



CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting – Minutes

November 16, 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	Absent
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 6:00 p.m.

III. INVOCATION

Pastor Kenneth Law of The Embassy Church gave the invocation.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilmember Stevie Wall led the pledge.

V. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

A. City Council Meeting Minutes of November 2, 2020

Councilmember Karen Williams moved to approve the minutes of the November 2, 2020 meeting.

RESULT: PASSED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Williams

SECONDER: Higgins

AYES: Higgins, Hutcherson, Wall, Wilcher, Williams

B. City Council Executive Session Minutes of November 2, 2020

Councilmember Stevie Wall moved to approve the executive session minutes of the

November 2, 2020 meeting.

RESULT: PASSED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Wall

SECONDER: Hutcherson

AYES: Higgins, Hutcherson, Wall, Wilcher, Williams

VI. REMINDERS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Rebecca Benton shared that due to the pandemic, there will not be a tree lighting event this year. However, the tree in Memorial Park will still be decorated and lit. She also reminded residents to complete the MPC's "Plan 2040" comprehensive plan survey available online at www.surveymonkey.com/r/MPCPlan2040. There will also be a public meeting to discuss the comprehensive plan on Wednesday, December 16, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. at City Hall. The results of this survey and meeting will become important resources for future city planning; residents are strongly encouraged to participate.

VII. DEPARTMENT & COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. The Public Works Report** was presented by Matt Saxon. For October, the Street Department has continued routine maintenance on potholes, sidewalks, shoulder work, and sign replacement. The Stormwater Department has also continued routine maintenance. Savannah River Utilities are completing the Forest Lakes drainage project and replacing culverts on Rogers Street. Public Works completed one pre-construction meeting and reviewed two sets of site plans. The Water Department inspected 53 new construction meters, repaired 21 leaking laterals, certified 45 backflow preventors, and performed 716 line locates. EOM Operations had three grinder calls and 12 sewer leaks. The Sewer Department vacuumed manholes on SH Morgan Parkway and repaired service lights and alarms at the Raintance, Nordic Trac, Bassford, and Gulfstream lift stations. They also performed quarterly preventive maintenance at 16 lift stations and weekly preventive maintenance at all lift stations. The Wastewater Treatment Plant repaired a hole in fine screen # 1, replaced digester blower #2 VFD, and performed routine preventive maintenance, instrument calibration, and sampling.
- B. The Finance Report** was presented by Chris Lightle. Revenues are up 6% compared to last year, while expenditures are in line with the budget. The 2021 budget planning process continues; Mr. Lightle will be meeting with Mr. Byrd to take a more detailed look at the departments' submissions. The financial reporting phase of the software migration has been completed and the support team has been assigned. Mr. Lightle has a meeting Thursday with the developers to discuss cash collections, the next phase of the migration. This phase has an anticipated completion date of February 2021.
- C. The Fire Department Report** was presented by Chief Wade Simmons. There were 427 calls for service in October, totaling 3,616 year-to-date. Both are approximately 4% greater than last year.

- D. The Police Department Report** was presented by Major Jim Ward in Chief Ashley Brown's absence. There were 44 Part I crimes in the month of October, totaling 533 for the year. This is a 15% reduction compared to 2021.
- E. The Recreation Department Report** was presented by Hugh Elton. All but one youth program finished in October. The approved and enacted Return to Play plan has been successful to date. Basketball registration began, and five high school football games were hosted at the stadium. The Senior Center remains closed, but the Director has been delivering food and completing other errands. She has also engaged seniors in the Linus Program, making blankets for children in need, as well as a facemask program, making facemasks for hospice and other services. Parks performed routine maintenance.
- F. The Planning & Zoning Report** was presented by Phillip Claxton. October saw 43 residential permits, eight commercial permits, 41 miscellaneous permits, and 19 certificates of occupancy issued. 494 inspections were performed, representing \$18M in new construction and \$57,500 in fees collected. Mr. Claxton also reminded residents of the comprehensive plan survey. Informational fliers are available, and a link to the survey is on the city website under the News tab at www.pooler-ga.gov/pooler-news. Those who would prefer to fill out a hard copy may call 912-651-1480. A comprehensive plan public meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 16, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. at City Hall. This event will be advertised.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

A. JABOT PUD Amendment #12

Mr. Robert Byrd presented the amendment for approval, and the public hearing was opened. Petitioner Lamar Mercer, of Thomas & Hutton, was present to represent 929 Properties in the request to modify the JABOT PUD. Councilmember Karen Williams inquired with the legal counsel present whether a local government body may enter into an agreement with a private entity without a specified term limit, and requested that the section of the proposed agreement wherein the City of Pooler would be responsible for providing an alternative location for the sign be addressed. Attorney Steve Scheer confirmed that one council may not bind another (future) council. In addition, the City does not permit signs in the median. Mr. Scheer noted that If an encroachment were allowed, it would set a poor precedent. With no further comments, the public hearing was closed. Councilmember Karen Williams moved to deny the JABOT PUD Amendment #12 based on the proposal being in violation of existing City ordinances, and, if approved, would set a bad precedent.

RESULT: PASSED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Williams

SECONDER: Hutcherson

AYES: Higgins, Hutcherson, Wall, Wilcher, Williams

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Alcoholic Beverage License Application for Logan's Roadhouse II, LLC dba Logan's Roadhouse #522 at 220 Pooler Parkway

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

RESULT: PASSED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Wall

SECONDER: Wilcher

AYES: Higgins, Hutcherson, Wall, Wilcher, Williams

B. Alcoholic Beverage License Application for Shyamal 4 Corp at 1715 Dean Forest Road

Mr. Robert Byrd presented the application for approval. The petitioner addressed the questions posed by Councilmember Aaron Higgins: this application us being submitted due to an ownership change, and the business currently has an active license. Councilmember John Wilcher moved to approve the application.

RESULT: PASSED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Wilcher

SECONDER: Higgins

AYES: Higgins, Hutcherson, Wall, Wilcher, Williams

C. Georgia Department of Transportation Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant (LMIG) Application for Fiscal Year 2021

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

RESULT: PASSED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Wall

SECONDER: Wilcher

AYES: Higgins, Hutcherson, Wall, Wilcher, Williams

D. Fire Tanker Sales Contract with Effingham County Board of Commissioners

Mr. Robert Byrd presented the contract for approval. Councilmember Karen Williams moved to approve the contract for the sale of the 1993 fire tanker in the amount of \$15,000.

RESULT: PASSED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Williams

SECONDER: Wilcher

AYES: Higgins, Hutcherson, Wall, Wilcher, Williams

E. Inspections of Municipal Separate Storm System (MS4) with Annual Permit Compliance Reporting Agreement with EOM Operations

Mr. Robert Byrd presented the agreement for approval. Kristin Achtziger, from EOM

Operations, was present to answer questions. Councilmember Stevie Wall moved to approve the agreement with EOM Operations in the amount of \$134,750.

RESULT: PASSED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Wall

SECONDER: Hutcherson

AYES: Higgins, Hutcherson, Wall, Wilcher, Williams

X. ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilmember Aaron Higgins moved to adjourn to Executive Session. Council entered Executive Session at 6:30 p.m.

RESULT: PASSED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Higgins

SECONDER: Williams

AYES: Higgins, Hutcherson, Wall, Wilcher, Williams

Mayor Rebecca Benton called the meeting back to order at 6:49 p.m.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Karen Williams moved to adjourn the meeting.

RESULT: PASSED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Williams

SECONDER: Higgins

AYES: Higgins, Hutcherson, 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 7 day of December 2020.

Attest:



Kiley Fusco, City Clerk