



CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting – Minutes

October 19, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. | Pooler City Hall | 100 US Hwy 80 SW, Pooler, GA 31322

I. ROLL CALL/DECLARATION OF QUORUM

Rebecca Benton	Mayor	Present
Tom Hutcherson	Mayor Pro Tem	Present
Shannon Black	Councilmember	Present
Aaron Higgins	Councilmember	Present
Stevie Wall	Councilmember	Present
John Wilcher	Councilmember	Present
Karen Williams	Councilmember	Present
Robert Byrd	City Manager	Present
Steve Scheer	City Attorney	Present
Craig Call	City Attorney	Present
Chris Lightle	Finance Officer	Present
Kiley Fusco	Clerk of Council	Present

II. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rebecca Benton called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

III. INVOCATION

Mayor Rebecca Benton gave the invocation.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pro Tem Tom Hutcherson led the pledge.

V. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

A. City Council Meeting Minutes of October 5, 2020

Councilmember Aaron Higgins moved to approve the minutes of the October 5, 2020 meeting.

RESULT: PASSED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Higgins

SECONDER: Williams

AYES: Black, Higgins, Hutcherson, Wall, Wilcher, Williams

B. City Council Meeting Executive Session Minutes of September 21, 2020

Councilmember Karen Williams moved to approve the Executive Session minutes of the October 5, 2020 meeting.

RESULT: PASSED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Williams

SECONDER: Hutcherson

AYES: Black, Higgins, Hutcherson, Wall, Wilcher, Williams

VI. DEPARTMENT & COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. The Public Works Report** was presented by Matt Saxon. Matt shared that the Street Department performed routine maintenance and replaced signs throughout the city. The Stormwater Department also performed routine maintenance on Benton Canal and continue to dig the pond behind the recreation complex. Public Works Admin reviewed two sets of site plans and conducted three pre-construction meetings. The Water Department installed 31 new construction meters, repaired 16 leaking valves, and performed 720 line locates. EOM Operations had eight grinder calls and 11 sewer leaks; they performed routine maintenance at Garden Acres and Brighton Woods SW Quad Lift Station. The treatment plant continues to meet all parameters.
- B. The Finance Report** was presented by Chris Lightle. On the variance report, property taxes are ahead of this time last year while sales taxes are behind. General fund revenues are running ahead at about 6% as compared to 2019.
- C. The Fire Department Report** was presented by Chief Wade Simmons. They received 401 calls, totaling 3,189 calls for the year, a 3% increase over 2019.
- D. The Police Department Report** was presented by Chief Ashley Brown. September saw 41 Part I Crimes, totaling 489 for the year, a 13% decrease compared to 2019. Shoplifting increased 6%. Calls for service are up 1% and DUI's up 29%.
- E. The Recreation Department Report** was presented by Hugh Elton. All fall athletic programs continue to practice and play games per the Return to Play guidelines. Tennis has resumed. Dance and tumbling submitted Return to Play plans that were reviewed and approved, allowing online signup to open. We hosted four high school football games during the month of September. The Senior Center remains closed. Parks continue routine maintenance.
- F. The Planning & Zoning Report** was not presented in Phillip Claxton's absence.

VII. REMINDERS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Rebecca Benton shared that the City of Pooler has early voting available at the Recreation Center (gym) off South Rogers Street through October 30 from Monday-Friday, 10:00

a.m.-4:00 p.m. The Board of Registrars and Board of Elections manage the voting process; the City only provides the site. In addition, there is now a ballot drop box with 24-hour surveillance and adequate lighting located in the City Hall public parking lot. The original requested location for this box on Rogers Street would not have met the criteria of 24-hour surveillance and proper lighting. The City of Pooler is pleased to provide these two sites for voters.

Per an order by the Georgia Supreme Court, Census reporting closed on October 15, 2020.

City Department Reports will now be presented at the second meeting of each month and will contain information and statistics from the entire month prior.

VIII. SPECIAL GUESTS

- A.** Dean Kicklighter, 7th District Chatham County Commissioner, is running for reelection.
- B.** Ron Stephens, District 164 State Representative, is running for reelection.
- C.** Marcus Thompson, is running for election to the Georgia House of Representatives for District 164.

IX. PROCLAMATIONS, ORDINANCES, & RESOLUTIONS

A. Retired Educators Day Proclamation

Dr. Gordon Baker from the Chatham Retired Educators Association was present to receive the proclamation from Mayor Rebecca Benton declaring November 1 as Retired Educators Day. Councilmember Stevie Wall moved to approve the proclamation.

RESULT: PASSED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Wall

SECONDER: Higgins

AYES: Black, Higgins, Hutcherson, Wall, Wilcher, Williams

B. Ordinance No. 2020-10.A – Amendment to Chapter 26. Business, Article II. Occupation Taxes and Regulatory Fees, Sections 26-32. Duty to Keep Information Current (*Second Reading*)

Mr. Robert Byrd presented the second reading for approval. Councilmember Stevie Wall moved to approve the second reading.

RESULT: PASSED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Wall

SECONDER: Wilcher

AYES: Black, Higgins, Hutcherson, Wall, Wilcher, Williams

C. GEFA Loan Modification Resolution

Mr. Robert Byrd presented the resolution for approval. Councilmember Stevie Wall moved to approve the resolution.

RESULT: PASSED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Wall

SECONDER: Wilcher

AYES: Black, Higgins, Hutcherson, Wall, Wilcher, Williams

X. OLD BUSINESS

A. Road Improvement Escrow Agreement for Bassford Industrial Park Buildings 26-34

Mr. Robert Byrd presented the agreement for approval. Councilmember Karen Williams moved to approve the agreement in the amount of \$312,500 and subject to review by the City Attorney.

RESULT: PASSED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Williams

SECONDER: Wilcher

AYES: Black, Higgins, Hutcherson, Wall, Wilcher, Williams

B. Zoning Map Amendment for 5.22 Acres on Quacco Road from R-A to C-2

Mr. Robert Byrd presented the amendment for approval, and a Public Hearing was opened. Josh Yellin, Petitioner, shared that this amendment comes recommended by Town Staff and Planning & Zoning and that the owners of the property obtained the support of the immediate neighbors for the proposed use. The petitioner was amenable to the conditions presented by Planning & Zoning. In addition, Planning & Zoning recommended that the original C-1 application be changed to a C-2 following the recently approved zoning ordinance amendment.

John Haden, a resident of Savannah Quarters, expressed his concern that allowing this zoning change on Quacco Road could open the door to additional and future C-1 requests that Quacco Road in its present condition could not take. The Public Hearing was then closed.

Councilmember Stevie Wall moved to approve the amendment with the following conditions recommended by Planning & Zoning:

1. Use be limited to the Building Construction Contractor's Office or Other Specialty Trade Contractor's Office
2. An additional dedication of 30' right-of-way to the City for the future widening of Quacco Road
3. Documentation of sufficient water, sewer, and fire suppression from the utilities prior to development

RESULT: PASSED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Wall

SECONDER: Higgins

AYES: Black, Higgins, Hutcherson, Wall, Wilcher, Williams

C. Zoning Map Amendment for 516 & 527 Pine Barren Road from MH-1 and MH-2B to R-4

Mr. Robert Byrd noted that the petitioner has withdrawn the item from the agenda. As a public hearing was advertised, one was opened. Mr. Steven Scheer, City Attorney, noted that because the item had been withdrawn, the public hearing for this specific item would need to be redone at a later date upon re-submission by the petitioner and re-advertisement of a hearing. Leslie Shin, a resident of Pine Barren Road, raised her concern regarding the traffic issues in that area. The public hearing was then closed. No action was taken by Council as the item was withdrawn.

D. Acceptance of Maintenance and Sidewalk Bond for Final Plat Approval for Westbrook Villas, Phase 3-A

Mr. Robert Byrd recommended the bond for approval subject to approval by the Public Works department and verification of utility easements. Councilmember Stevie Wall moved to accept the bonds and approve the final plat, contingent upon City Attorney approval of the bonds.

RESULT: PASSED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Wall

SECONDER: Hutcherson

AYES: Black, Higgins, Hutcherson, Wall, Wilcher, Williams

E. Major Subdivision for Cross Creek, Phase 2

Mr. Robert Byrd presented the major subdivision for approval. The petitioner, Neil McKenzie, shared that the average lot width is 85', which meets the minimum square footage. Councilmember Aaron Higgins moved to approve the subdivision subject to approval of the Harmony and Cross Creek Water & Sewer agreement.

RESULT: PASSED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Higgins

SECONDER: Wilcher

AYES: Black, Higgins, Hutcherson, Wall, Wilcher, Williams

XI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Alcoholic Beverage License Application #5335 for Parker Spirits, LLC dba Parker's Spirits at 8 N Godley Station Blvd

Mr. Robert Byrd presented the application for approval. Councilmember Stevie Wall moved to approve the application.

RESULT: PASSED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Wall

SECONDER: Wilcher

AYES: Black, Higgins, Hutcherson, Wall, Wilcher, Williams

B. Alcoholic Beverage License Application #5346 for Sabatino's LLC dba Terra Mia at 1009 US Highway 80 E

Mr. Robert Byrd presented the application for approval. Councilmember John Wilcher moved to approve the application.

RESULT: PASSED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Wilcher

SECONDER: Wall

AYES: Black, Higgins, Hutcherson, Wall, Wilcher, Williams

C. Pine Barren Road Development Corridor Traffic Study Agreement with Kimley Horn not to exceed \$57,820 and subject to review by the City Attorney.

Mr. Robert Byrd presented the agreement for approval. Councilmember Aaron Higgins moved to approve the agreement.

RESULT: PASSED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Higgins

SECONDER: Williams

AYES: Black, Higgins, Hutcherson, Wall, Wilcher, Williams

D. Water & Sewer Agreement for Harmony and Cross Creek Subdivisions

Mr. Robert Byrd presented the agreement for approval. Councilmember Stevie Wall moved to approve the agreement.

RESULT: PASSED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Wall

SECONDER: Hutcherson

AYES: Black, Higgins, Hutcherson, Wall, Wilcher, Williams

E. Variance Request for Popeye's Sign Located at 1022 US Hwy 80 W

Mr. Robert Byrd presented the variance request for consideration. A public hearing was opened and closed; there were no comments. Councilmember Karen Williams moved to deny the variance request.

RESULT: PASSED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Williams

SECONDER: Higgins

AYES: Black, Higgins, Hutcherson, Wall, Wilcher, Williams

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Stevie Wall moved to adjourn the meeting.

RESULT: PASSED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Wall

SECONDER: Higgins

AYES: Black, Higgins, Hutcherson, Wall, Wilcher, Williams

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.



Rebecca Benton, Mayor

The foregoing minutes are true and correct and approved by me on this 2 day of NOVEMBER, 2020.

Attest:



Kiley Fusco, City Clerk