



CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting – Minutes

February 15, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. | Pooler City Hall | 100 US Hwy 80 SW, Pooler, GA 31322

I. ROLL CALL/DECLARATION OF QUORUM

Rebecca C. 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	Absent
Kiley Fusco	Clerk of Council	Present

II. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rebecca C. Benton called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

III. INVOCATION

Mayor Rebecca C. Benton gave the invocation.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilmember Karen Williams led the pledge.

V. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

A. City Council Meeting Minutes of February 1, 2021

Councilmember Karen Williams moved to approve the minutes of the February 1, 2021 meeting.

RESULT: PASSED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Williams

SECONDER: Wilcher

AYES: Higgins, Hutcherson, Wall, Wilcher, Williams

VI. REMINDERS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Rebecca C. Benton reminded residents that Chatham County received an \$8.7 million grant for pandemic emergency rental and utility assistance. Pooler residents in need of assistance should call the United Way or the EOA. Information is available on the City's website.

VII. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

- A. Matt Saxon gave the **Public Works** report. Administration conducted five pre-construction meetings and reviewed two new sets of site plans. Street and Stormwater continued routine maintenance. Water inspected 32 new construction meters, witnessed 66 backflow tests, and performed 902 line locates. Sewer received one grinder and seven sewer leak calls. Wastewater completed routine maintenance.
- B. The **Finance** report was submitted to Council.
- C. Chief Wade Simmons gave the **Fire Department Report**. The department received 434 calls in the month of January, an increase of 32% over last year. The number of calls has continued to trend upward over the past six months. January also saw multiple significant incidents, including several structure fires and three accidents requiring extrication. There were 25 calls for confirmed COVID-19 cases with an additional 19 suspected, but the department currently does not have any members staff under quarantine or confirmed ill.
- D. Chief Ashley Brown gave the **Police Department Report**. For the month of January, there were 53 Part I Crimes and 12 Shopliftings, 4% and 14% decreases respectively compared to last year. Calls for service were also down 14%. There were 95 arrests, 1,327 citations, and 20 DUI's.
- E. Hugh Elton gave the **Recreation Report**. Parks continue routine maintenance. Several projects have been delayed due to weather. The Senior Center remains closed. The coat drive was successful, and now webinars and online interactive games are being offered. Youth basketball games were played in both gyms, and spring sports registration has opened. ESPN Radio and Explosive Sports held a football camp and showcase on January 16 for local athletes interested in college scholarships.
- F. Phillip Claxton gave the **Planning & Zoning** and **Building** reports. For the month of January, there were 374 inspections, 14 new single-family permits, 25 certificates of occupancy totaling \$32,695 in billing fees. We received notification that some of the census data is at the state level and should be published shortly. There will be another Comprehensive Plan Stakeholders meeting on February 26.

VIII. ORDINANCES, PROCLAMATIONS, RESOLUTIONS

A. Resolution for the Fire Truck Master Lease Purchase Agreement

City Manager Robert Byrd presented the resolution for approval. Chief Wade Simmons reported on the proposed financing agreement that would allow for a cost savings of \$50,000 through advance payment to the apparatus manufacturer. Councilmember Stevie Wall moved to approve the resolution for the Fire Truck Master Lease Purchase Agreement in the amount of \$1,275,700 subject to attorney review.

PASSED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Wall

SECONDER: Hutcherson

AYES: Higgins, Hutcherson, Wall, Wilcher, Williams

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. March Meeting Date Change

City Manager Robert Byrd proposed a date change the next City Council Meeting date from March 1 to March 2 to accommodate City employees who annually participate in a local charity golf tournament. Councilmember Stevie Wall moved to approve the date change.

PASSED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Wall

SECONDER: Wilcher

AYES: Higgins, Hutcherson, Wall, Wilcher, Williams

B. Special Event Permit Application for Tanger Outlet Carnival

City Manager Robert Byrd presented the Special Event request from Tanger/Amusements of America. Councilmember Aaron Higgins moved to table the item until the March 2, 2021 City Council Meeting.

PASSED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Higgins

SECONDER: Hutcherson

AYES: Higgins, Hutcherson, Wall, Wilcher, Williams

C. Release of Performance Bond/Acceptance of Maintenance & Sidewalk Bond/Final Plat Approval for Clubhouse Residential, Phase 2

City Manager Robert Byrd presented the bond release, bond acceptance, and final plat approval for Clubhouse Residential, Phase 2. Councilmember John Wilcher moved to release the performance bond in the amount of \$184,717.32, accept the maintenance bond in the amount of \$118,161.35, accept the performance bond in the amount of \$61,087.50, and approve the final plat for Clubhouse Residential, Phase 2 subject to attorney review.

PASSED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Wilcher

SECONDER: Wall

AYES: Higgins, Hutcherson, Wall, Wilcher, Williams

D. Minor Subdivision Plat of 35 Coleman Boulevard

City Manager Robert Byrd presented the minor subdivision plat for approval. Hal Kraft, of Hussey, Gay & Bell, was present to answer questions. Steve Rushing, owner, was also present. Mr. Kraft noted that the previous plat for the parcel was 4.464 acres, but the recent survey resulted in 4.465 acres. The number on the application was rounded down to 4.46 acres, while the Hussey, Gay & Bell plat acreage was rounded up to 4.47. Councilmember Stevie Wall moved to approve the minor subdivision plat for 35 Coleman Boulevard.

PASSED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Wall

SECONDER: Wilcher

AYES: Higgins, Hutcherson, Wall, Wilcher, Williams

E. Site Plan/Landscape Plan for 102 Morgan Lakes Industrial Boulevard

City Manager Robert Byrd presented the plans for approval. Councilmember Karen Williams moved to approve both the site and landscape plans for 102 Morgan Lakes Industrial Boulevard subject to review of the criteria.

PASSED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Williams

SECONDER: Hutcherson

AYES: Higgins, Hutcherson, Wall, Wilcher, Williams

F. Site Plan/Landscape Plan for 425 Morgan Lakes Industrial Boulevard

City Manager Robert Byrd presented the plans for approval. Chad Zittrouer with Kern Company was present on behalf of Morgan Lakes Industrial Development. Councilmember Aaron Higgins moved to approve both the site and landscape plans for 425 Morgan Lakes Industrial Boulevard subject to review of the criteria.

PASSED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Higgins

SECONDER: Williams

AYES: Higgins, Hutcherson, Wall, Wilcher, Williams

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION

With no further public business to conduct, Mayor Pro Tem Tom Hutcherson moved to enter Executive Session to discuss legal, real estate, and/or personnel matters. Mayor and Council entered Executive Session at 6:30 p.m.

PASSED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Hutcherson

SECONDER: Higgins

AYES: Higgins, Hutcherson, Wall, Wilcher, Williams

Mayor Rebecca C. Benton called the meeting back to order at 6:45 p.m.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Aaron Higgins moved to adjourn the meeting.

PASSED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Higgins

SECONDER: Hutcherson

AYES: Higgins, Hutcherson, Wall, Wilcher, Williams

The meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m.



Rebecca C. Benton, Mayor

The foregoing minutes are true and correct and approved by me on this 2 day of MARCH, 2021.

Attest:


Kiley Fusco, City Clerk