

August 17, 2020

Approved 9/8/2020

MINUTES

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Pooler City Council was held on August 17, 2020. Mayor Rebecca Benton called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Present were Councilmembers Shannon Black, Aaron Higgins, Tom Hutcherson, John Michael Wilcher and Karen Williams. City Manager Robbie Byrd, Finance Officer Chris Lightle and City Attorney Steve Scheer were also present. Councilmember Stevie Wall was not present.

The invocation was led by Pastor Jeff Hubbard and Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Black.

Councilmember Higgins made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting for August 3, 2020. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Hutcherson, with no opposition.

Councilmember Higgins made a motion to postpone the approval of the minutes of the executive session meeting for August 3, 2020. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Williams with no opposition.

Councilmember Wilcher made a motion to approve the minutes of the council retreat for August 8, 2020. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Higgins with no opposition.

Report from the Departments:

PUBLIC WORKS

Matt Saxon reported that the Street and Stormwater Departments continued routine maintenance, Public Works Admin reviewed three (3) sets of site plans, the Water Department inspected ten (10) new water meters, repaired a water main leak at Columbia Drive and Wildwood Court in Sangrena Woods, and also preformed 324 line locates.

EOM performed routine preventive maintenance for Sewer and the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

FINANCE

Chris Lightle updated Council on the CARES Act and the City's SPLOST funding. He stated that the City has received 30% of the allocated \$1,345,021 of the CARES Act funding. He also stated that he filed the submission to claim the first part of the funding. Furthermore, he informed Council that the County is arbitrarily holding approximately \$1,000,000 of the City's SPLOST funding. City Manager Byrd mentioned the County would release it at the end of the cycle, which is October.

FIRE

Chief Simmons reported 227 responses for the period of August 1st to August 16th, up 20% compared to last year. Year to date, 2,584 responses, down less than 1% compared to last year. Stating July and August have been incredibly busy. There has been no significant fire loss, but there have been significant accidents, which involved a fatality that occurred recently on I-95.

POLICE

Chief Brown reported 43 Part 1 crimes from August 1st through August 15th, which is a 14% reduction of Part 1 crimes for the year. There were nineteen (19) shopliftings, down 2% for the year. Service calls are down 12% for the year. There were 628 citations, which is down 12%. There were seventy-one (71) arrests and fourteen (14) DUI arrests, which is up 4%.

RECREATION

Hugh Elton reported that the turf project at the stadium is complete. Savannah Christian will host a scrimmage game at the Pooler Stadium Friday, August 21st. Registration for fall programming remains open through on-line registration. The Pooler Recreation Department "Returning to Play" plan for each specific sport is on-line. Fall youth athletic programs begin practices this week with modified procedures per the "Returning to Play" plan. Other activities and classes are tentatively scheduled to resume in September. The Senior Center remains closed. The staff at the Senior Center continues to assist seniors as needed. The Parks Department performed routine maintenance at all facilities, as well as the cemetery.

BUILDING AND ZONING

Phillip Claxton reported for the period of August 3rd to August 14th there were twenty two (22) new single-family residence permits, four (4) new single family attached, four (4) commercial permits, one (1) major subdivision application, and one (1) final plat application. He also stated that tonight will be the first reading of the major changes to the zoning code.

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

A. Site Plan for NTW at 2221 Pooler Parkway

Mr. Byrd presented the item to Council. After some discussion regarding the tree plan, Councilmember Higgins made a motion to approve the site plan contingent upon NRCS approval. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Hutcherson with no opposition.



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

A. Alcoholic Beverage License Application for Retail Liquor (Sale by Package Only) and Sunday sales for Shree AR LLC, Located at 503 W. Highway 80

Mr. Byrd presented the item to Council. Councilmember Williams made a motion to approve the application. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Black and passed with no opposition.

B. Zoning Map Amendment for 5.0 Acres on Quacco Road from R-A to C-1

Mayor Benton announced that the petitioners Mr. & Mrs. R.C. Davis asked for the item to be postponed however due to advertisement continued to open the public hearing. The 5.22 acres is located at 1322 Quacco Road and consists of four (4) parcels. Resident Beverly Waters commented on the lengthy discussion during Planning and Zoning on this matter. Mayor Benton welcomed all participants to return for the next meeting and closed the public hearing. Attorney Steve Scheer stated that another public hearing will need to be advertised. Councilmember Higgins made a motion to postpone the item. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Wilcher.

C. First Reading of Proposed Amendment to the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Pooler

Mayor Benton called the public hearing to order. Beverly Waters, Holly Young and Kerry Conaway expressed their concerns over the changes. Mayor Benton asked them to set up a meeting with Phillip Claxton about their concerns.

Mayor Benton closed the public hearing and presented the item to Council. Councilman Wilcher made a motion to approve the first reading of the proposed amendment of the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Pooler. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Williams and passed with no opposition.

D. Professional Planning Services Agreement between the City of Pooler, Georgia and the Chatham County – Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission

Mr. Byrd presented the item to Council. Councilmember Hutcherson made a motion to approve the agreement. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Higgins and passed with no opposition.

E. First Reading of an Ordinance to Amend Chapter 26 – Business, Article II, Occupation Taxes and Regulatory Fees, Section 26-50, Levy Determination; Filing of Return to Provide for an Effective Date; To Repeal all Ordinances in Conflict Herewith; and for Other Purposes

Mr. Byrd presented the item to Council. Finance Officer Lightle noted changes were being made to clarify minor items and conflicting dates. Councilmember Higgins made a motion to approve the first reading of the item. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Black and passed with no opposition.

F. First Reading of an Ordinance to Amend Chapter 26 – Business, Article II, Occupation Taxes and Regulatory Fees, Section 26-53; Filing of Return showing Actual Full-Time Equivalent Employees During Calendar Year; Overpayment/Underpayment; To Repeal all Ordinances in Conflict Herewith; and for Other Purposes

Mr. Byrd presented the item to Council. Mr. Lightle mentioned the Finance Department is updating processes and conflicting items within this ordinance as well. Councilmember Higgins made a motion to approve the first reading of the item. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Hutcherson and passed with no opposition.

G. Proposal for the purchase of a used fire rescue truck for the City of Pooler Fire Department

Mr. Byrd presented the item to Council and asked Chief Simmons to come forward for questions. Chief Simmons stated that cost would not exceed \$445,000 and that the fire truck would be going to Fire Station 1. Mr. Byrd commended Chief Simmons for his efforts of finding this used fire rescue truck from Brindlee Mountain Fire Apparatus. After further discussion, Councilmember Wilcher made a motion to approve the purchase of the used fire rescue truck. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hutcherson and passed with no opposition.

H. Chatham County Emergency Operations Plan

Mr. Byrd presented the item to Council. Councilmember Higgins made a motion to approve the Chatham County Emergency Operations Plan. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Wilcher and passed with no opposition.

Councilmember Black made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session at approximately 6:36 p.m. to discuss personnel, legal and/or real estate matters. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Hutcherson and passed without opposition. Mayor Benton called the meeting back to order at 6:58 p.m.

I. Accept Agreement with City Clerk on Employment Issue

Councilmember Higgins made a motion to add item I, Accept agreement with City Clerk on employment issue. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Williams and passed with no opposition.

Councilmember Higgins made a motion to accept the agreement with the City Clerk on Employment Issues. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Hutcherson and passed with no opposition.

There being no further business to discuss, Councilmember Hutcherson made a motion to adjourn at approximately 7:00 p.m. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Higgins and passed with no opposition.


Rebecca Benton, Mayor

The foregoing minutes are true and correct and approved by me on this 8th day of September, 2020.

Attest:


Shannon Kirby, Interim City Clerk