

MINUTES

City Council Meeting

Monday, March 16, 2009 – 7:00 p.m.

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

Staff Present: Brian Johnson, City Administrator; Rhonda Ferrell-Bowles, Clerk of Council; James P. Gerard, City Attorney; Pam Franklin, HR Director; Clara Rouse, Finance Director; Nathan Mai-Lombardo, Planning Director; Ben Brengman, IS/IT Director; Randall Griffin, Public Works Director; Charles Draeger, Water/Sewer Director; Cliff Ducey, Recreation Director; David Lyons, Chief of Police and Jimmy Crosby, Fire Chief.

Visitors: See attached sign-in sheet(s).

Opening: Mayor Quinney welcomed everyone to the meeting. Councilmember Shuman offered the opening prayer and Mayor Quinney led City Council in the pledge to the flag.

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.

Public Hearings:

PC0904, Zoning Map Amendment: Mayor Quinney opened a public hearing to receive public comment on a request by the City of Garden City representing Bonnie Maddox, Jr., and Bessie Maddox, property owners, to rezone 23 Maddox Road from an R-A Chatham County zoning district to an R-A Garden City zoning district. (PIN #1-0956-02-008)

City Administrator said this property is being considered for annexation.

Mr. James Osteen asked if the Planning Commission has the authority to rule on the zoning of a piece of property that is not in Garden City.

City Attorney said the Planning Commission is a recommending body. He said you are recommending that the property be annexed in at an R-A zoning classification at the same time it is annexed.

There being no further questions or comments, Mayor Quinney closed the public hearing.

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PC0905, Zoning Map Amendment: Mayor Quinney opened a public hearing on a request by the City of Garden City representing Ray Crosby, property owner, to rezone 4907 Ogeechee Road from an R-M-H-I Chatham County zoning district to a C-2 Garden City zoning district. (PIN #1-0956-02-003)

City Administrator said this property is being considered for annexation.

Councilmember Hall asked what is the crossroad shown on the map.

Public Works Director said Buckhalter Road.

There being no further questions or comments, Mayor Quinney closed the public hearing.

Alcoholic Beverage License Application: Mayor Quinney opened a public hearing to receive public comment on an alcoholic beverage license application for Rajesh Patel to sell wines, beer and/or malt beverages at Wahi Guru, LLC DBA Garden City Chevron at 1210 Highway 80 East, Garden City, Georgia. The Police Department recommends approval.

There being no questions or comments, Mayor Quinney closed the public hearing.

Alcoholic Beverage License Application: Mayor Quinney opened a public hearing to receive public comment on an alcoholic beverage license application for Kamal Jir Sethi Singh to sell wines, beer and/or malt beverages at Wahi Guru, LLC DBA Garden City Chevron at 12 10 Highway 80 East, Garden City, Georgia. The Police Department recommends approval.

Councilmember Jones asked why the alcohol license fees are different on the applications.

Chief of Police said one is a manager's license and the other is business license.

There being no further questions or comments, Mayor Quinney closed the public hearing.

City Council Minutes: Upon motion by Councilmember Holder, seconded by Councilmember Hall, City Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes from the March 2, 2009 meeting of city council.

Zoning & Building Committee Report:

First Reading, Rezoning Request, Mike Early: Clerk of Council read an ordinance to amend the zoning ordinance and map of Garden City, Georgia, as amended; to rezone certain property owned by Michael D. Early and Gretchen C. Early, from its present zoning classification of "R-A" to a "I-1" zoning classification; to repeal all ordinances in conflict herewith; to provide an effective date; and for other purposes.

Councilmember Hall made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Shuman to deny the rezoning, because it does not fit within City's master plan. City Council voted unanimously to deny the rezoning.

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Personnel, Finance & Administration Committee Report: Councilmember Shuman said the meter reader position is filled. She said we are recruiting for an Administrative Assistant for the Public Works Director and a Utility Business Office Manager. She said job descriptions and applications are available on the City's website.

Councilmember Shuman said the Public Works Director has completed his certification exam for a Public Works Infrastructure Inspector. She said Garden City has the best looking and smartest Public Works Director.

Councilmember Kicklighter said I thought we had a hiring freeze.

City Administrator said these are internal moves.

Councilmember Kicklighter said we are advertising for these positions, which means we will have other people coming in.

City Administrator said the Utility Business Office Manager's position is funded out of the water/sewer enterprise fund which is doing well and not subject to the economic downturn. He said we have doubled in customer accounts since implementing the stormwater. He said we are holding off hiring positions that are funded out of the general fund such as the Assistant Planner and Code Enforcement Officer.

Councilmember Kicklighter said when did we approve hiring another planner?

City Administrator said the planner position was approved during the 2009 budget process.

Councilmember Kicklighter said was I the only one that didn't know about another planner.

Councilmember Hall said it was discussed in the budget process and is approved in the FY09 Budget.

Councilmember Kicklighter said Councilmember Shuman always reads a report from the HR Director, but never reports anything on the budget or finances. She asked why are we not getting a report from the finance director. She said we used to get monthly financial reports, but we have not received them lately.

City Administrator said no one has asked for them. He said we will start providing a financial report.

Parks & Recreation Committee Report: Councilmember Selph said the Easter Extravaganza will be held on April 4th at Sharon Park. She said Recreation's Opening Day Parade will be held on April 18th beginning at the Garden City Gym and ending at Bazemore Park.

Fire Committee Report: Councilmember Motes said the Fire Department responded to 10 calls during March 1st – March 15th, with an average response time of 3.7 minutes. He said everything is going fine in the finance department.

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Police Committee Report:

Alcoholic Beverage License Application: Councilmember Kicklighter said we have for consideration an alcoholic beverage license application for Rajesh Patel to sell wines, beer and/or malt beverages at Wahi Guru, LLC DBA Garden City Chevron at 1210 Highway 80 East, Garden City, Georgia. She said the police department recommends approval.

Upon motion by Councilmember Kicklighter, seconded by Councilmember Holder, City Council voted unanimously to approve the alcoholic beverage licenses application for Rajesh Patel.

Alcoholic Beverage Manager Application: Councilmember Kicklighter said we have for consideration an alcoholic beverage license manager application by Kamal Jir Sethi Singh to sell wines, beer and/or malt beverages at Wahi Guru, LLC DBA Garden City Chevron at 1210 Highway 80 East, Garden City, Georgia. She said the police department recommends approval.

Upon motion by Councilmember Kicklighter, seconded by Councilmember Selph, City Council voted unanimously to approve the alcoholic beverage manager application for Kamal Jir Sethi Singh.

Councilmember Kicklighter gave a routine report.

Public Works Committee Report: Councilmember Holder said everything is going fine in the public works department.

Water/Sewer Committee Report: Councilmember Jones said everything is going fine in the water/sewer department.

City Administrator Report:

Resolution, Capital Improvement Element: Clerk of Council read a resolution to adopt the Capital Improvement Element in final form as a component to the City's Comprehensive Plan and that within seven (7) days of the passage of this Resolution notice of such adoption be provided to the Coastal Georgia Regional Development Center along with a digital copy of the final adoption version of the Capital Improvement Element.

City Administrator said this is part of the continuing effort to get to the point of adopting the impact fees.

Upon motion by Councilmember Jones, seconded by Councilmember Holder, City Council voted unanimously to adopt the Capital Improvement Element Resolution.

De-annexation Request by the Georgia Ports Authority: City Administrator said the Georgia Ports Authority is asking for Council to endorse the de-annexation by resolution. He said GPA approached the City two weeks ago about de-annexing the triangle tract area. He said the triangle tract encompasses the land that City Hall sits on down to the gate. He said at the last workshop you all debated endorsing GPA's de-annexation request with the stipulation the drainage requirements are met prior to the

endorsement. He said we will enter into a memorandum of understanding to ensure that the drainage is maintained properly.

Upon motion by Councilmember Jones, seconded by Councilmember Holder, City Council voted unanimously to endorse by resolution Georgia Ports Authority's de-annexation request with the stipulation the drainage issues are taken care of to the city's satisfaction.

Master Development Agreement Extension: City Administrator said I would like to request another 30 days extension on the Master Development Agreement.

Upon motion by Councilmember Holder, seconded by Councilmember Motes, City Council voted unanimously to approve the 30 days extension on the Master Development Agreement.

Joint Garden City & Savannah Police Jurisdiction for Dean Forest Road: City Administrator said our police presence will increase along Dean Forest Road when we locate there. He said we are resurrecting the joint jurisdiction agreement between Garden City and Savannah that was executed in 2000. He said a resolution has to be adopted by Savannah endorsing the joint jurisdiction and it still has to be passed by the Georgia General Assembly. He said we are trying to get this done before this year's session ends.

Upon motion by Councilmember Kicklighter, seconded by Councilmember Holder, City Council voted unanimously to endorse joint Garden City and Savannah police jurisdiction along Dean Forest Road.

City Attorney Report: City Attorney said I have nothing new to report.

Mayor Report: Mayor Quinney said Grover Lovett passed away and asked for a moment of silence for the Lovett Family.

Adjournment: Upon motion by Councilmember Holder, seconded by Councilmember Hall, City Council voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:27 p.m.

Andy Quinney, Mayor

Tennyson Holder, Mayor Pro-tem

Gwyn Hall, Councilmember

Bowen Jones, Councilmember

Bessie Kicklighter, Councilmember

Durward Motes, Councilmember

Misty Selph, Councilmember

Judy Shuman, Councilmember

Rhonda Ferrell-Bowles
Clerk of Council