

MINUTES
City Council Meeting
Monday, February 1, 2016 – 6:00 p.m.

Call to Order: Mayor Bethune welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Opening: Mayor Pro-tem Campbell offered the invocation and Mayor Bethune invited everyone to join in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Roll Call:

Members: Mayor Bethune presided. **Council Members:** Bruce Campbell, Rosetta Cody, Marcia Daniel, Bessie Kicklighter, Debbie Ruiz and Kim Tice.

Staff: Ron Feldner, City Manager; Rhonda Ferrell-Bowles, Clerk of Council; James P. Gerard, City Attorney; Ben Brengman, IT Director; David Lyons, Chief of Police; Cliff Ducey, Recreation Director; Benny Googe, Works Director and Pam Franklin, HR Director. Absent: Ron Alexander, Planning & Zoning Director; Charles Draeger, Water Operations Director and Blake Hodge, Fire Chief.

Mayor Bethune said City Council held a pre-agenda session prior to tonight's meeting. He said no decisions or votes were made during the pre-agenda session.

K-9 Unit Update by Chief Lyons: Chief Lyons introduced Officer David Dess and K9 Arie displaying his new bullet and stab resistant vest. Chief Lyons said the vest was donated to the department by a non-profit organization called, Vested Interest in K9's. He said the organization provides these thousand-dollar vest to departments around the country that may not have room in the budget for them. He said this is an asset that we didn't have to pay for, and it will protect our K9 asset. He said we recently retired one of our other K9's. He said dog's replacement is set to be done with training in about six months and the department plans to apply for a vest for him as well.

Informal Public Comment: Mayor Bethune opened the floor to received public comment from the audience.

There being no questions or comments from the audience, Mayor Bethune closed the informal public comment portion of the meeting.

City Council Minutes: Upon motion by Councilmember Campbell, seconded by Councilmember Cody, City Council voted unanimously to approve the city council minutes dated 1/19/16.

Staff Reports:

HR Director presented the Human Resources Department's monthly report. She reminded everyone of the Employee Service Awards Ceremony scheduled to be held February 9.

IT Director presented the Information Technology Department's monthly report.

Public Works Director presented the Public Works Department's monthly report.

Councilmember Kicklighter said the street lights on Highway 80 have been fixed.

Public Works Director said a request has been submitted to Georgia Power for them look at installing a street light at the end of Delettre off of Sixth Street.

Parks & Recreation Director presented the Parks & Recreation Department's monthly report.

City Manager Updates: City Manager said the Mayor and I met with representatives from the Georgia Department of Transportation while in Atlanta. He said we talked about Chatham Parkway and Prosperity Drive as well as other projects. He said the Georgia Department of Transportation felt our requests had a lot of detail and merit. He said the next step is to get the design work back to them for funding consideration.

Mayor Bethune said sometimes we lose sight of what a plus it is to have a City Manager that has an engineering background.

Councilmember Tice asked when the paving work on Highway 21 is scheduled to start. City Manager said the paving work on Highway 21 should begin in March. He said the contractor has had some delays. He said paving improvements are also scheduled for Highway 80.

Items for Consideration:

First Reading - Ordinance, Rezoning Map Amendment: Clerk of Council read the first reading of an ordinance to amend the zoning ordinance and map of Garden City, Georgia, as amended; to rezone certain property owned by Peter Okwu and Amethyst Okwu, located at 27 Minus Avenue, Garden City, Georgia, from its present zoning classification of C-2A to a C-2 zoning classification; to repeal all ordinances in conflict herewith; to provide an effective date; and for other purposes.

Upon motion by Councilmember Kicklighter, seconded by Councilmember Campbell, City Council voted unanimously to approve the ordinance on the first reading.

Upon motion by Councilmember Kicklighter, seconded by Councilmember Campbell, City Council voted unanimously to suspend the rules of council to hold the second reading of the ordinance.

Second Reading - Ordinance, Rezoning Map Amendment: Clerk of Council read the second reading of an ordinance to amend the zoning ordinance and map of Garden City, Georgia, as amended; to rezone certain property owned by Peter Okwu and Amethyst Okwu, located at 27 Minus Avenue, Garden City, Georgia, from its present zoning classification of C-2A to a C-2 zoning classification; to repeal all ordinances in conflict herewith; to provide an effective date; and for other purposes.

Upon motion by Councilmember Kicklighter, seconded by Councilmember Cody, City Council voted unanimously to adopt the ordinance on the second reading.

First Reading - Ordinance, Amendment to Retirement Plan: Clerk of Council read the first reading of an ordinance to amend and restate the Retirement Plan for the Employees of the City of Garden City, Georgia in accordance with and subject to the terms and conditions set forth in the Adoption Agreement, any Addendum to the Adoption Agreement, the Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System (GMEBS) Master Plan Document, and the GMEBS Trust Agreement.

Upon motion by Councilmember Tice, seconded by Councilmember Daniel, City Council voted unanimously to approve the ordinance on the first reading.

Mayor Bethune said the second reading of the ordinance to amend the retirement plan will be held at the February 15 council meeting.

Mayor Bethune asked Chief Lyons to make sure that the residents, fire, EMS, etc. were informed of the railroad closings scheduled this week in Garden City. He also asked Chief Lyons if the Dillard Yard Road could be used by residents during the railroad closing. Chief Lyons replied I don't see why the resident's couldn't use the Dillard Yard Road.

There being no further questions or comments, Mayor Bethune called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Adjournment: Upon motion by Councilmember Campbell, seconded by Councilmember Tice, City Council unanimously adjourned the meeting at 6:27 p.m.

Transcribed by Clerk of Council

Accepted / Approved by City Council: 2/15/16