



CITY of POOLER
— GEORGIA —

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING – MINUTES

July 15, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. | 100 US Highway 80 SW, Pooler, GA 31322

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Karen Williams, Mayor
Wesley Bashlor, Councilmember
Michael Carpenter, Councilmember
Aaron Higgins, Mayor Pro Tem
Tom Hutcherson, Councilmember
Shannon Valim, Councilmember
John Wilcher, Councilmember
Craig Call, City Attorney
Matthew Saxon, City Manager
Chris Lightle, Finance Officer
Kiley Fusco, Clerk of Council

Absent:

II. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Karen Williams called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

III. INVOCATION

Executive Pastor Shirlinia Daniel of Bread of Life Ministries gave the invocation.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Executive Pastor Shirlinia Daniel led the pledge.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. MILLAGE RATE PUBLIC HEARING #1

Mayor Karen Williams opened the public hearing at 6:04 p.m. Citizens Glenda Farris, Don Moffett, Azsha Hankerson, Linda Ambrose, and Kimberly O'Connell commented. Mayor Karen Williams closed the public hearing at 6:25 p.m. No action was taken.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

A. City Council Workshop Minutes of July 1, 2024

B. City Council Meeting Minutes of July 1, 2024

C. City Council Executive Session Minutes of July 1, 2024

D. Town Hall Minutes of July 2, 2024

E. Special Event Permit Application for Jesus the Captain of My Boat Children's Festival on July 27, 2024

F. Release of Performance Bond and Acceptance of Maintenance and Sidewalk Bonds for Harmony Phase 7, Subject to City Attorney Approval

Councilmember Tom Hutcherson moved to approve the Consent Agenda.

Motion to Approve; PASSED (6-0-0)

MOVER: Hutcherson

SECONDER: Bashlor

AYES: Bashlor, Carpenter, Higgins, Hutcherson, Valim, Wilcher

NAYS:

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

A. Public Works

City Manager Matthew Saxon provided the Public Works Report.

B. Finance

Chief Finance Officer Chris Lightle provided the Finance Report.

C. Fire-Rescue

Chief Wade Simmons provided the Fire-Rescue Report.

D. Police

Chief Ashley Brown provided the Police Department Report.

E. Recreation & Parks

Director Hugh Elton gave the Recreation & Parks Report.

F. Planning & Development

Director Nicole Johnson provided the Planning & Development Report.

VIII. ORDINANCES, PROCLAMATIONS, RESOLUTIONS

A. Ordinance O2024-07.B – To Amend Chapter 46 – Fire Prevention and Protection; Sections 7, 8, 9 (First Reading)

City Manager Matthew Saxon presented the ordinance for consideration and Chief Wade Simmons reviewed the proposed revisions. Mayor Pro Tem Aaron Higgins moved to approve the first reading of Ordinance O2024-07.B – To

Amend Chapter 46 – Fire Prevention and Protection; Sections 7, 8, 9.

Motion to Approve; PASSED (6-0-0)

MOVER: Higgins

SECONDER: Wilcher

AYES: Bashlor, Carpenter, Higgins, Hutcherson, Valim, Wilcher

NAYS:

B. Proclamation for International Friendship Day

Mayor Karen Williams read aloud the proclamation.

IX. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

A. Westside Commerce Center Native Development Group Request for Consideration

City Manager Matthew Saxon presented the request for consideration. Attorney Josh Yellin was present on behalf of the petitioner. Citizens Amy Gilliam, Sharon Generette, Courtney Rawlins, Veronica Daniel, and Don Moffett commented. Councilmember Michael Carpenter moved to deny the Westside Commerce Center Native Development Group Request for Consideration.

Motion to Deny; PASSED (6-0-0)

MOVER: Carpenter

SECONDER: Valim

AYES: Bashlor, Carpenter, Higgins, Hutcherson, Valim, Wilcher

NAYS:

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. Zoning Map Amendment for 1405 Quacco Road (Public Hearing, Action)

City Manager Matthew Saxon presented the amendment for consideration. Reed Earhart of Hussey Gay Bell was present on behalf of the petitioner. Mayor Karen Williams opened the public hearing. Citizen Don Moffett commented, and Mayor Karen Williams closed the public hearing. Mayor Pro Tem Aaron Higgins, citing criterion #3, moved to deny the Zoning Map Amendment for 1405 Quacco Road.

Motion to Deny; PASSED (6-0-0)

MOVER: Higgins

SECONDER: Carpenter

AYES: Bashlor, Carpenter, Higgins, Hutcherson, Valim, Wilcher

NAYS:

B. Zoning Map Amendment for Jabot PUD (Public Hearing, Action)

City Manager Matthew Saxon presented the amendment for consideration. Neil McKenzie of Coleman Company and Jack Wardlaw were present on behalf of the petitioner. Mayor Karen Williams read aloud a joint statement signed by Mayor Pro Tem Aaron Higgins, Councilmember Michael Carpenter, and herself, then opened the public hearing. Citizens Amy Gilliam, Don Moffett,

Rebecca Henry, Renee Higgins, Jacqueline Pulley, Pat Lynch, Veronica Daniel, Adrian Griffin, Maribeth Lindler, and Dave Hopkins commented. Mayor Karen Williams closed the public hearing, and Mayor Pro Tem Aaron Higgins moved to postpone the Zoning Map Amendment for Jabot PUD until the first City Council Meeting of September 2024. Jack Wardlaw verbally agreed to cover the costs of a second advertised public hearing on the item.

Motion to Postpone; PASSED (6-0-0)

MOVER: Higgins

SECONDER: Bashlor

AYES: Bashlor, Carpenter, Higgins, Hutcherson, Valim, Wilcher

NAYS:

**C. ~~Variance Request for 130 Towne Center Drive~~
(~~Public Hearing, Action~~) *withdrawn by petitioner***

The item was withdrawn by the petitioner. No action was taken.

**D. ~~Variance Request for 850 Patel Drive~~
(~~Public Hearing, Action~~) *withdrawn by petitioner***

The item was withdrawn by the petitioner. No action was taken.

**E. Variance Request for 1565 Pooler Parkway Lowe's Outparcel
(Public Hearing, Action)**

City Manager Matthew Saxon presented the variance for consideration. Robert Forrest and Cody Rogers of EMC Engineering were present on behalf of the petitioner. Mayor Karen Williams opened and closed the public hearing without comment. Councilmember Wesley Bashlor, upon review of the criteria, moved to approve the Variance Request for 1565 Pooler Parkway Lowe's Outparcel.

Motion to Approve; PASSED (6-0-0)

MOVER: Bashlor

SECONDER: Hutcherson

AYES: Bashlor, Carpenter, Higgins, Hutcherson, Valim, Wilcher

NAYS:

F. Final Plat and Performance Bonds for Westbrook Areas L1, L2, L3

City Manager Matthew Saxon presented the plat and bonds for consideration. Reed Earhart of Hussey Gay Bell was present on behalf of the petitioner. Mayor Pro Tem Aaron Higgins moved to approve the final plat and release the bonds for Westbrook Areas L1 in the amount of \$802,305.27, L2 in the amount of \$1,713,903.84, and L3 in the amount of \$1,243,471.12.

Motion to Approve and Release; PASSED (6-0-0)

MOVER: Higgins

SECONDER: Wilcher

AYES: Bashlor, Carpenter, Higgins, Hutcherson, Valim, Wilcher

NAYS:

XI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Citizen Richard Danis commented.

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

With no further public business to conduct, Mayor Pro Tem Aaron Higgins moved to enter Executive Session. Mayor and Council entered at 8:34 p.m.

Motion to Enter; PASSED (6-0-0)

MOVER: Higgins

SECONDER: Hutcherson

AYES: Bashlor, Carpenter, Higgins, Hutcherson, Valim, Wilcher

NAYS:

Mayor Karen Williams called the meeting back to order at 10:04 p.m.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Tom Hutcherson moved to adjourn the meeting.

Motion to Adjourn; PASSED (6-0-0)

MOVER: Hutcherson

SECONDER: Wilcher

AYES: Bashlor, Carpenter, Higgins, Hutcherson, Valim, Wilcher

NAYS:

The meeting adjourned at 10:04 p.m.

The foregoing minutes are true and correct and are approved on this

_____ day of _____, _____.

CITY OF POOLER, GEORGIA

Karen L. Williams, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kiley Fusco, Clerk of Council