

MINUTES
City Council Meeting
Monday, August 21, 2017 – 6:00 p.m.

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

Opening: Pastor Dale Simmons, Jasper Springs Baptist Church gave the invocation and Mayor Bethune led everyone 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: Jackie Jackson, Special Projects Coordinator; Rhonda Ferrell-Bowles, Clerk of Council; James P. Gerard, City Attorney; David Lyons, Chief of Police; Ben Brengman, IT Director; Pam Franklin, HR Director; Ron Alexander, Planning Director; Charles Draeger, Water Operations Director; Captain Mack Roberts, GCFD; Judy Roundtree, Senior Center Coordinator and Jennifer Scholl, Executive Assistant GCFD. Absent: Ron Feldner, City Manager; Benny Googe, Public Works Director; Cliff Ducey, Recreation Director and Corbin Medeiros, Fire Chief.

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

Mr. Jeffery Walker, an employee of the Garden City Water Operation Department, said I am being racially discriminated against and mistreated. Recently my supervisor cursed me out. I went to the Water Operations Director and HR Director. I've tried to talk to the City Manager. I was suspended because of my job performance, but they got me doing other jobs that aren't on my job description.

City Attorney said you were allowed to talk and air your grievance, but you have procedures in the personnel manual that you should be following that start with HR.

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

Public Hearings:

PC1715, Rezoning Request (0 Dean Forest Road): Mayor Bethune opened the public hearing to receive public comment on a request by Nakia Baxter, applicant to rezone 0 Dean Forest Road (PIN 6-0990-02-009) from R-1 to I-2 for use as a storage drop yard.

Planning Director said this case went before the Planning Commission at the August 8th meeting. Staff recommends denial, because it doesn't meet the criteria of the zoning ordinance. He said the Planning Commission recommends denial of the rezoning request.

Mayor Bethune asked if there was anyone who wished to speak in favor of the rezoning. No one spoke in favor of the rezoning request.

Mayor Bethune asked if there was anyone who wished to speak against the rezoning. No one spoke in against the rezoning request.

There being no questions or comments from City Council, Mayor Bethune closed the public hearing on PC1715.

PC1716, Rezoning Request (0 2nd Avenue): Mayor Bethune opened the public hearing to receive public comment on a request by Nakia Baxter, applicant to rezone 0 2nd Avenue (PIN 6-0020-04-004) from C2A to I2 for use as a container drop yard rest area.

Planning Director said this case went before the Planning Commission at the August 8th meeting. Staff recommends denial, because it doesn't meet the criteria of the zoning ordinance. He said the Planning Commission recommends denial of the rezoning request.

Mayor Bethune asked if there was anyone who wished to speak in favor of the rezoning. No one spoke in favor of the rezoning request.

Mayor Bethune asked if there was anyone who wished to speak against the rezoning. No one spoke in against the rezoning request.

There being no questions or comments from City Council, Mayor Bethune closed the public hearing on PC1716.

PC1717, Rezoning Request (2410 Spivey Avenue): Mayor Bethune opened the public hearing to receive public comment on a request by Christy Poole, property owner, to rezone 2410 Spivey Avenue (PIN 6-0882-04-033) from R-1 to R-2 to replace single family home with a manufactured single home.

Planning Director said this case went before the Planning Commission at the August 8th meeting. Staff recommends approval, because the property has a split zoning of R-1 and R-2 as well as there are already mobile homes in the area. He said the Planning Commission recommends approval of the rezoning request.

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

Ms. Christy Poole, property owner said I'm trying to rezone the property, because my property is the only property in Sharon Park that is zoned R-1. She said the house is a manufactured home that looks just a stick built home. I have lived in Garden City for 46 years and I'm trying to stay in Garden City.

Mayor Bethune asked Ms. Poole if she was aware that manufactured homes have different requirements from mobile homes. Ms. Poole replied I'm aware of the requirements.

Councilmember Kicklighter said your property is the only on zoned R-1. Ms. Poole replied yes, there are currently ten manufactured homes on Spivey and the eleventh one was just placed in the last couple of days.

Mayor Bethune asked if there was anyone who wished to speak against the rezoning. No one spoke against the rezoning.

There being no further questions or comments from City Council, Mayor Bethune closed the public hearing on PC1717.

City Council Minutes: Upon motion by Councilmember Kicklighter, seconded by Councilmember Campbell, City Council voted unanimously to approve the City Council Minutes dated 7/17/17 and the Workshop Synopsis dated 7/24/17.

Staff Reports:

HR Director presented the Human Resources Department's report for the month of July.

IT Director presented the Information Technology Department's report for the month of July.

Special Projects Coordinator presented the Public Works Department's report for the month of July.

Senior Center Coordinator presented the Parks & Recreation Department's report for the month of July.

Planning Director presented the Planning & Zoning Department's report for the month of July.

Water Operations Director presented the Water Operations Department's report for the month of July.

Chief of Police presented the Police Department's report for the month of July.

Captain Roberts presented the Fire Department's report for the month of July.

City Manager's Updates and Announcements: Special Projects Coordinator invited everyone to attend Garden City's first Public Safety Day on September 16 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Town Center Green.

Items for Consideration:

Resolution, Compensation Plan Update (Evergreen Solutions): Clerk of Council read the heading of a resolution by the Mayor and Council of Garden City, Georgia, to update the City's employee compensation pay plan.

HR Director said it is the policy of the City to update the City's compensation pay plan every three years. Evergreen Solutions used for comparison survey data of eleven cities for public safety and seven peers for benefit data. She said based on the survey data the City's compensation and benefits are competitive with other cities. She said the pay/salary range spread increased by 3% for all pay grades and simultaneously raising all employee salaries by 3% so that no employee is earning less than the minimum salary for his/her pay grade. Phase 1 of the Employee Compensation Pay Plan Update Report will be implemented effective September 1, 2017. She said Phase II and Phase III will be considered by City Council for implementation in subsequent budget years.

Upon motion by Councilmember Tice, seconded by Councilmember Daniel, City Council voted unanimously to adopt the resolution.

Resolution, Surplus Equipment: Clerk of Council read the heading of a resolution by the Mayor and Council of Garden City, Georgia, to classify (2) generators, (1) Fuel Tank, (1) Tractor, and (2) Ford Pickup Trucks of the Public Works Department as surplus property and to authorize the Public Works Department to discard the non-serviceable equipment in a manner similar to that which is used to discard other salvage or non-serviceable equipment and to dispose of the usable and marketable vehicles by auction to the highest bidder.

Mayor Bethune said this is to get rid of vehicles and equipment that have exceeded their useful life with the Public Works Department and no longer serving any public purpose.

Upon motion by Councilmember Kicklighter, seconded by Councilmember Cody, City Council voted unanimously to adopt the resolution.

Resolution, City Council's Joint Appointees to the Convention & Visitors Bureau: Clerk of Council read the heading of a resolution by the Mayor and Council of Garden City, Georgia to appoint George Mingledorff, Owner/Operator of Low Country Customs, and Pat Gunn, a Garden City resident, as the Mayor and Council's representatives on the Garden City Area Convention and Visitors Bureau Authority for the remainder of the term running from January 1, 2016, through the first regular Council meeting in January 2018.

Mayor Bethune said we also have the following informal appointments to the Convention and Visitors Bureau Authority.

Councilmember Ruiz appointed Nancy Cox

Councilmember Kicklighter appointed Tommy Tompkins

Councilmember Daniel appointed T.J. Hilliard

Councilmember Cody appointed Misty Selph

Upon motion by Councilmember Kicklighter, seconded by Councilmember Cody, City Council voted unanimously to adopt the resolution.

City Attorney said regarding the employee grievance earlier in the meeting, I probably should have cut off the personnel matter and not allowed it to go before City Council at a meeting. The City has procedures and policies in place that need to be followed. He said it is not the type of comment that should have been before you and I apologize for not cutting him off.

Mayor Bethune said we were all caught off guard. We have procedures to go through for personnel matters. He said there is always a lot more to the story and I have full confidence in our staff in handling personnel matters.

Adjournment: Upon motion by Councilmember Ruiz, seconded by Councilmember Campbell, City Council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:52 p.m.

Transcribed and submitted by: Clerk of Council

Accepted and approved by: City Council 9/18/17