

MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, December 2, 2019, 6 PM

Members Present:

Mayor John Weaver
John Foust
Anne Sneve
Tony Fountain
Sonny Proctor
Kirk Raffield

Staff:

Lisa Hoyle
Brandon Douglas
Lonnie Waters
Steve Roper
David Hall
Greg Lovell

Guests in Attendance:

Mari Livsey
Steve Lawrence
Jim Looney
Robert Jones
Amberle Godfrey
Karen Proctor
Robert Keller

Members Absent:

None

Legal Counsel:

Bill Pickett

Press:

Angela Reinhardt

Mayor Weaver called the meeting to order promptly at 6:00 p.m. He requested County Commission Chair Robert Jones give the invocation. He called on Councilmember John Foust to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Weaver asked that the agenda be reviewed and approved by council. He noted that there was one addition since the agenda was emailed out - Item A, under New Business for presentation of the estimated Liability and Worker's Compensation insurance. Councilmember Kirk Raffield made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition. Councilmember Anne Sneve seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Weaver called on City Clerk Lisa Hoyle to read the minutes of the November 4, 2019 regular meeting. Councilmember Anne Sneve made a motion to accept the minutes as read. Councilmember Kirk Raffield seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Ms. Hoyle read the minutes of the November 12, 2019 public hearing. Councilmember Kirk Raffield made a motion to accept the minutes as read. Councilmember Anne Sneve seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Item A under Old Business, Mayor Weaver recognized City Manager Brandon Douglas to update the council on the subletting of city property. Mr. Douglas stated that he had created a draft user agreement but had not had a chance to go over it with the city attorney on the liability issues involved with the leasing of city facilities as requested by Mayor and council at the September, 2019 meeting. Mayor Weaver entertained a motion to table this item once again. Councilmember Anne Sneve made such motion. Councilmember Tony Fountain seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Item B under Old Business, Mayor Weaver recognized Mr. Douglas and City Attorney Bill Pickett to present the addition of Special Land Use Permits amendments to the city's zoning ordinance for the second reading. Mr. Douglas presented to council how the permit would affect the ordinance. A copy of the ordinance amendment is attached hereto and made a part of these minutes. Mayor Weaver asked City Attorney Bill Pickett if this presentation would suffice to be considered the second reading of the ordinance amendment. Mr. Pickett confirmed that this would be considered the second reading. Mayor Weaver entertained a motion to approve the Special Land Use Permit ordinance amendment as the second reading. Councilmember Anne Sneve made such motion. Councilmember Kirk Raffield seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Item C under Old Business, Mayor Weaver called on Mr. Douglas and Mr. Pickett to present ordinance amendments to the city's defined benefit retirement plan for the second reading. He stated that the city had been requested by GMA to restate the defined benefits plan in accordance with IRS standards. He stated that with the amendments to the plan, this would also be in compliance with GMA as far as the restatement of the master plan. He stated amendments to the defined benefits plan change eligibility hours from 20 to 30 hours, allow up to three years military service to count towards city service, prohibit in-service distribution of benefits, allow for the Rule of 80 alternate normal retirement age, and change the monthly retirement benefit formula from 1.25% multiplier to a flat 1.5% multiplier. Mayor Weaver confirmed that these amendments would not be an additional cost to the employees and would be added to the city's budget. Mr. Douglas stated that it would be added to the 2021 budget due to the fact that the changes would not be in effect until after the year following the 2020 actuarial valuation and review. He stated the additional cost to the city would be approximately \$123,000. Mayor Weaver entertained a motion. Councilmember Sonny Proctor made a motion to approve the ordinance for the amended adoption agreement for the City of Jasper, Georgia's Georgia Municipal Employees System Defined Benefit Retirement Plan that will exclude the general addendum to the plan and to adopt the IRS approved plan documents including the restated master

plan by the Georgia Municipal Association. (Copies of all documents are attached hereto for the city's records.) Councilmember Anne Sneve seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Item D under Old Business, Mayor Weaver called on Mr. Douglas and Mr. Pickett to present the second reading for an amendment to the Farm Winery section of the city's ordinances. Mr. Douglas stated that staff would like to table this item due to the fact that the way the ordinance reads, it still contains the Sunday sales time beginning at 12:30 pm. He stated in light of the November election change in Sunday sales time, he is proposing that council table this item until the time change ordinance is adopted. Mayor Weaver entertained a motion to table. Councilmember Kirk Raffield made such motion. Councilmember Anne Sneve seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Item A under New Business, Mayor Weaver recognized Joe Walker with Pointenorth Insurance to discuss our upcoming liability and worker's compensation insurance renewals. Mr. Walker stated that premiums for the city's liability coverage went from \$135,048 in 2019 to \$145,323 in 2020. He stated that the rates were holding steady, but premiums for 2020 were higher due to new fire engine and vehicles purchased during 2019. He stated that he would like to bring to council's attention the physical damage (comprehensive and collision) coverage deductibles are presently \$500. He stated the city might possibly save some money by going to a \$1,000 deductible. He stated this would save \$3,167 on auto and \$258 on the umbrella rate. He stated that in the last three years there had been a total of 22 auto liability claims and three of them would have been under \$1,000. He stated for auto physical damage there had been 33 claims and 10 of those claims would have been under \$1,000. He stated that raising the deductible would also decrease the frequency – underwriters look at frequency in addition to dollars paid out in determining rates. Mr. Walker stated that worker's compensation insurance for 2020 is down by approximately \$5,000 over 2019. He attributed the decrease to Human Resource Director Stella Brewer's working with the company's loss control department. Mayor Weaver entertained a motion for the liability insurance quote as presented. Councilmember Tony Fountain made a motion to approve the liability insurance as presented and raise the deductible from \$500 to \$1,000. Councilmember Kirk Raffield seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Walker clarified that worker's compensation estimate is \$203,113 for 2020 as compared to \$208,551 in 2019. Mayor Weaver entertained a motion to approve the worker's compensation quote as presented. Councilmember Kirk Raffield made such motion. Councilmember Anne Sneve seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Item B under New Business, Finance Director Lisa Hoyle presented the 2020 Operating Budget for Council's approval and read the budget adoption resolution. Councilmember Anne Sneve made a motion to adopt the resolution as read and to adopt the 2020 Operating Budget as presented. Councilmember Kirk Raffield seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Item C under New Business, Mayor Weaver recognized Mr. Douglas to present to council a list of alcohol renewals for 2020. Businesses who have paid for Alcohol license renewals since the last regular meeting and are requesting approval are as follows:

Smokin' Mos BBQ, LLC	Beer/Wine by the drink
Pueblo Cantina	Beer/Wine/Distilled spirits by the drink
Jasper BP (E. Church St.)	Beer by the package
Fatz Café	Beer/Wine/Distilled spirits by the drink

He asked council to renew Fatz Café pending payment is received prior to year-end. He stated they are aware of the circumstances if not received. Mayor Weaver entertained a motion. Councilmember Kirk Raffield made a motion to approve all alcohol licenses and approve Fatz Café on the condition payment is received prior to year-end. Councilmember Anne Sneve seconded the motion. Mayor Weaver asked had all present licensees applied for a 2020 license. Mr. Douglas stated yes. Motion carried unanimously

Item D under New Business, Mayor Weaver called on Mr. Douglas and Water and Sewer Superintendent David Hall to present to council an update on the city's watershed protection plan. He stated that the city had solicited in 2018 two quotes for a three-year period and CCR Environmental had provided the low quote for 2019. He stated that the estimated quote provided in 2018 for 2020 was \$22,180. He stated that the actual quote received amounted to \$21,635. He stated that \$25,000 was provided in the 2020 budget for this item. Mr. Hall stated that council had only approved the quote for 2019 at the 2018 council meeting. Mr. Hall explained to council what was involved in the watershed monitoring process. Councilmember Sonny Proctor made a motion the city table this item in order get additional quotes for the year 2020. Councilmember Anne Sneve seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Item E under New Business, Mayor Weaver recognized Mr. Douglas and Mr. Pickett to present the first reading of the ordinance amendment for early Sunday alcohol sales. Mr. Douglas stated that since voters approved the

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referendum to sell alcohol beginning 11:00 am back from 12:30 pm on Sundays in the November election, it is necessary that council amend the city's alcohol ordinances to reflect what the referendum had asked. Mr. Pickett confirmed that this would be considered the first reading of the ordinance change. Mayor Weaver entertained a motion to approve this as the first reading as the early alcohol sales voted and approved in the referendum. Councilmember Kirk Raffield made such motion. Councilmember Anne Sneve seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Item M under new business, Mayor Weaver recognized Lisa Hoyle to present an application for reduced water and sewer rates. Ms. Hoyle stated that the applicant met all requirements for the reduced rates. Following review by council, Councilmember Kirk Raffield made a motion to approve the application. Councilmember John Foust seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Weaver stated that council needed to go into executive session in order to discuss land acquisition. Councilmember Kirk Raffield made a motion to go into executive session. Councilmember Anne Sneve seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Weaver closed the meeting.

Councilmember John Foust made a motion to come out of executive session. Councilmember Anne Sneve seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Weaver opened the meeting.

Mayor Weaver asked for committee updates. Councilmembers Proctor and Raffield gave an update on the Economic Developer Hiring Committee. Councilmember Proctor stated that they are in the interviewing phase at this time and hopefully a decision would be made soon.

Councilmember Proctor gave an update on the Perrow/Roper/Pool Property Development Committee.

Finance Director Lisa Hoyle gave the financial report for the month of November 2019.

Lonnie Waters gave a report on roads and streets.

Chief Greg Lovell gave a report of police activities for the month of November 2019.

Chief Steve Roper gave a report of fire activities for the month of November 2019.

At this time Councilmember Kirk Raffield stated that on behalf of the City he wanted to thank Mayor Weaver for his over 27 years of service and also thank Councilmember Tony Fountain for his 12 years of service to the City of Jasper. Both Mayor Weaver and Councilmember Fountain were presented with a token of appreciation. Mayor Weaver thanked council and also thanked all the citizens of Jasper. He stated that the city had been good to him and he hoped he had been good to the city. Councilmember Fountain stated that it had been a privilege and an honor these last 12 years. He thanked Mayor Weaver for being his Mayor and his City Manager for all the years. Councilmember Fountain also thanked the city employees.

Being no other business to come before Council, Mayor Weaver adjourned the meeting. Council is scheduled to convene next at the special called meeting to be held January 3, 2020 and at the regular meeting to be held January 6, 2020.



John Foust

Mayor Pro Tem



Lisa J. Hoyle

City Clerk/Finance Director