

MINUTES

City Council Meeting

Monday, July 20, 2009 – 7:00 p.m.

Call to Order: At 7:00 p.m. Mayor Quinney called the meeting of Council to order.

Devotional & Pledge: Councilmember Jones offered the opening prayer and Mayor Quinney invited all in attendance to join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

Members of Council: Mayor Quinney, Gwyn Hall, Tennyson Holder, Bowen Jones, Bessie Kicklighter, Durward Motes, Misty Selph and Judy Shuman.

Staff Members: Brian Johnson, City Administration; Rhonda Ferrell-Bowles, Clerk of Council; James P. Gerard, City Attorney; Pam Franklin, HR Director; Clara Rouse, Finance Director; Nathan Mai-Lombardo, Planning Director; Randall Griffin, Public Works Director; Cliff Ducey, Parks & Recreation; Ben Brengman, IS/IT Director; David Lyons, Chief of Police, Jimmy Crosby, Fire Chief and Katie Parish, Water Operations Administrative Assistant.

Staff Absent: Charles Draeger, Water Operations Director.

Mayor Quinney said City Council held a Pre-Agenda Session prior to tonight's meeting. He said no decisions were made during the Pre-Agenda Session.

Receive Public Comment/Public Hearings:

PC0914, Zoning Map Amendment: Mayor Quinney opened the public hearing to receive public comment on a request by Harold Yellin, representing property owner Robert Beck, to rezone 1425 Dean Forest Road to an M zoning classification, rather than to an R-I-N as originally requested.

City Manager said PC0914 plays into the context of the next case PC0916. He said 1425 Dean Forest Road is one of the properties included in the properties across from City Hall that ties into the land use plan for both sides of the road. He said we pulled this specific property out, because Mr. Beck has special representation.

Mayor Quinney said this change is for future development down the road.

Mr. Yellin said he represents Mr. Robert Beck. He said the requested rezoning is for an office. He said we ask that you consider the uses already on Dean Forest Road. He said you have Savannah Landfill,

Harbor Construction's two offices, Food Lion and Carrier already there. He said Brian mentioned the master plan, and you have across from Mr. Beck's property the City Hall, Visitors Center, Police Academy and ten other buildings already within the M zoning district which is the same zoning Mr. Beck is requesting. He said we originally asked for an R-I-N zoning classification, but changed it to a least intrusive M zoning classification.

Mr. Yellin said the traffic count is high on Dean Forest Road. He said the traffic count on Dean Forest Road reminds me of established roads such as Benton Drive in Pooler, Stephenson Avenue in Savannah and Johnny Mercer on Wilmington Island. He said Dean Forest Road is a road that links north and south.

Mr. Yellin said Mr. Beck's parcel is approximately 2.44 acres with 150 feet fronting Dean Forest Road and a depth of 200 feet. He said the office will be virtually unseen from Dean Forest Road. He said Mr. Beck's has five employees and there are no commercial vehicles and storage is offsite.

Mr. Yellin said an RA zoning district was mentioned at the Planning Commission Meeting, but according to your ordinance RA is not a pure residential district. He said your zoning ordinance allows schools, churches, hospitals, medical centers, club houses, parking lots, and family care homes in a RA zoning district. He said we believe an office in an M zoning district makes more sense.

Mayor Quinney asked if there was anyone else who wished to speak in favor of the rezoning request.

Mayor Quinney asked if there was anyone who wished to speak against the rezoning request.

Mr. Ozzie Rollinger, 1431 Dean Forest Road, said I am opposed to the rezoning. He said I am very disappointed in you all. He said if the rezoning is allowed you will end up with piece milled zoning on Dean Forest Road. He said it has been six months since Mr. Beck applied for an RIN zoning. He said your ordinance said you can't come back for six months if your rezoning request is denied. He said Planning Commission denied the rezoning.

Mayor Quinney said Planning Commission is a recommending body and they turned the request down. He said the case never came before city council for consideration. He said so the six months doesn't apply to this case.

Mr. Rollinger said Mr. Osteen was against the rezoning and his wife is against the rezoning. He said you shouldn't rezone a house that is in a neighborhood. He said the same rezoning situation came up on Highway 80 and they were turned down, because the homeowners didn't want it.

Ms. Mary Steinfield, 1463 Dean Forest Road said she grew up there, married and raise her kids there. She said I didn't care when Food Lion went in and the new city hall, but now it seems like you are trying to get rid of us. She said if you aren't trying to get rid of us then why were we told there is a proposal and that our properties would make a nice city market across from city hall.

Mayor Quinney said we are not trying to move anyone out.

Ms. Steinfield said I don't understand how Mr. Beck got a permit for his business to operate there. She said I couldn't get a business license to operate a business out of my home and I live two doors down from him and he was issued a business license.

Ms. Evelyn Rollinger said the neighbors on both sides of Mr. Beck oppose the rezoning and we don't want a business in the middle of our subdivision. She said the Planning Commission turned down the rezoning.

Mayor Quinney said the Planning Commission is a recommending body only and has no voice.

Ms. Rollinger said why did Garden city allow him to get a business license? She said he has been before the Judge and found in violation. She said it doesn't make sense.

City Attorney said Mr. Beck's activities were not in conformance with our ordinance. Mr. Beck has asked for zoning that will allow his activities.

Mayor Quinney said we have nothing to do with it. He said the Judge is handling the case. He said no vote is going to be taken tonight on the rezoning requests.

Mayor Quinney closed the public hearing on PC0914.

PC0916, Zoning Map Amendment: Mayor Quinney opened the public hearing to receive public comment on a request by the City of Garden City to rezone the following properties from R-A zoning district to an M (Mixed-Use) zoning district. The properties are as follows: 1471 Dean Forest Road, 1469 Dean Forest Road, 1463 Dean Forest Road, 1435 Dean Forest Road, 1431 Dean Forest Road, 1429 Dean Forest Road, 1425 Dean Forest Road, 1417 Dean Forest Road, and 1409 Dean Forest Road.

Mayor Quinney asked if there was anyone who wished to speak for or against the rezoning request.

Ms. Rhonda Wells, 1429 Dean Forest Road said I am opposed to the rezoning. She said I feel we are being bullied into doing something we don't want to do.

Ms. Annie Sapp, 1401 Dean Forest Road said I have lived there all my life. She said I do not want to see it change and I do not want a business next to me.

Mr. Rollinger said there will be a four lane highway between us and you all and I don't want to see our way of life taken away after all these years. He said you all keep telling people that you are patterning your selves after Smyrna, Georgia and they started building and now they have a bunch of blue pipes coming up out of the ground, because the economy has dropped and no building is going on. He said I don't want to see that happen to us.

Mayor Quinney closed the public hearing on PC0916.

City Council Minutes & Special Called City Council Meeting Minutes: Upon motion by Councilmember Holder, seconded by Councilmember Shuman, City Council voted unanimously to approve the June 1, 2009, City Council Minutes and the June 4, 2009, Special Called City Council Minutes.

Receive Staff Report:

Planning Director presented to City Council the Planning & Economic Development Department's Monthly Status Report for the month of June 2009.

Human Resources Director presented to City Council the Human Resources Department's Monthly Status Report for the month of June 2009.

Finance Director presented to City Council the Finance Department's Monthly Status Report for the month of June 2009.

IS/IT Director presented to City Council the Technology Department's Monthly Status Report for the month of June 2009.

Parks & Recreation Director presented to City Council the Parks & Recreation Department's Monthly Status Report for the month of June 2009.

Public Works Director presented to City Council the Public Works Department's Monthly Status Report for the month of June 2009.

In the absence of the Water Operations Director, the Water Operations Administrative Assistant presented to City Council the Water Operations Department's Monthly Status Report.

Fire Chief presented to City Council the Fire Department's Monthly Status Report for the month of June 2009.

Police Chief presented to City Council the Police Department's Monthly Status Report for the month of June 2009.

City Manager Updates:

City Manager said we have held a series of public meetings on the proposed curbside recycling. He said there were a lot of rumors circulating, but when the information was presented accurately at the public meetings everyone was favorable of the curbside recycling program. He said we have unanimous support from the citizens for the program.

City Manager said we will be moving into our new city hall on August 21st. He said both facilities will be closed on August 21st for data transfer.

Items for Consideration:

Curbside Recycling: Upon motion by Councilmember Jones, seconded by Councilmember Holder, City Council voted unanimously to approve implementing the curbside recycling program.

Councilmember Selph asked if there was anyone who wished to comment on the curbside recycling program.

Mr. Tom Sutter said he wished to remind everyone that there recycling collection bins in Garden City for everyone's use.

Surplus Equipment: Upon motion by Councilmember Holder, seconded by Councilmember Jones, City Council voted unanimously to approve declaring the public works department equipment as surplus.

Neighborhood Stabilization Grant: Upon motion by Councilmember Selph, seconded by Councilmember Shuman, City Council voted unanimously to award the grant administration contract to Garden City Town Center LLC.

Adjournment: Upon motion by Councilmember Holder, seconded by Councilmember Hall, City Council voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:35 p.m.

Transcribed and Submitted by Rhonda Ferrell-Bowles, Clerk of Council

Adopted by City Council: August 17, 2009