



CITY COUNCIL Regular Meeting – Minutes

November 15, 2021 at 6:00 PM | Pooler City Hall | 100 US Hwy 80 SW, Pooler, GA
31322

I. ROLL CALL/DECLARATION OF QUORUM

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

Absent: Craig Call, City Attorney

II. CALL TO ORDER

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

III. INVOCATION

Pastor Darren Thomas of the Church at Godley Station gave the invocation.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Pastor Darren Thomas led the pledge.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

City Manager Robert Byrd presented the consent agenda for consideration.

A. City Council Meeting Minutes of November 1, 2021

B. Application for an Alcoholic Beverage License for Ruby Tuesday Operations, LLC dba Ruby Tuesday #4274

Councilmember Karen Williams moved to approve the consent agenda.

Motion to Approve; PASSED (UNANIMOUS)

MOVER: Williams

SECONDER: Hutcherson

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

NAYS:

VI. DEPARTMENT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. **Public Works**

Assistant City Manager Matt Saxon gave the Public Works report. The Street Department continued routine maintenance, replaced signs, and swept 133 miles of roadway. The dual left turns at Pooler Parkway and Park Avenue are opening November 16, 2021. The Stormwater and Canal Departments continued routine maintenance. The Administrative Department held one pre-construction meeting and reviewed 22 sets of site plans. The Water Department installed 16 new construction meters, tested 33 backflow preventers, and performed 698 line locates. EOM performed maintenance on the odor control valve and upgraded the UV bank.

B. **Finance**

Finance Director Chris Lightle gave the Finance report. He noted that the financial statements were included in the packet. Compared to 2020, there is a net change in the fund balance of \$255,000 as of October 31; revenue continues to improve. All department supervisors have submitted their budgets, and meetings will be held this week.

C. **Fire Department**

Fire Chief Wade Simmons gave the Fire Department Report. They received 435 calls in October. There has been a drop in confirmed COVID-19 medical calls with only two for the month. The department assisted Liberty County with a tractor trailer accident.

D. **Police Department**

Major Jim Ward gave the Police Department report in Chief Ashley Brown's absence. For the month of October, there were 75 Part 1 crimes, 23 of which were shoplifting. There is a correction to the report: there were 135 arrests for the month, totaling 1,298 for the year. The department is gearing up for increased holiday traffic and the opening of Costco. Three new officers were sworn in this week.

E. **Recreation**

Director High Elton gave the Parks and Recreation report. All youth sports, with the exceptions of flag and tackle football, wrapped up in October. Gymnastics and dance have continued, as did basketball registration. Four

football games were held at the stadium and every weekend was booked at the Community Center. The Healthy Kids Running program was completed, albeit not in cooperation with the Savannah marathon this year. At the Senior Center, the Red Hat group organized a collection for Second Harvest, Rotary hosted their annual fish fry, and several day trips were taken.

F. **Planning & Zoning**

City Planner Phillip Claxton gave the Planning & Zoning report. Five single-family permits, six commercial permits, and 28 certificates of occupancy were issued. A total of 598 inspections were completed.

VII. ORDINANCES, PROCLAMATIONS, RESOLUTIONS

A. **Ordinance O2021-11.A to Amend Chapter 6 of the Code of Ordinances for the City of Pooler; to Repeal Conflicting Ordinances; to Set an Effective Date and for Other Purposes (Second Reading)**

City Manager Robert Byrd presented the ordinance for consideration. Councilmember Aaron Higgins moved to approve the second reading of Ordinance O2021-11.A to Amend Chapter 6 of the Code of Ordinances for the City of Pooler; to Repeal Conflicting Ordinances; to Set an Effective Date and for Other Purposes as amended.

Motion to Approve; PASSED (5-1)

MOVER: Higgins

SECONDER: Hutcherson

AYES: Black, Higgins, Hutcherson, Wilcher, Williams

NAYS: Wall

B. **Resolution R2021-11.B to Amend the Technology Fee and Court Cost**

City Manager Robert Byrd presented the resolution for consideration. Councilmember Aaron Higgins moved to approve Resolution R2021-11.B to Amend the Technology Fee and Court Cost.

Motion to Approve; PASSED (UNANIMOUS)

MOVER: Higgins

SECONDER: Wilcher

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

NAYS:

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. **Zoning Map Amendment for Michael & Pamela Hayman (Old Louisville Road) from RA-1 to I-1**

City Manager Robert Byrd presented the amendment for consideration, and Mayor Rebecca C. Benton opened the public hearing. Greg Coleman of Coleman Company was present on behalf of the petitioner to answer questions. Resident Rhonda Pippen inquired about the exact location of the rezoning and expressed her concerns about the speed of the trucks on the roadway. Major Jim Ward agreed to have the Police Department look into the issue. Mayor Rebecca C. Benton closed the public hearing, and Councilmember Karen Williams moved to approve, subject to review of the criteria, the zoning map amendment for Michael & Pamela Hayman (Old Louisville Road) from RA-1 to I-1 subject to the following contingencies:

1. Use of asphalt or concrete per the ordinance
2. Construction of a right-turn-only egress to include installation of a No Left Turn sign, both at the cost of the developer

Greg Coleman verbally agreed to the contingencies.

Motion to Approve with Stipulations; PASSED (UNANIMOUS)

MOVER: Williams

SECONDER: Higgins

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

NAYS:

B. Site Plan for Dawgs & Dingoes Oral Surgery Center Driveway at 506 West Highway 80

City Manager Robert Byrd presented the site plan for consideration. Tom Havens of Coastal Civil Engineering was present to answer questions on behalf of the petitioner. Councilmember Stevie Wall moved to deny the site plan for Dawgs & Dingoes Oral Surgery Center driveway at 506 West Highway 80 due to substandard roadways.

Motion to Deny; PASSED (5-1)

MOVER: Wall

SECONDER: Williams

AYES: Black, Hutcherson, Wall, Wilcher, Williams

NAYS: Higgins

C. Site Plan for Benton Townhomes at 3010 Benton Grove

City Manager Robert Byrd presented the site plan for consideration, and Mayor Rebecca C. Benton recused herself. Heath Milligan of Macallan Real Estate was present on behalf of petitioners SGLRP and Dreamfinders Homes to answer questions. After discussion, Mayor Pro Tem Tom Hutcherson called for a motion. Councilmember Aaron Higgins, upon review of the criteria, moved to approve the site plan for Benton Townhomes at 3010 Benton Grove subject to the following contingencies:

1. Conveyance of the dog and linear parks to the City of Pooler via a special warranty deed
2. Completion of the amenities package by 100 units, after which a certificate of occupancy may be issued
3. Payment into the Tree Fund
4. Completion of an emergency access built to withstand an 80,000 lb fire truck in both lanes

Motion to Approve with Stipulations; PASSED (UNANIMOUS)

MOVER: Higgins

SECONDER: Williams

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

NAYS:

D. Award Savannah Quarters Pump Station and Force Main Project

City Manager Robert Byrd presented the project for consideration. Jennifer Oetgen of Hussey, Gay & Bell was present to answer questions. Taking into consideration the city's past contractual dealings and efforts to support local businesses, Councilmember Karen Williams moved to award the Savannah Quarters Pump Station and Force Main Project to BRW Construction Group, LLC in the amount of \$6,660,323.00.

Motion to Award; PASSED (UNANIMOUS)

MOVER: Williams

SECONDER: Hutcherson

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

NAYS:

E. Contract Amendment with Hussey, Gay & Bell for the Savannah Quarters Pump Station and Force Main Project

City Manager Robert Byrd presented the amendment for consideration. Councilmember Karen Williams moved to approve the contract amendment with Hussey, Gay & Bell for the Savannah Quarters Pump Station and Force Main Project.

Motion to Approve; PASSED (UNANIMOUS)

MOVER: Williams

SECONDER: Wilcher

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

NAYS:

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember John Wilcher moved to adjourn the meeting.

Motion to Adjourn; PASSED (UNANIMOUS)

MOVER: Wilcher

SECONDER: Higgins

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

NAYS:

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

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

Rebecca C. Benton, Mayor

Attest:

Kiley Fusco, Clerk of Council