



CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting – Minutes

January 19, 2021 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 6:00 p.m.

III. INVOCATION

Mayor Rebecca Benton gave the invocation.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilmember Shannon Black led the pledge.

V. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

A. City Council Meeting Minutes of December 21, 2020

Councilmember Stevie Wall moved to approve the minutes of the December 21, 2020 meeting.

RESULT: PASSED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Wall

SECONDER: Black

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

VI. REMINDERS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Rebecca Benton reminded residents to continue to socially distance, wear masks, and wash their hands to protect themselves and others from illness.

VII. SPECIAL GUESTS

- A. Mayor Rebecca Benton recognized local Eagle Scout Wiley Couey for his park picnic table project for the City of Pooler.
- B. Pam Southard, along with Whitney Ray and Ben Anderson, of the Greater Pooler Area Chamber of Commerce, presented awards of recognition for our Public Safety Departments. For the Police Department, Sgt. James Self received the Supervisor of the Year award and Ofc. Corey Stevens received the Officer of the Year award. For the Fire Department, Nicholas Martin received the Firefighter of the Year award and Lt. Chris Stock received the Fire Officer of the Year award. The Chamber also presented a \$1,500 check to the departments.

VIII. DEPARTMENT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Assistant City Manager Matt Saxon presented the **Public Works Report**. Administration had one preconstruction meeting and three sets of plan reviews. Street continued routine maintenance, replacing street signs. Storm Water also continued routine maintenance. Water inspected 51 new construction meters, repaired 17 water meters, replaced four water mains, and repaired six residential and four commercial leaks, witnessed 55 backflow preventors, and performed 1,166 line locates. At Wastewater Treatment, lines were installed to reduce the odor to neighboring properties. Floats were replaced and preventative maintenance was performed. The Godley Station/Forest Lakes project is substantively complete. The temporary bridge and spillway plates will be removed.
- B. Finance Officer Chris Lightle gave the **Finance Report**. Work on closing the 2020 yearend books continues in preparation for the March 17 scheduled audit. Employee W-2's were distributed today. Annual ACA reporting is underway. The accounting data migration continues; the final stages will begin February 8 and 16.
- C. Chief Wade Simmons gave the **Fire Department Report**. The department received 489 calls in the month of December, totaling 4,498 calls for the year. This is 3% ahead of 2020.
- D. Chief Ashley Brown gave the **Police Department Report**. There were 54 Part I crimes for the month of December, totaling 610 for the year. This is a 17% decrease. Every category saw a reduction with the exception of aggravated assaults, which were mainly domestic-related. Shopliftings were up 1% for the year.
- E. Hugh Elton gave the **Recreation Report**. The basketball program began in December within the Return to Play guidelines. Annual free health screenings were offered in December. Wiley Couey built six picnic tables for his Eagle Scout project. Parks completed routine maintenance in December. The Senior Center held a clothing drive, partnered with the Salvation Army on an angel tree, and had a walkthrough Christmas party with donated to-go lunches.
- F. The **Planning & Zoning** and **Building Reports** were submitted to Council.

IX. ORDINANCES, PROCLAMATIONS, RESOLUTIONS

A. Resolution for Support of Savannah-Chatham County School Board of Public Education's Pooler Elementary School Renovation

Mayor Rebecca Benton presented the resolution. Councilmember Aaron Higgins moved to approve the resolution.

PASSED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Higgins

SECONDER: Williams

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

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. Alcoholic Beverage License Application #5424 for Sia Quacco 2, LLC located at 1507 Quacco Road

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

PASSED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Wall

SECONDER: Wilcher

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

B. Revised Service Agreement for Towing Services with Clem Burnsed Towing, Inc.

City Manager Robert Byrd presented the revised agreement for approval. Councilmember Stevie Wall moved to terminate the 2020 agreement and approve the revised agreement presented subject to City Attorney review.

PASSED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Wall

SECONDER: Hutcherson

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

C. Zoning Map Amendment of 1545 Dean Forest Road from C-2 to I-2

City Manager Robert Byrd presented the amendment for approval. A public hearing was opened. Jim Collins of Thomas & Hutton was present to answer questions on behalf of the petitioner. The public hearing was closed. Councilmember Aaron Higgins moved to approve the zoning map amendment from C-2 to I-2.

PASSED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Higgins

SECONDER: Williams

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

D. Zoning Map Amendment of 1742 Quacco Road from R-A to R-3

City Manager Robert Byrd reported that the item had been withdrawn by the petitioner. A public hearing was opened. Resident Jennifer Wise stated that she and many of her neighbors were opposed to the rezoning and shared her concerns about a potential increase in traffic, potential loss of privacy, and potential increase in crime. Resident Mandy Sperry was also present. City Attorney Steve Scheer reminded Ms. Wise and Ms. Sperry that the item they are opposing had been withdrawn and recommended that they return to express their concerns if the petitioner brought forth a subsequent item for approval at a future meeting. No action was taken.

E. Sign Variance for Parker's Spirits located at 8 Godley Station

City Manager Robert Byrd presented the variance request for approval. A public hearing was opened. Daniel Ben-Yisrael was present as representative of the petitioner. The public hearing was closed, and Councilmember Karen Williams moved to deny the sign variance request.

PASSED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Williams

SECONDER: Higgins

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

F. Site Plan/Landscape Plan Review for iFLY located at 1 Towne Center Court

City Manager Robert Byrd presented the plans for approval. Dan Fisher from EMC Engineering was present on behalf of the petitioner. Councilmember Aaron Higgins moved to approve the plans subject to:

1. The removal of the dead palms currently on site
2. Replacement of proposed trees with trees listed on the City's approved list

PASSED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Higgins

SECONDER: Wilcher

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

G. Major Subdivision Review of Ellis Park, Phase III

City Manager Robert Byrd presented the subdivision for approval. Hal Kraft of Hussey, Gay, & Bell was present on behalf of the petitioner. Councilmember Karen Williams moved to approve the subdivision.

PASSED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Williams

SECONDER: Wilcher

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

H. Release of Maintenance Bond for Savannah Quarters S&O Canal Crossing

City Manager Robert Byrd presented the bond release for approval. Councilmember Stevie Wall moved to approve the release in the amount of \$345,677.13.

PASSED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Wall

SECONDER: Hutcherson

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

I. Preliminary Plat and Landscape Plan Review of a Commercial Subdivision for Mosaic Town Center, Tract II

City Manager Robert Byrd presented the plans for approval. Councilmember Karen Williams moved to table the landscape plan.

PASSED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Williams

SECONDER: Higgins

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

David Hornsby was present on behalf of the petitioner. Councilmember John Wilcher moved to approve the preliminary plat plan.

PASSED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Wilcher

SECONDER: Black

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

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Aaron Higgins moved to adjourn the meeting.

PASSED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Higgins

SECONDER: Wilcher

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.



Rebecca C. Benton, Mayor

The foregoing minutes are true and correct and approved by me on this 1 day of FEBRUARY, 2020. 

Attest:


Kiley Fusco, City Clerk