

## MINUTES

### City Council

Monday, April 5, 2010 – 7:00 p.m.

**Call to Order:** Mayor Holder welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Devotional & Pledge:** Councilmember Motes offered the opening prayer and Mayor Holder invited everyone to join in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

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

**Roll Call:** Mayor Holder presided. City Council Members: Don Bethune, Gwyn Hall, Bowen Jones, Bessie Kicklighter, Durward Motes, Judy Shuman, and Jimmy Spilliards. All Members of Council present.

**Staff:** Brian Johnson, City Manager; Rhonda Ferrell-Bowles, Clerk of Council; James P. Gerard, City Attorney; Clara Rouse, Finance Director; Ben Brengman, IT/IS Director; David Lyons, Chief of Police; Charles Draeger, Water Operations Director; Randall Griffin, Public Works Director; Cliff Ducey, Recreation Director and Jimmy Crosby, Fire Chief.

**Staff Absent:** Nathan Mai-Lombardo, Planning Director and Pam Franklin, HR Director.

Mayor Holder introduced Representative Bob Bryant.

#### **Legislative Update:**

Representative Bryant said it is a pleasure to be here tonight and introduced Representative Ann Purcell, Senator Buddy Carter and County Commissioner Dean Kicklighter. He said Senator Lester Jackson was supposed to be here tonight, but could not make it.

Representative Bryant said House Bill 136 passed the house with very little problem and now is on the senate side.

City Manager said the joint police jurisdiction between Garden City and Savannah is not before the legislature. He said we are still in consultation with Savannah.

City Administrator said House Bill 136 is the property rights bill for the constitutional amendment to allow property owners to withdraw their properties from an industrial zone. He said this bill passed the house and is on the senate side for consideration. He said both Representative Bryant and Representative Purcell were instrumental in getting the bill passed.

Representative Bryant said in the beginning I was concerned about the Southbridge annexation and didn't support it. He said one of my biggest concerns was that we had been working for a couple of years to create council districts in Garden City so the minority could have more than one representative on council. He said with today's population warranted two minority representatives on council. He said we hadn't had an election yet by districts when the Southbridge annexation came along. He said Brian made sure I got all the information I needed on how this would affect the council districts and I did a lot of research on my own.

Representative Bryant said after giving this matter great consideration, the only way I could support the annexation was to have a dual referendum. He said this would give the citizens of Garden City and Southbridge the opportunity to vote on it. He said the first bill presented to me only had Southbridge voting on the matter. He said I had the bill rewrote to include Garden City. He said now Garden City will vote and Southbridge will vote. He said this is the most honorable way to do it.

Representative Bryant said I am here tonight to tell you that I support the Southbridge annexation bill. He said you have my support, Senator Carter and Senator Jackson's support and when we get back to Atlanta on Monday Representative Purcell will sign on the bill in support.

Mayor Holder asked if Senator Carter and Representative Purcell wished to address city council. Senator Carter and Representative Purcell thanked city council.

Mayor Holder recognized County Commissioner Dean Kicklighter.

Commissioner Kicklighter said I am here to come to your defense. He said I represent 60,000 citizens and five cities in my district. He said a letter dated March 31, 2010, from the City of Savannah's Mayor was sent to the State Delegates. He said the information in the letter was inaccurate.

Commissioner Kicklighter said I believe Southbridge would be safer with Garden City police protecting them. He said they would be safer at no cost to them. He said the information relating to water and sewer service in the letter was inaccurate. He said Southbridge is already under Savannah's outer city water/sewer rates. He said Savannah makes money providing them water/sewer and that would not change. He said annexation would provide Southbridge with better government representation by adding another layer of government. He said taxation would be no problem, because they would be reduced. He said the letter mentioned Garden City was interested in policing Dean Forest Road and even the State Legislation expressed a concern about ticket writing. He said there has been no communication between Savannah and Garden City. He said Savannah doesn't talk to you when they annex an area. He said the letter states that Brian has not been in contact with the County. He said Brian has been constantly in contact with me. He said Savannah has not communicated with me and I represent Southbridge. He said the letter from Savannah misrepresents me and I want everyone to know that I have not been contacted by Savannah.

**City Council Minutes:** Upon motion by Councilmember Jones, seconded by Councilmember Shuman, City Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes dated March 15, 2010.

**Second Reading, Amendment to Alcoholic Beverage Sale Ordinance:** Clerk of Council read for the second reading an ordinance to amend the Code of Ordinances of Garden City, Georgia, as amended, by amending Chapter 6, Article II, Division 3, to permit Sunday hours of sales of alcoholic beverages in eating establishments within C-2, C-2A, C-2A (B&W), and M zoning districts deriving at least fifty (50%) percent of their total annual gross food and beverage sales from the sale of prepared meals or food; to repeal all ordinances in conflict herewith; to provide an effective date; and for other purposes.

Upon motion by Councilmember Kicklighter, seconded by Councilmember Hall, City Council voted unanimously to adopt the amendment to the Alcoholic Beverage Sale Ordinance on the second reading.

Mayor and City Council thanked the State Delegates and Commissioner Kicklighter for their support.

**Adjournment:** Upon motion by Councilmember Kicklighter, seconded by Councilmember Shuman, City Council voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:33 p.m.

**Transcribed by Rhonda Ferrell-Bowles, Clerk of Council**

**Adopted: April 19, 2010**