

June 1, 2020

Approved 6/15/2020

MINUTES

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Pooler City Council was held on June 1, 2020. Mayor Rebecca Benton called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Present were Council Members Shannon Black, Aaron Higgins, Tom Hutcherson, Stevie Wall, John Michael Wilcher and Karen Williams. Assistant City Manager Matt Saxon, Finance Officer Chris Lightle and City Attorney Steve Scheer were also present.

The invocation was given by Mayor Benton and Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Black.

The candidates running for the vacant position as Judge of Superior Court Eastern Judicial Circuit were invited to speak during the city council meeting. Tracy O'Connell was present and spoke before city council and the public in attendance. The other candidate, Lisa Goldwire Colbert, was also invited but was not present.

Mayor Benton announced that early voting for Presidential Preference Primary/General Primary/Nonpartisan General election will take place from June 1 to June 5, 2020, at two (2) locations. Those locations are the Chatham County Voters Registration main office located at 117 Eisenhower Dr. Suite E, Savannah, GA 31416 from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm and the Pooler Municipal Court Building located at 100 SW Highway 80 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

June 9, 2020, voting locations are the Pooler City Municipal Court Building, Rothwell Baptist Church, while voters who normally vote at Pooler Church and Legacy at Savannah Quarters will now vote at the Pooler Recreation Center Gymnasium at 900 S. Rogers Street, Pooler, GA and voters who normally vote at the Oaks at Pooler will now vote at Royal Cinemas and IMAX at 5 Towne Center Court, Pooler, GA. City attorney Steve Scheer stressed that the Mayor and City Council Members do not determine polling locations, that's handled by the Board of Elections.

Council Member Wall made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting for May 18, 2020. Motion was seconded by Council Member Higgins, passed without opposition.

Council Member Wall made a motion to add the executive section minutes for March 16, 2020 and May 18, 2020, to the agenda. Motion was seconded by Council Member Williams and passed without opposition.

Council Wall made a motion to approve the executive section minutes from March 16, 2020 and May 18, 2020. Motion was seconded by Council Member Higgins and passed without opposition.

Report from the Departments:

PUBLIC WORKS

Matt Saxon reported that the Street Department/storm water are continuing routine maintenance. Public Works Administration reviewed two (2) new site plans and conducted one (1) pre-construction meeting. Water Department inspected 12 new construction meters, Waste Water Treatment Plant and Sewer Department continue routine maintenance. EOM is continuing routine maintenance.

FINANCE

Chris Lightle reported the auditors continue to do their external audit, remotely, due to COVID-19. Mr. Lightle reported that general fund is down about 9% through May 31, 2020. Lost revenue for the month of April was down about 27%, hotel/motel tax through May is down about 35%. During the month of April hotel/motel tax was down 71%. County SPLOST collections have exceeded more than 400 million dollars, starting in May, the City of Pooler will be participating at higher rate than before based on population of the City of Pooler.

FIRE

Chief Simmons reported 317 calls for the month of May, 2020, down 15% in call volume. Structure fires are still on the increase, 20% higher than the same period from last year. Overall calls are down for the year.

POLICE

Chief Brown reported that in the last 14 days, 32 Part 1 crimes were reported compared to 23 from the previous two (2) weeks, that's an 18% reduction of Part 1 crimes for the year. Shoplifting is also down 20%.

RECREATION

Hugh Elton reported that the parks' green spaces are open to the public, while all parks' amenities and buildings are still closed and activities are suspended. The parks' crews are performing routine maintenance. The Senior Center Director is delivering goodie bags to all members of the Senior Center within the next two weeks and have delivered over 300 meals in the past weeks. On June 8, 2020, the outdoor facilities will be open, following recommendations and guidelines from the CDC, Georgia Department of Health, NRPA and GRPA. Those facilities include athletic fields, batting cages, playgrounds, picnic pavilions and outdoor restrooms.

BUILDING AND ZONING

Phillip Claxon reported for the month of May, 2020, that there were 15 residential permits, four (4) single family attached permits, six (6) commercial permits and 328 inspections were performed for the month.

Under **NEW BUSINESS** the following discussed:

A. Proposal-Pipemaker's Canal Widening

Mr. Saxon presented the item to council. Mr. Terry Coleman and Travis Burk, project manager and engineer, presented the proposal and improvements to council. After some discussion, Council Member Wall made a motion to approve the Proposal-Pipemaker's Canal Widening in the amount of \$160,410.00. Seconded by Council Member Williams and passed without opposition.

B. Special Event Permit-Sale of Safe and Sane TNT Fireworks form a Tent at the Pooler Wal-Mart Parking Lot.

Mr. Saxon presented the special event permit and requested council approve the permit. After some discussion, Council Member Wall made a motion to approve the special event permit, following all the requirements of the City of Pooler. Motion was seconded by Council Member Higgins and passed without opposition.

C. Change Order for Kelly Street Drainage Improvements, Phase 2

Mr. Saxon presented the additional improvements because it was left out of the original plans to council. After some discussion, Council Member Higgins made a motion to approve the Change Order for Kelly Street Drainage Improvements, Phase 2. Motion was seconded by Council Member Wilcher and passed without opposition.

D. Site Plan for Retail Center and Starbucks on Outparcel #2, @ 2011 Pooler Parkway

Mr. Saxon presented site plan to council for approval. Nathan Long with Thomas and Hutton, representing Stafford Properties, Inc., discussed engineer comments and updating the landscape plan. After some discussion, Council Member Williams made a motion to approve the Site Plan for Retail Center and Starbucks on Outparcel #2. Motion was seconded by Council Member Hutcherson and passed without opposition.

E. First Reading of An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 26, Article VII, Section 26-205 of the Municipal Code of the City of Pooler; To Repeal Conflicting Ordinances; To Set an Effective Date and Other Purposes

Mr. Saxon presented the amendment of the city ordinance to Council. Council Member Wall made a motion approve the First Reading of the Amended Ordinance. Motion was seconded by Council Member Higgins and passed without opposition.

Council Member Higgins made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session at approximately 6:40 p.m. to discuss, legal and/or real estate matters. Motion was seconded by Member Wilcher and passed without opposition.

Mayor Benton called the meeting back to order at 7:23 p.m.

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



Rebecca Benton, Mayor

The foregoing minutes are true and correct and approved by me on this 15th day of June, 2020.

Attest:



Mahendra Mahabir, Clerk of Council