

**MINUTES**  
**City Council Meeting**  
**Monday, February 17, 2020 – 6:00 p.m.**

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

**Opening:** Pastor Eric Mason, Jesus First the Community Church gave the invocation and Mayor Bethune led City Council in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

**Attendees:**

**City Council Members:** Mayor Don Bethune, Mayor Pro-tem Bessie Kicklighter, Councilmember Marcia Daniel, Councilmember Richard Lassiter, Councilmember Natalyn Morris, Councilmember Debbie Ruiz and Councilmember Kim Tice.

**Staff:** Ron Feldner, City Manager; James P. Gerard, City Attorney; Rhonda Ferrell-Bowles, Finance Director/Clerk of Council; Scott Robider, City Marshal; Benny Gooze, Public Works Director; Gilbert Ballard, Chief of Police; Corbin Medeiros, Fire Chief; and Ben Brengman, IT Director.

**Presentations:**

City Council recognized Sharon Bethune for her years of service as Chairman of the Garden City Housing Team.

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

Pastor Eric Mason, Jesus First to Community Church, stated that we do have a weekly food give away at the church on Wednesday's. Also, our church has been authorized as one of the locations that people can come and do their online Census application.

City Manager stated that we will get this information to Officer Barbara O'Neal who is the City's contact person for the 2020 Census.

Brian Reese, Candidate for Chatham County Commissioner District 3 addressed City Council on his qualifications and asked City Council for their support.

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

**Public Hearing:**

**PC2004, Rezoning Request** – Mayor Bethune opened the public hearing to receive comment on a request by Pritosh Patel to rezone 702 US Highway 80 from C2A to I2 for desired land use as a container drop and hook yard.

City Marshal stated that the petitioner was requesting the rezoning to operate a container drop and hook yard at the location. The Planning Commission recommended denial of the request. Staff's recommendation is to deny the request based on our review of the future land use map and our evaluation against the City's rezoning criteria.

Councilmember Lassiter stated that the ingress and egress of the trucks would cause increased traffic congestion and unsafe conditions at the intersection. City Marshal stated that it would not be an ideal situation as vehicles attempt to navigate the intersection while container trucks ingress and egress the property.

Mayor Bethune stated that the City's future land use map calls for primarily commercial zoning for this area on Highway 80.

There being no one else to speak for or against the rezoning, Mayor Bethune closed the public hearing.

**City Council Minutes:** Councilmember Kicklighter made a motion to approved the city council minutes dated 2/3/20 and the workshop synopsis dated 2/10/20. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Daniel and passed without opposition.

**Staff Reports:**

City Marshal presented the Planning Department's report for the month of January.

Public Works Director presented the Public Works Department's report for the month of January.

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

Fire Chief presented the Fire Department's report for the month of January.

**City Manager's Updates & Announcements:** City Manager stated that the Recreation staff is working to get the fields together for a tournament this weekend at Bazemore Park. The basketball goals have been delivered to replace the goals at the Cooper Center. Staff is scheduling a welder to assist with installing the goals.

**Items for Consideration:**

**Resolution , Water System Extensions** - Clerk of Council read the heading of a resolution authorizing the City to engage the services of Thomas & Hutton Engineering Co. for the provision of engineering services to evaluate the existing North Garden City water system, to develop and recommend various improvement options and alternative water distribution models for the system, including the interconnection of the system with adjacent private industrial development; to authorize the City Manager to execute a work order for such services.

City Manager stated that this is in an effort to look at providing water to a major warehouse development going in on the northside of town and to loop the systems.

Councilmember Tice made a motion to adopt the resolution. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Kicklighter and passed without opposition.

**Adjournment:** There being no further items to discuss, Mayor Bethune called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Upon motion by Councilmember Tice, seconded by Councilmember Kicklighter, City Council unanimously adjourned the meeting at 6:32 p.m.

*Transcribed & submitted by: Clerk of Council*  
*Accepted & approved by: City Council 2/17/20*