

MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, September 13, 2021
6:00 P.M.

Members Present:

Mayor Steve Lawrence
Kirk Raffield
Anne Sneve
Jim Looney
John Foust
Dr. Sonny Proctor

Staff:

Brandon Douglas
Lindsey Williams
David Hall
Lonnie Waters
Greg Lovell
Steve Roper
Matt Dawkins
Stacy Johnson

Guests in Attendance:

Frank Leist
Larry Brown
Wotten
Amberly Godfrey
Dale Morrissey
Robert Keller
Jason Hason
Jackie Ivery
Geoff Chalk
Karen proctor
Philli Ham
Green Suttles
Cassie Rasco
Ryan O'Dea

Members Absent:

Legal Counsel:

R. David Syfan

Press:

Angela Reinhardt
Know Pickens
Adam Payne-Jasper News

Mayor Steve Lawrence asked Councilmember Dr. Sonny Proctor if he recognized a quorum. Seeing a quorum, Mayor Lawrence recognized meeting as open. He requested Development Director Lonnie Waters to provide the invocation. Mayor Lawrence requested Councilmember Kirk Raffield to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Lawrence addressed City Attorney, David Syfan City Clerk and Deputy City Clerk are absent (due to being in mandatory Clerk Training). Mayor Lawrence asked if we need to vote for Brandon Douglas to serve as Interim City Clerk. Mr. Syfan explained that there is a statute that provides that if City Clerk is out the City Manager can perform the duties of the Clerk, it is not necessary to appoint him, it is within his authority.

Mayor Lawrence advised that an agenda is in front of them and entertained a motion to adopt the agenda. Councilmember John Foust made a motion to adopt the agenda with Councilmember Anne Sneve providing a second. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence stated that Council has the minutes from the July 29, 2021, Work Session/Public Hearing; August 2, 2021 Regular Council Meeting; August 20, 2021 Special Called Meeting. Mayor Lawrence entertained a motion to adopt all as presented. Councilmember Kirk Raffield provided a motion with Councilmember Jim Looney providing a second. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence called on Frank Leist with the Veterans Memorial. Mr. Leist thanked the City of Jasper, Mayor and Council for everything they have done for the Veterans Memorial Park. Mr. Leist presented City Manager Brandon Douglas with a plaque of appreciation for going above and beyond in helping the Veterans in any way possible.

Mayor Lawrence recognized the first item under old business (Item A) Update on sidewalk project(s) Mayor Lawrence called on Mr. Douglas. Mr. Douglas provided an update on phase one being the need to replace and repair the existing sidewalks with estimates to indicate a cost of approximately \$300,000. The second part will be to engage the services of an engineer to cost estimate design/construction. The bid packages are due to be received and opened on September 29th. This will be on the October 4th Regular council meeting.

Mayor Lawrence recognized the next item under old business (Item B) Consideration and approval of cost proposal for N. Main sidewalk from TK Consulting Engineers, LLC for the survey, concept design, & construction drawings along with construction management for \$41,250 with a NTE \$50,000 from 2014 SPLOST. Mr. Douglas provided background information on the proposal for adding sidewalks along N. Main St (from Woodbridge to City Limits/new development) The cost of the proposal from TK Consulting Engineers, LLC proposal is \$41,250 which includes survey cost of \$8,900 and \$32,350 of civil design. Mayor Lawrence called for a motion for approval of cost proposal for N. Main sidewalk from TK Consulting Engineers, LLC for the survey, concept design, & construction drawings along with construction management for \$41,250 with a NTE \$50,000 from 2014 SPLOST. Councilmember Foust made a motion to approve. Councilmember Raffield provided a second. Motion to approve passed unanimously

Mayor Lawrence recognized the next item under old business (Item C) Update Gennett Project. Mr. Douglas explained that bids will be open prior to the October 4th meeting and associated cost to complete the project.

Mayor Lawrence recognized the next item under old Business (Item D) Consideration of revising prior authorization

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of the purchase of police vehicles due to a suspension of General Motors production and ceasing orders from State Contract. Mayor Lawrence called on Major Matt Dawkins. Mr. Dawkins updated Council on the purchasing of 6 police vehicles with the 2020 SPLOST monies that was approved in July. Mr. Dawkins stated that the department has been able to secure 2 of the 6. The dealerships are not getting in the products due to production cuts. This is not a City of Jasper issue, this is a statewide issue. Mr. Dawkins is requesting for staff to proceed getting the remaining vehicles from other dealerships and increase the total to 7 vehicles. Councilmember Looney made a motion to increase the maximization up to \$325,600 for 7 Vehicles. Councilmember Raffield provided a second. Motion to approve passes unanimously

At the conclusion of Old Business, Mayor Lawrence recognized the first item under new business (item A) Consideration and approval of the appointment of Cassie Rasco to the Planning and Zoning Commission. Mayor Lawrence asked for a motion to approve the appointment of Cassie Rasco. Councilmember Raffield made a motion to approve. Councilmember Sneve provided a second. Motion passed unanimously. Mayor Lawrence swore in Cassie Rasco for the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Mayor Lawrence recognized the next item under new business (Item B) Consideration of request to annex into the City of Jasper Parcel JA10 052.001 consisting of 3.85 acres and rezone from County Highway Business to C-2 General Commercial. This Parcel is located at the intersection of Noah Drive and West Church Street in Jasper, GA. —Mayor stated that the Applicant has requested to table.

Mayor Lawrence recognized the next item under new business (Item C) Consideration and approval of Ordinance No. 2021-19 adoption of the ad valorem tax rate (millage rate) for the City of Jasper at the roll back rate of 5.558. Mayor Lawrence stated that we have rolled back our taxes this year to accommodate the increase. Councilmember Looney made a motion to approve. Councilmember Sneve provided a second. Motion to approve passes unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence recognized the next item under new business (Item D) Consideration and approval of Resolution No. 2021-10 for support of the application for the Amicalola Falls Scenic Byway designation. Mayor Lawrence called On Green Suttles with the Development Authority of Pickens County. Mr. Suttles requested the approval for the Amicalola Falls Scenic Byway designation, adding that it would be no cost to the City. It is fully funded and executed by GDOT. Mayor Lawrence called for a motion. Councilmember Raffield made a motion to approve. Councilmember Raffield provided a second. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence recognized the next item under new business (Item E) Consideration and approval of Ordinance No. 2021-20 to amend the code of ordinances of the City of Jasper regarding the sale of alcoholic beverages to provide for distilleries. Mr. Syfan stated that our Zoning Ordinance allows distilleries in certain commercial districts other than the downtown area. Mr. Syfan clarified the ordinance. Mayor Lawrence called for a motion. Councilmember Sneve made a motion to approve. Councilmember Raffield provided a second. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence recognized the next item under new business (Item G) Consideration of easement, conveyance of private sewer pump facilities and maintenance contract between City of Jasper and Michael and Bobbie Ray Ponicki. Mr. Syfan spoke about the draft contract between City of Jasper and the Ponickis. Mr. Syfan stated that after hearing from the Public Works Director as well as the City Engineer for those approvals and adding a clause with limitation of liability we can make a motion to approve. Councilmember Raffield inquired about the number of households. Mr. Syfan stated just one household, but discussion has been made that it could be up to five other houses. Mayor Lawrence stated this is a problem caused by the city and needs to be corrected by the city. Councilmember Raffield asked if this was a problem from the previous administration that we are trying to correct from years ago. Mayor Lawrence confirmed. Councilmember Sneve made a motion to approve. Councilmember Proctor provided a second. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence recognized the next item under new business (Item H) Consideration of installing hot taps in anticipation of the Gennett Drive Project. Mayor Lawrence called on Water/Waste-Water Director David Hall. Mr. Hall explained the need for two hot taps. The Hot tap allows for a tap on a pressurized water line without interrupting water service to our customers. This would be done from Consolidated Pipe in the amount of \$7,520.50. Mayor Lawrence called for a motion. Councilmember Foust made a motion to approve. Councilmember Raffield provided a second. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence recognized the next item under new business (Item I) Consideration of replacing the motors for Well #1 and #3 along with other necessary maintenance issues including but not limited to wiring, joints, etc. Costs to not exceed \$72,500 (insurance claim filed to potentially cover half or more). Mr. Hall stated that due to lightning strikes, staff has identified the need to replace the motor at Well #1 and #3. A claim has been filed with insurance regarding replacing the motors. Mr. Hall is seeking approval NTE \$30,000 for each Well if insurance does not cover the replacement. Mayor Lawrence called for a motion with cost to not exceed \$72,500. Councilmember Raffield made a motion to approve. Councilmember Sneve provided a second. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

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Mayor Lawrence recognized the next item under new business (Item J) Consideration of purchasing and installing new motor for the hospital lift station pump. Mayor Lawrence called on Mr. Hall. He stated that getting the new motor for the Hospital Lift Station pump is 40-60 days out. Mr. Hall provided an estimate from Pump Solutions of \$11,500.00. Mayor Lawrence called for a motion to approve purchasing and installing new motor. Councilmember Foust made a motion to approve. Councilmember Sneve provided a second. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence recognized the next item under new business (Item k) Discussion of request from downtown merchants regarding events in downtown. Mayor Lawrence called of Geoff Chalk. Mr. Chalk is seeking approval of closing Main Street for Halloween Trick or Treating and Christmas Festivities. After discussion, Halloween will be on October 31st from 4pm to 6pm on Main Street and the Christmas Festivities will be held on December 4th from 2pm to 8pm on Main Street with The City providing a stage for the Christmas event. Mayor Lawrence called for a motion to approve. Councilmember Raffield made a motion to approve. Councilmember Sneve provided a second. Motion to approved passed unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence recognized the next item under new business (Item L) Discussion of request from Reinhardt University – Shamrock Stroll. Mayor Lawrence called on Dale Morrissey to provide information on the 5th annual Shamrock Stroll that raises money for Reinhart Students. The event will be held on March 12th. Mayor Lawrence called for a motion to approve. Councilmember Looney made a motion to approve. Councilmember Foust provided a second. Motion to approved passed unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence recognized the next item under new business (Item M) Discussion of request for City of Jasper to partner with Waddle on In Rescue. Mayor Lawrence called on Mr. Waters and Mrs. Wootten. Mrs. Wootten would like to partner with the City of Jasper in helping injured domesticated ducks at the Duck Pound. Mr. Waters stated that if approved the city would put up 2 signs at the duck pond with the contact information of Waddle on In Rescue. After discussion of the Duck Rescue Permission Slip and Liability Release Mayor Lawrence called for a motion to partner with Waddle on In Rescue. Councilmember Raffield made a motion to approve. Councilmember Sneve provided a second. Motion to approved passed unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence recognized the next item under new business (Item N) Discussion of Weather-Related Event / Impact. Nothing to add that has not been discussed earlier in the evening.

Mr. Syfan made an announcement of the change of address for the Election Poling Place. The polling place change location for City of Jasper Municipal Elections and being City of Jasper Precinct #8 effective immediately and which shall be in effect for the November 2, 2021, Jasper Municipal General Election. The location will be at 55 Dixie Street Suite C (Beside the Jasper Police Department) This change will provide a safer environment for the polling place. The polling place will be open to City Voters from 7:00 am until 7:00pm.

Mayor Lawrence recognized Committee reports provided in packets.

Mayor Lawrence Made a motion to go into Executive Session. Council member Looney made a motion to go into executive Session for personnel. Councilmember Raffield provide a second. Motion approved unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence called for a motion to come out of Executive Session. Councilmember Loony made a motion. Motion approved unanimously. Councilmember Sneve provided a second.

Mayor Lawrence asked for a motion to adjourn with Councilmember Loony providing a motion and Councilmember Sneve providing a second. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned.



Steve Lawrence

Mayor



Beverly Ragland

Finance Director/City Clerk