

MINUTES

City Council Minutes Monday, July 19, 2021 – 6:00 p.m.

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

Opening: Pastor Matt Stout from the Garden City Methodist 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, Councilmember Marcia Daniel, Councilmember Richard Lassiter, Councilmember Natalyn Morris, Councilmember Debbie Ruiz and Councilmember Kim Tice. Absent: Mayor Pro-tem Bessie Kicklighter.

Mayor Bethune stated that Mayor Pro-tem Kicklighter is under the weather and could not be here tonight.

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; Cliff Ducey, Recreation Director; Gil Ballard, Chief of Police and Michelle Johnson, Interim Fire Chief. Absent: Jon Bayer, Public Works Director.

Formal Public Comment: Chatham County Commission Chairman Ellis provided an overview of the One Chatham Initiative. He stated that this initiative is to help bring the County, Municipal Governments, the Savannah-Chatham Public School System and community stakeholders together to discuss and plan future projects.

Public Hearings

Garden City Comprehensive Plan: Mayor Bethune opened the public hearing to receive public comment on the submittal of the City's Comprehensive Plan to the Georgia Coastal Regional Commission and Georgia Department of Community Affairs for review as required by the Georgia Planning Act of 1989.

Ms. Kait Morano, Advance Planning & Special Projects representative for the Metropolitan Planning Commission gave an overview of the Comprehensive Plan process and project timeline.

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

PC2110, Rezoning Request: Mayor Bethune opened the public hearing to receive public comment on a continuation of the public hearing on a request by SLR Industries, LLC to rezone property located at 0 Dean Forest Road from R-1 to P-I-1 to allow for a drop yard/warehouse.

Assistant City Manager stated that the Planning Commission recommended denial of the request. He stated that they considered many factors such as traffic, noise, etc. This is the second request for this property to be rezoned. The previous request was denied under the former planning director. He stated presented the criteria for denying the request.

Mr. Harold Yellin, attorney for the petitioner, stated that the petitioner is requesting to rezone the property to P-I-1 to allow for a 10,000 square foot warehouse. He stated we were not at the meeting the last time the request was turned down approximately two years ago. He stated that we did not receive notification of the meeting. He stated that we were told that we were not compatible with the existing uses in the area. He stated that he rode the area and our use is consistent with the existing uses in the area. He asked that City Council consider the conceptual plan and what is on the other side of the street before making a decision. He stated that the surrounding neighbors signed a petition in support of the rezoning.

Ms. Nikia Baxter, petitioner stated that the property is not compatible for housing. She stated that no one would want to put a house there because of the warehouses already in the area. She stated that she has been in Garden City for a long time and would not do anything to hurt the City. She asked City Council for their consideration in supporting the rezoning request.

Mr. Johnny Williams, stated that he owns the property next door and feels that they should be allowed to rezone the property. He stated that he didn't see any reason for the property not to be rezoned, because the ship has sailed about for it being residential.

There being no further speakers, Mayor Bethune closed the public hearing.

Councilmember Lassiter asked when will the request be voted on. Mayor Bethune replied at the next council meeting in August.

City Council Minutes: Councilmember Tice made a motion to approved the June 21, 2021 Pre-Agenda Session Minutes and City Council Meeting Minutes and the June 28, 2021 Special Called Council Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Daniel and passed without opposition.

City Manager's Report: City Manager stated that he had no updates to report.

Items for Consideration

Board of Zoning Appeals / Planning Commission Appointment: Consideration by the Mayor and City Council of nominee Michael Bruner or nominee J. Varnard Flowers for appointment to serve the remainder of the four year-term of Jimmy Crosby on the Board of Zoning Appeals / Planning Commission. Said four year-term expiring when a successor is appointed by City Council at the first regular Council meeting in January 2024.

Mayor Bethune called for a vote. Clerk of Council polled City Council as follows:

- Councilmember Daniel nominated – Michael Bruner
- Councilmember Lassiter nominated – J. Varnard Flowers
- Councilmember Morris nominated – J. Varnard Flower
- Councilmember Ruiz nominated – Michael Bruner
- Councilmember Tice nominated – Michael Bruner
- Mayor Bethune nominated – Michael Bruner

Mayor Bethune stated that Michael Bruner received four nominations. Councilmember Daniel made a motion to appoint Michael Bruner to serve the remainder of Jimmy Crosby's term on the Board of Zoning Appeals / Planning Commission. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Tice and passed with four in favor of Michael Bruner with two opposed.

Convention Visitors Bureau Appointment: Councilmember Marcia Daniel announced her appointment of Davendra Patel, the owner/operator of the Days Inn Hotel in Garden City to the Garden City Area Convention and Visitors Bureau Authority to serve on such Authority during her term of office as Councilmember.

Resolution, Comprehensive Plan Update Transmittal: Clerk of Council read the heading of a resolution authorizing the transmittal of the City's Comprehensive Plan for review by the Coastal Regional Commission and the Department of Community Affairs as required by the Georgia Planning Act of 1989.

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

Resolution, Traffic Signal Replacement / Upgrades (Chatham Pkwy. / Telfair Pl.): Clerk of Council read the heading of a resolution to enter into a contract with Hoffman Electric Company, Inc., to perform the repair work on the traffic signals and other intersection improvements at the intersection of Chatham Parkway and Telfair Place at the price of \$90,000 with provisions set forth therein to address any legitimate change orders or major work plan modifications.

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

Resolution, Amendment to the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between Garden City and the Savannah-Chatham County Public School System (SCCPSS) for the Groves Campus: Clerk of Council read the heading of a resolution authorizing the Mayor and Council to enter into an amended and restated intergovernmental agreement with the Board of Public Education for the City of Savannah and County of Chatham to facilitate, through the City's contribution of services and cooperation, the redevelopment of the Board's Groves High School facility located on Priscilla D. Thomas Way to a multi-school campus consisting of a K-8 facility, high school, stadium and athletic fields; to authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement; to provide an effective date; and for other purposes.

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

Resolution, Emergency Procurement - SCADA System Repairs: Clerk of Council read the heading of a resolution to ratify emergency service procurement for the City's Waste Water Treatment Facility and Water System, and for other purposes.

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

Resolution, John Deere Compact Excavator Contract Award: Clerk of Council read the heading of a resolution to accept the proposal of Flint Equipment Company to sell the City a new John Deere 60G Compact Excavator at the price of \$82,500 and to authorize the City Manager to sign the purchase contract or order.

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

Resolution, Patel Property (4804 Ogeechee Road) Lease for Use as Debris Management Site (DMS): Clerk of Council read the heading of a resolution of the Mayor and Council authorizing the execution of a lease agreement with Sharda Patel for use of a 5.55-acre parcel located at 4804 Ogeechee Road in Garden City, Georgia, for use as a temporary debris staging and reduction site to store, manage and reduce storm debris generated by hurricanes, and for other purposes.

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

Informal Public Comment: Mayor Bethune stated no speakers signed up to address City Council.

Adjournment: There being no further items to discuss, Mayor Bethune called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Lassiter made a motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 7:02 p.m. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Tice and passed without opposition.

Transcribed & submitted by: Clerk of Council
Accepted & approved by: City Council 8/16/21