

September 16, 2019

Approved 10-7-19 

MINUTES

The regular scheduled meeting of the Pooler City Council was held on September 16, 2019. Mayor Mike Lamb called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Present were Councilman Bruce Allen, Councilwoman Rebecca Benton, Councilwoman Shannon Black, Councilman Larry Olliff, Councilman Mike Royal and Councilman Stevie Wall. Assistant City Manager Matt Saxon, 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 Councilwoman Black.

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

The minutes of the August 19th 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 Councilwoman Benton and passed without opposition.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Councilman Royal reported that the fire department responded to 169 calls from September 1st through 15th, totaling 2957 for the year and that the police department responded to 1116 calls, totaling 20,792 for the year.

STREET/DRAINAGE

Councilwoman Benton reported that the street department picked up trash, repaired sidewalks on Rogers Street, continued sidewalk repairs on Rogers Street, graded the dirt road and placed stone at the entrance of Quacco Road at the City limits, removed bushes on Gleason Court and cut limbs in the school zone on Pine Barren Road. Further, that the drainage department performed routine maintenance in the perimeter canals within Garden Acres Subdivision and Hardin Canal on S. Rogers Street, cut and cleared a total of 21,120' of ditches and that Savannah River Utilities continues working on the Old Town Drainage Project, Phase B.

WATER/SEWER

Councilman Olliff reported that the water department inspected 20 new construction meters, repaired a leak on Wyndham Way, assisted with emergency preparations for Hurricane Dorian, exposed a leak for repair on Pampas Drive, repaired 21 residential meters and MXUs, notified 26 residents of continuous water usage in an effort to reduce bill adjustments and water loss, witnessed the testing and certification of eight (8) backflow preventers and performed 294 line locates requested by the Utility Protection Center. Further, that EOM responded to two (2) grinder pump calls, 14 sewer leak repairs and performed routine maintenance on several lift stations and at the wastewater treatment plant.

RECREATION

Councilwoman Black reported that all fall youth sports are ongoing and that the senior citizens will be celebrating the September birthdays on the 27th..

BUILDING/ZONING

Councilman Allen reported that 10 single family residential and seven (7) commercial permits were issued since the last meeting, with 341 inspections performed.

There was no OLD BUSINESS to discuss.

Under NEW BUSINESS the following was discussed:

1. Zoning map amendment of Parcel 2 on Pine Meadow Drive from R-A to I-1

A public hearing was held prior wherein no opposition was presented. The Estate of Fred Wessels, Jr. has petitioned to rezone approximately 8.76 acres, known as Parcel 2, on Pine Meadow Drive from R-A (Residential-Agricultural) to I-1 (Light Industrial) to allow a truck yard. After review of the criteria, Councilman Olliff made a motion to approve the amendment. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Benton and passed without opposition.

2. Minor subdivision plat for 105 and 115 Canal Bank Road

The purpose of the plat is to subdivide 105 and 115 Canal Bank Road into three (3) lots. Councilman Wall made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Benton, to approve the plat. Motion passed without opposition.

3. Site plan for Wendy's Restaurant at 1561 Pooler Parkway

Mr. Saxon presented a site plan for a new Wendy's Restaurant at 1561 Pooler Parkway. Councilman Wall made a motion to approve the plan, contingent upon NRCS approval. Motion was seconded by Councilman Allen and passed without opposition.

4. Release of maintenance bond for Harmony, Phase 3A

A final inspection was performed on July 3rd. Councilman Royal made a motion to release the maintenance bond. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Benton and passed without opposition.

5. Preliminary construction plan for Easthaven Area C, Phase 1 (Ellis Park)

Phase 1 is the third residential development of the Savannah Quarters, Phase 17 Planned Unit Development, located at the end of Easthaven Boulevard, consisting of 55 single family residential lots. Councilwoman Benton made a motion, seconded by Councilman Olliff, to approve the plan, contingent upon NRCS and EPD approval. Motion passed without opposition.

6. Award bid for Towne Lake & Benton Lift Station Upgrade & Sewer Infrastructure

Mr. Saxon presented bids for the Towne Lake & Benton Lift Station Upgrade & Sewer Infrastructure. Councilman Wall made a motion to award the bid to the low bidder, Jordan Construction of Hilton Head, Inc. in the amount of \$3,246,452.90. Motion was seconded by Councilman Olliff and passed without opposition.

7. Award bid for Miscellaneous Water Line Project

Mr. Scheer asked that the item be tabled. Councilman Wall made a motion, seconded by Councilman Allen, to table. Motion passed without opposition.

8. Award bid for FY2019 Paving Projects

Mr. Saxon presented bids for roads to be overlaid. Councilwoman Benton made a motion to award the bid to the low bidder, McLendon Enterprises, Inc. in the amount of \$318,514.45. Motion was seconded by Councilman Allen and passed without opposition.

9. Award bid for demolition of house at 309 W. Collins Street

Mr. Saxon presented bids for the demolition of the house recently purchased by the City. Councilman Wall made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Black, to award the bid to the low bidder, AgriCoast, LLC, in the amount of \$92,350.00. Motion passed without opposition. Beverly Waters, resident, questioned the bid process. Mr. Saxon explained the process.

10. Special event permit for campaign fundraiser/concert on October 5th at Cottonwood Suites

Tom Hutcherson submitted an application for a special event on October 5th at Cottonwood Suites. Councilwoman Black made a motion to approve the permit. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Benton and passed without opposition.

11. Temporary/special event alcohol license for John M. Haden at Cottonwood Suites on October 5th

John M. Haden submitted an application to serve alcoholic beverages at a private event on October 5th at Cottonwood Suites. Mr. Saxon stated that Police Chief Ashley Brown has performed a background investigation and recommends approval. Councilman Royal made a motion, seconded by Councilman Wall, to approve the license. Motion passed with Councilman Allen in opposition.

12. Alcoholic beverage license for Teejal Patel at Pooler Liquors

Teejal Patel submitted an application to sell alcohol at the new Pooler Liquors package store at 110 Towne Center Drive, Suite 200. Mr. Saxon stated that Police Chief Ashley Brown has performed a background investigation and recommends approval. Councilman Royal made a motion to approve the license. Motion was seconded by Councilman Olliff and passed with Councilman Allen in opposition.

13. Memorandum of Understanding with Chatham County Board of Commissioner to support 2020 Census Complete County Committee efforts

Mr. Saxon presented a Memorandum of Understanding to support the 2020 Census Complete County Committee's efforts to motivate the residents to participate in the 2020 Census, paying particular attention to hard to reach populations, with the cost being \$6,148.69. Councilman Wall made a motion to approve the memorandum. Motion was seconded by Councilman Royal and passed without opposition.

14. GEFA loan application for Pine Barren Road water line extension

Mr. Lightle presented a GEFA loan application for the Pine Barren Road water line extension project. Councilman Wall made a motion, seconded by Councilman Olliff, to approve the application. Motion passed without opposition.

15. GEFA loan application for Towne Lake & Benton Lift Station Upgrade & Sewer Infrastructure

Mr. Lightle presented a GEFA loan application for the Towne Lake & Benton Lift Station Upgrade & Sewer Infrastructure project. Councilman Olliff made a motion to approve the application. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Black and passed without opposition.

16. First Reading on ordinance regarding amended and restated retirement plan for employees

Mr. Saxon presented an ordinance for the amended and restated retirement plan for employees. Councilman Wall made a motion to approve the ordinance on First Reading. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Benton and passed without opposition.

Larry Williams and William Baker, residents on South Rogers Street, presented concern that their neighbor may have recently constructed a dog kennel, noting that they have seen approximately 20 dogs on the property at one time. Mr. Saxon stated that Code Enforcement will look into their complaint.

Karen Williams, resident, introduced the Jordan Family, whose daughters, Alexis and Alyssa, wrote a letter to Council, asking them to stop cutting trees down.

Artis Wood of Scenic Chatham presented information on a program to beautify public spaces, stating that she would like to have a representative from all municipalities in Chatham County on the organization's board.

David Myrick, resident, presented concern over truck traffic on Old Louisville Road causing a public safety issue, especially since the road is now part of a bicycle route. Mr. Saxon stated that the City has looked into widening the road and will continue.

Beverly Waters, resident, expressed concern about the amount of "logistics" businesses throughout the City, stating that she hasn't noticed any plan to provide for greenspace.

Councilman Allen made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session at approximately 6:58 p.m. to discuss personnel, legal and real estate matters. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Benton and passed without opposition.

Mayor Lamb called the meeting back to order at 7:20 p.m.

There being no further business to discuss, Councilwoman Benton made a motion to adjourn at approximately 7:20 p.m. Motion was seconded by Councilman Allen and passed without opposition.

Respectfully submitted,



Maribeth Lindler
City Clerk



Mayor

June 17th, 2019

To: Mike Lamb, Mayor, City of Pooler
All City Council Members

From: Village Green Townhome Neighborhood Association

Submitted to the minutes of the City of Pooler council meeting with email attachments dated June 14, June 15, and June 16.

The owners of Village Green Townhomes asked you to reconsider the removal of the beautiful live oak trees in our community, and you listened. Thank you from all 60 owners for seeking a solution to save our trees.

To summarize the solution, the Savannah Quarters Commercial Association has agreed to install root barriers, at their expense, labor and materials included, at the locations where sidewalk damage has occurred. This includes sidewalk locations that the City of Pooler has already repaired as well as sidewalk locations that have been identified for repair.

The owners of Village Green Townhomes will not be responsible for payment of the installation of the root barriers. Also, the owners of Village Green Townhomes will not be responsible for the repair cost of the sidewalks, since we already pay taxes to cover this cost.

Again, thank you for saving the live oak trees. You have made many people happy, not just the owners at Village Green Townhomes, but all the people in the surrounding communities that take daily walks through our community, walk their dogs in our community, drive their golf carts through our community, and visit in our community.

Respectfully,
Randy Dees
President, Board of Directors
The Village Green Townhome Neighborhood Association

Mike Lamb

Jun 16, 2019, 11:10 AM (1 day ago)

Hi Randy,

I have been trying to find out how this controversy was started before I respond to anyone about the trees.

No matter how this was started, my Council and I would never have those Trees removed.

An alternate method for protecting the trees and the sidewalk is our goal. This Council has made it clear that no trees should be removed!

Mike Lamb

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 15, 2019, at 7:19 AM, Randy Dees <brucerdees@gmail.com> wrote:

Mayor Lamb,

As you know, the owners of Village Green Townhomes are upset about the removal of the Live Oak trees in our community. Yesterday, Councilman Wall responded to one of the residents stating the issue has been resolved and the trees will not be removed (see emails below). Please confirm this and provide details of the resolution so I may inform all the residents. I know they are eager to learn the facts on this. Thanks in advance for your prompt response.

Respectfully,

Randy Dees

President, Board of Directors

Village Green Townhome Neighborhood Association

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Todd Smiley** <w.todd.smiley@hotmail.com>

Date: Fri, Jun 14, 2019 at 6:43 PM

Subject: Fwd: Village Green in Savannah Quarters - proposed Oak Tree Removals

To: brucerdees@gmail.com <brucerdees@gmail.com>

See response below....

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Todd Smiley <w.todd.smiley@hotmail.com>

Date: June 14, 2019 at 3:42:23 PM MST

To: Stevie Wall <SWall@pooler-ga.gov>

Subject: Re: Village Green in Savannah Quarters - proposed Oak Tree Removals

Thank you for the feedback Stevie! I/we really appreciate the change of direction.

Thanks again!

Todd
912-401-1289

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 14, 2019, at 3:08 PM, Stevie Wall <SWall@pooler-ga.gov> wrote:

This issue has been resolved. The trees will not be removed.

Public Hearing

A public hearing was held prior to the regular City Council meeting on September 16, 2019. Mayor Mike Lamb called the hearing to order at 5:45 p.m. Present were Councilman Bruce Allen, Councilwoman Rebecca Benton, Councilwoman Shannon Black, Councilman Larry Olliff, Councilman Mike Royal and Councilman Stevie Wall. Assistant City Manager Matt Saxon was also present.

The purpose of the hearing was to discuss a requested zoning map amendment of Parcel 2 on Pine Meadow Drive from R-A (Residential-Agricultural) to I-1 (Light Industrial). The Estate of Fred Wessels, Jr. has petitioned to rezone approximately 8.76 acres known as Parcel 2 on Pine Meadow Drive to allow a truck yard.

There being no further discussion, the hearing was adjourned at approximately 5:47 p.m.

Public Hearing

A public hearing was held prior to the regular City Council meeting on September 16, 2019. Mayor Mike Lamb called the hearing to order at 5:50 p.m. Present were Councilman Bruce Allen, Councilwoman Rebecca Benton, Councilwoman Shannon Black, Councilman Larry Olliff, Councilman Mike Royal and Councilman Stevie Wall. Assistant City Manager Matt Saxon was also present.

The purpose of the hearing was to discuss a requested conditional use to allow construction of a convenience store with fuel pumps at 1204 W. Highway 80. Mr. Saxon stated that the petitioner has withdrawn the request.

There being no further discussion, the hearing was adjourned at approximately 5:51 p.m.