.m. Motion was seconded by Councilman Royal and passed without opposition.

Respectfully submitted,



Maribeth Lindler
City Clerk



Mayor