

July 20, 2020

Approved 8/3/2020

MINUTES

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Pooler City Council was held on July 20, 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, and Karen Williams. City Manager Robbie Byrd, Finance Officer Chris Lightle and City Attorney Steve Scheer were also present. Council Member John Michael Wilcher was not present to protect the wellness of the public.

The invocation was given by Pastor Tom Dent of Trinity United Methodist Church in Pooler and Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Hutcherson.

Council Member Higgins made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting for July 6, 2020. Motion was seconded by Council Member Hutcherson and passed without opposition.

Council Member Higgins made a motion to approve the executive session minutes for June 15, 2020. Motion was seconded by Council Member Hutcherson and passed without opposition.

Council Member Williams made a motion to approve the executive session minutes for July 6, 2020. Motion was seconded by Higgins and passed without opposition.

Report from the Departments:

PUBLIC WORKS

Matt Saxon reported that the Street Department is continuing routine maintenance. Georgia Safe Sidewalk is doing a sidewalk audit of the city's trap hazards. The Water Department added 12 new construction meters and performed 326 lines locates. Storm Water is continuing maintenance along the Southwest area of the city. Waste Water Treatment Plant installed a new blower assembly and Sewer Department are continuing routine maintenance. EOM had three (3) grinder pumps calls, completed quarterly inspections at 12 lift stations.

FINANCE

Chris Lightle reported that the audit is finished and the auditors found no findings, no comments, and no post adjustments. Comparative financial statements for the last six (6) months were sent out to council.

FIRE

Chief Simmons reported 282 responses for the period of July 1st to July 20th, up 15% in call volume compared to last month. Year to date, 2,210 responses compared to

2,249 from 2019, down about 2%. July has been extremely busy with fire, wrecks, and medical calls, with some days, averaging 24 to 25 service calls per day.

POLICE

Lt. Wilson reported 27 Part 1 crime from July 1st to July 15th, a total of 347 Part 1 crime for year, which is a 24% reduction for the year compared to 2019. There was a total of 12 shopliftings that occurred during the period, bringing the yearly total to 136, down 2.9% compared to 2019. Calls for services were 1091 during the period, totaling 13,941 for the year, down 7.8% compared to 2019.

RECREATION

Council Member Black reported that the parks' green spaces and facilities are open, while the Senior Center remains closed. The staff at the Senior Center continues to assist seniors as needed. Registration for fall programming is open, but limited. The Parks Department has been performing routine maintenance at all five (5) parks, at both community and senior centers, as well as the cemetery.

BUILDING AND ZONING

Phillip Claxton reported from July 1st to July 20th, there were 23 new single-family residences, and two (2) commercial permits, one (1) final major subdivision plat, three (3) site plans and one (1) zoning map amendment submitted.

Under **OLD BUSINESS** the following was discussed:

A. Second Reading of An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 46, Article I Fire Prevention and Protection, Section 46-7 of the Municipal Code of the City of Pooler; To Repeal Conflicting Ordinances; To Set an Effective Date and Other Purposes

Mr. Byrd presented the unchanged second reading of the ordinance regarding emergency access requirements for gated communities to council. Council Member Williams made a motion to approve the Second Reading of An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 46, Article I Fire Prevention and Protection, Section 46-7 of the Municipal Code of the City of Pooler; To Repeal Conflicting Ordinances; To Set an Effective Date and Other Purposes. Motion was seconded by Council Member Hutcherson and passed without opposition.

B. Second Reading of An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 46, Article I Fire Prevention and Protection, Section 46-8 of the Municipal Code of the City of Pooler; To Repeal Conflicting Ordinances; To Set an Effective Date and Other Purposes

Mr. Byrd presented the unchanged second reading of the ordinance regarding the Knox box emergency access on-site for commercial, residential, and other locations. Council Member Higgins made a motion to approve the Second Reading of An

Ordinance to Amend Chapter 46, Article I Fire Prevention and Protection, Section 46-8 of the Municipal Code of the City of Pooler; To Repeal Conflicting Ordinances; To Set an Effective Date and Other Purposes. Motion was seconded by Council Member Hutcherson and passed without opposition.

C. Second Reading of An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 62, Article II, Sections 32, 33, and 34 of the Municipal Code of the City of Pooler; To Repeal Conflicting Ordinances; To Set an Effective Date and Other Purposes

Mr. Byrd requested that the item to be tabled per the city attorney to make some changes. Council Member Wall made a motion to table the item. Motion was seconded by Council Member Black and passed without opposition.

D. Site Plan for Pooler Promenade at 506 West Highway 80

Mr. Byrd presented the petitioner's request to postpone the item until the next city council meeting due to an illness of their attorney to council. Council Member Wall made a motion to postpone the Promenade until the next regular city council meeting. Motion was seconded by Council Member Higgins and passed without opposition.

Under **NEW BUSINESS** the following was discussed:

A. Special Event Permit Application for Peaceful Organization/March at the Pooler Memorial Park on August 2, 2020

Mr. Byrd presented the special event application by LaTricia Brown for a peaceful organization/march with speakers and community leaders offering their services at the Pooler Memorial Park on August 2, 2020, from 12:00 pm to 7:00 pm to council. The event is called Pooler Rally for Diversity and Inclusion. Ms. Brown appeared before council with an email from the manager of BI-LO, allowing the usage of their parking lot. The entire event will be at the Pooler Memorial Park rather than a march along Highway 80. Council Member Hutcherson made a motion to approve the Special Event Permit Application for Peaceful Organization/March at the Pooler Memorial Park, contingent upon approval from Chief Brown. Motion was seconded by Council Member Williams and passed without opposition.

B. Application for Alcoholic Beverage License with Sunday Sales for Derek Kidd at Taqueria and Tequila Bar, LLC dba Mezcal's

Mr. Derek Kidd applied for a Retail Wine & Beer or Other Malt Beverages, Retail Liquor/Distilled Spirits-Sale by Drink Only, with Sunday Sales for the business located at 125 Foxfield Way to council. Chief Brown has performed the background investigation and staff recommends approval. Ms. Scottie Moore was concerned that the business was in a location with no prior alcohol license. Mr. Byrd stated the

previous three (3) businesses at this location have alcohol licenses. After some discussion, Council Member Higgins made a motion to approve an Application for Alcoholic Beverage License with Sunday Sales for Derek Kidd at Taqueria and Tequila Bar, LLC dba Mezcal's. Motion was seconded by Council Member Wall and passed without opposition.

C. Application for Alcoholic Beverage License with Sunday Sales for Mihir Patel at Shriji 5, LLC

Mr. Mihir Patel applied for a Retail Wine & Beer or Other Malt Beverages with Sunday Sales for the gas station/convenience store located at 1715 Dean Forest Road. Mr. Byrd stated that Police Chief Brown has performed the background investigation and recommends approval to council. Council Member Wall made a motion to approve the alcohol license. Motion was seconded by Council Member Higgins and passed without opposition.

D. Release of Performance Bond/Acceptance of Maintenance Bond for Westbrook Greens, Phase 1

Mr. Byrd presented the final inspection was performed on July 1, 2020 and the Public Works Department recommends the release of the performance bond and acceptance of the maintenance bond in the amount of \$83,048.00. Council Member Wall made a motion to release the performance bond in the amount of \$83,048.00, contingent upon the bond being approved by the city attorney. Motion was seconded by Council Member Higgins and passed without opposition.

E. Acceptance of Performance Bond/Final Plat for Westbrook Greens, Phase 2

Mr. Byrd presented the 27 single-family residential lots located off Westbrook Lane. The developer is seeking to have the subdivision plat approved and recorded by posting a performance bond for \$844,509.38. After some discussion, Council Member Wall made a motion for acceptance of performance bond for \$844,509.38, contingent upon the sidewalk bond being included in the maintenance bond. Motion was seconded by Council Member Hutcherson and passed without opposition.

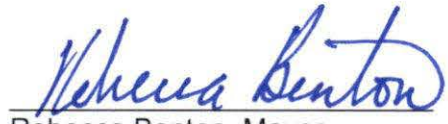
F. Site Plan for Steve Green Truck Parking Facility at 125 Coleman Blvd

Mr. Byrd presented the 3.4 acres, zoned I-1, light industrial, located on Coleman Blvd to council. After some discussion, Council Member Wall made a motion to approve the Site Plan for Steve Green Truck Parking Facility at 125 Coleman Blvd, contingent upon the parcels being recombined and review of the site plan standards. Motion was seconded by Council Member Higgins and passed without opposition.

G. Forest Lakes Drainage Improvements Recommendation for Contract Approval

Mr. Byrd presented the bids evaluated by the Coleman Company on behalf of the City of Pooler to council. The start date for the project is August 3rd, 2020, with a final completion date of January 30th, 2021. After some discussion, Council Member Higgins made a motion to award the bid for \$388,340.00 to Savannah River Utilities Company for work on the Forest Lakes Drainage Improvements and Ditch. Motion was seconded by Council Member Williams and passed without opposition.

There being no need for an excessive session nor no further business to discuss, Council Member Wall made a motion to adjourn at approximately 6:45 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 3 day of August, 2020.

Attest:


Mahendra Mahabir, Clerk of Council

Shannon Kirby, Interim Clerk of Council