

## MINUTES

### City Council Meeting Monday, May 17, 2021 – 6:00 p.m.

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

**Opening:** Pastor Dale Simmons from Jasper Springs Baptist Church gave the invocation and Mayor Bethune led City Council in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

#### Roll Call

**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 Members:** Ron Feldner, City Manager; James P. Gerard, City Attorney; Rhonda Ferrell-Bowles, Finance Director/Clerk of Council; Scott Robider, Assistant City Manager; Pam Sweeney HR Director; Ben Brengman, IT Director; Gil Ballard, Chief of Police; Cliff Ducey, Recreation Director and Michelle Johnson, Interim Fire Chief. Absent: Jon Bayer, Public Works Director.

#### Public Hearing

**Alcoholic Beverage License Application:** A public hearing to receive comment on an alcoholic beverage license application made by Diana Lares-Ochoa to sell liquors (by the drink), beer and/or malt beverages at La Comarca Mexican Grocery Store, LLC, 4811 Ogeechee Road, Unit A, Garden City, Georgia.

Mayor Bethune opened the public hearing to receive public comment on the application. There being no speakers, Mayor Bethune closed the public hearing.

**City Council Minutes:** Councilmember Lassiter made a motion to approve the April 19, 2021 Executive Session Minutes, May 3, 2021 Pre-Agenda Session Minutes and City Council Minutes, and the May 10, 2021 City Council Workshop Minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Kicklighter and passed without opposition.

**City Manager's Report:** City Manager stated that the monthly staff reports are included in the agenda packet.

#### Items for Consideration

**First Reading - Ordinance, Garden City Retirement Plan Amendment:** Clerk of Council read the first reading of the heading of an ordinance to amend and restate the Retirement Plan for the Elected Officials and Employees of the City of Garden City 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.

Councilmember Kicklighter made a motion to approve the ordinance on the first reading. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ruiz and passed without opposition.

Councilmember Kicklighter made a motion to suspend the rules of council and hold the second reading of the ordinance. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Lassiter and passed without opposition.

**Second Reading - Ordinance, Garden City Retirement Plan Amendment:** Clerk of Council read the second reading of the heading of an ordinance to amend and restate the Retirement Plan for the Elected Officials and Employees of the City of Garden City 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.

Councilmember Kicklighter made a motion to adopt the ordinance on the second reading. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ruiz and passed without opposition.

**Resolution, City Manager's Employment Agreement:** Clerk of Council read the heading of a resolution by the Mayor and City Council to approve the Third Amendment to the Employment Agreement between the City and City Manager regarding modification of the retirement plan provision, and to authorize the Mayor to enter into said Third Amendment on behalf of the City.

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

**Resolution, CNT Memorandum of Understanding:** Clerk of Council read the heading of a resolution authorizing Garden City, Georgia, to enter into an intergovernmental agreement with Chatham County for the operation of a drug enforcement unit; to authorize the City Manager to execute said agreement and to otherwise perform all acts necessary to accomplish the intent of this resolution; to provide an effective date; and for other purposes.

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

**Resolution, Roadside Maintenance Contract Award:** Clerk of Council read the heading of a resolution to enter into an agreement with Tidewater Landscape Management, Inc., for roadside mowing and general maintenance of various segments of city streets and state routes; to authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement for such services and for other purposes.

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

**Alcoholic Beverage License Application:** Consideration for approval by Mayor and Council an application for an alcoholic beverage license made by Diana Lares-Ochoa to sell liquors (by the drink), beer and/or malt beverages at La Comarca Mexican Grocery Store, LLC, 4811 Ogeechee Road, Unit A, Garden City, Georgia.

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

**Information Public Comment:** Mayor Bethune stated that no speakers signed up to address City Council. City Manager introduced Interim Fire Chief Michelle Johnson.

**Adjournment:** There being no further items to discuss, Mayor Bethune called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Ruiz made a motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 6:12 p.m. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Morris and passed without opposition.

*Transcribed & submitted by: Clerk of Council  
Accepted & approved by: City Council 6/7/21*