

## MINUTES

### City Council Meeting Tuesday, July 15, 2024 – 6:00 p.m.

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

**Opening:** Mayor Campbell gave the invocation and led the City Council in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

#### Roll Call

**City Council Members:** Mayor Bruce Campbell, Mayor Pro-tem Marcia Daniel, Councilmember Richard Lassiter, Jr., Councilmember Natalyn Morris, Councilmember Debbie Ruiz and Councilmember Kim Tice. Absent: Councilmember Gwyn Hall.

**Staff Members:** Rhonda Ferrell-Bowles City Manager; James P. Gerard, City Attorney; Gil Ballard, Chief of Police; Laureen Boles, Planning and Economic Development Director, Tonya Roper; Planning and Zoning Coordinator and Andrew Guzman, IT Technician.

**Presentation:** Mayor Campbell and Planning Commission Chair Michael Bruner presented service awards to the following former Planning Commission members: Billy Jackson and Gary Monroe. Nancy Cox was absent.

Mayor Campbell thanked the former members for their service to the city.

Councilmember Lassiter said thank you for your service and dedication.

Councilmember Morris said you make our job easier; thank you for your years of service and time.

Councilmember Ruiz said we appreciate your service; this is a volunteer position that is a difficult job.

Councilmember Tice said I know how hard being a Planning Commission member can be as I once sat in that seat; thank you for your hard work and dedication.

Billy Jackson stated that he appreciated the opportunity to serve Garden City and if it wasn't for the support of Staff and Council, we wouldn't have been able to do the job.

Gary Monroe stated that he was grateful for the recognition; the journey was insignificant when it began but was able to turn it into a journey for the greater good and I am grateful for serving.

**Formal Public Comment:** The Front Porch—Mr. Cargile, the Family Engagement & Activities Coordinator for The Front Porch, requests to address the City Council about the free services available for youth's physical, mental, social, and educational needs.

Shawnessy Cargile; 2203 Abercorn Street, stated The Front Porch works with both low and high-risk youth in order to help keep kids from getting to the juvenile or adult court system and we work with a wide

range of kids who've had traumatic events. Our services are wrapped around family and children. Mr. Cargile stated he will leave brochures for The City to see the resources provided by The Front Porch.

**Informal Public Comment:** Mayor Campbell opened the floor to receive public comment from the audience. Given that there were no speakers, Mayor Campbell closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

### **Public Hearings**

**PC-5-24-1079 – Zoning Map Amendment:** Mayor Campbell opened the public hearing to receive public comment on a rezoning request by Nathaniel Smalls on behalf of the estate of Gussie Mae Small to rezone the parcel known as 0 Heidt Ave from R-2 to C-2A.

Mayor Campbell asked if anyone wished to speak for the rezoning request.

Nathaniel Smalls, 320 E Walburg Street, said I originally asked for C2 but was convinced to change it to an R-I-N. Mr. Smalls said I would like to pull that agreement and ask for C-2; the adjoining property is C-2 and I am looking to do a small business.

Given that there were no other speakers in favor, Mayor Campbell asked if there was anyone who wished to speak against the rezoning request.

Cynthia Parlin, 1405 Heidt Avenue stated that she opposed the rezoning and I do not want a business next to me. I have been at this property many years and I want a neighborhood.

Occupant of Mobile Home; 1415 Heidt Avenue said I am against it and I want to find out what's going on.

Given no other speakers, Mayor Campbell closed the public hearing.

**PC-6-24-1080 – Zoning Text Amendment:** Mayor Campbell opened the public hearing to receive comment on a request by the City of Garden City for an ordinance to amend the Code of Ordinances to add an ordinance for the regulation of electric vehicle charging stations.

Given that there were no speakers, Mayor Campbell closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

**PC-6-24-1081 – Zoning Text Amendment:** Mayor Campbell opened the public hearing to receive comment on a request by the City of Garden City for an ordinance to amend the Code of Ordinances to add an ordinance for the regulation of short-term vacation rentals.

Given that there were no speakers, Mayor Campbell closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

**PC-6-24-1082 – Zoning Map Amendment:** Mayor Campbell opened the public hearing to receive comment on a request by the City of Garden City to rezone 2799 U.S. Highway 80, Garden City, GA, from R-1 to R-2.

Given that there were no speakers, Mayor Campbell closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

**City Council Minutes:** Councilmember Lassiter motioned to approve the minutes from the June 17<sup>th</sup>, Pre-Agenda Session and City Council Meeting Minutes, and the June 28<sup>th</sup> workshop. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Daniel and passed without opposition.

## **Items for Consideration**

**First Reading - Ordinance – Biscuit Hill Road Weight Limit:** The Clerk of Council read the heading of an ordinance to amend the Code of Ordinances for Garden City, Georgia, as amended, to amend Section 78-10 and Article VIII of Appendix B, which is incorporated therein by reference, to delete Biscuit Hill Road, A/K/A Biscuit Avenue, as an exception to the 6,000-pound vehicle weight limit provided therein.

Councilmember Lassiter motioned to deny the ordinance on the first reading. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Daniel and passed without opposition.

**Resolution – Fire Department Surplus Vehicle:** The Clerk of Council read the heading of a resolution to classify as surplus property the Fire Department’s 2026 Ford F-150 Utility Truck and to authorize the Fire Department to dispose of the truck by having it auctioned at public sale pursuant to State law.

Councilmember Ruiz motioned to adopt the resolution. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Daniel and passed without opposition.

**Resolution – Georgia Forestry Fire Equipment:** The Clerk of Council read the heading of a resolution authorizing the City to enter into an agreement with the Georgia Forestry Commission for the purpose of participating in a firefighter property program whereunder excess department of defense property is donated to the City, subject to certain conditions to be exclusively used by the City for fire protection and other emergency responses.

Councilmember Ruiz motioned to adopt the resolution. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Daniel and passed without opposition.

**Resolution – Clerk of Council Appointment:** The Clerk of Council read the heading of a resolution to appoint Ms. Tonya Roper as the permanent Clerk of Council for the City and to confer upon her all the rights and responsibilities of the position of the Clerk of Council.

Councilmember Lassiter motioned to adopt the resolution. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ruiz and passed without opposition.

Councilmember Ruiz motioned to approve the alcoholic beverage license application. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Lassiter and passed without opposition.

**Adjournment:** Given no other items on the agenda to discuss, Mayor Campbell called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Ruiz motioned to adjourn the meeting at approximately 6:19 p.m. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Daniel and passed without opposition.

*Transcribed & submitted by: The Clerk of Council*

*Accepted & approved by: The City Council on 8/19/24*