



REGULAR MEETING

The Regular Meeting of the Hogansville City Council was held on Monday, April 2, 2018. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Stankiewicz at 7:00p.m.

Present were Mayor Bill Stankiewicz, Council Member Reginald Jackson, Council Member Marichal Price, Council Member Fred Higgins, Council Member George Bailey, and Council Member Theresa Strickland. Also present were City Manager David Milliron, City Attorney Jeff Todd, City Clerk Lisa Kelly, and Chief of Police Brian Harr. Council Member Higgins gave the invocation and Mayor Stankiewicz led the pledge.

Motion by Council Member Jackson to approve the agenda, adding #3 under old business; Crosswalk on West Main Street near Thrash Funeral Home, seconded by Council Member Bailey. Carried 5-0

Motion was made by Council Member Bailey to amend the minutes of the Joint Work Session held on March 19, 2018 to reflect he was present at the meeting, seconded by Council Member Jackson. Council Member Jackson motioned to approve the minutes as amended, seconded by Council Member Higgins. Carried 5-0

Motion was made by Council Member Higgins to approve the minutes of the Work Session held on March 19, 2018 as written, seconded by Council Member Jackson. Carried 5-0

Motion was made by Council Member Price to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on March 19, 2018, seconded by Council Member Higgins. Carried 5-0

Motion was made by Council Member Price to approve the minutes of the Called Meeting held on March 22, 2018, seconded by Council Member Jackson. Carried 5-0

PRESENTATION

1. Pioneer Group – Planned Festivals. Rob Goldstein, representing the Pioneer Group, is Co-founder of Wild Leap Brewery in LaGrange and Board Member of Troup LaGrange Chamber of Commerce. Goldstein gave some background on Wild Leap Brewery and how over-saturated events in Atlanta brought he and his business partner to LaGrange feeling smaller venues would be in order. They hosted the first craft beer festival in Lagrange and it was a huge success. They have worked to create an environment that is family friendly; strollers, kids and grandparents; no stigma of a bar. The brewery has been involved in many public events and have now begun focusing on the county as a whole and how they can bring the same energy

to other areas in the county. The group would like to put together a summer series in the area of the depot; create an environment for the whole family to include live music. Ideally want to have the summer series begin with a kick-off on June 2 from mid-afternoon to 10pm. Closing Commerce Street for one day with food vendors, open bar and live music along the street would be the vision. This could be done once per month and maybe a big finally at the end of the season. It is a perfect way to bring the community together. If marketed properly it could be a big event and one that could carry over from year to year. Stankiewicz stated there is the alcohol ordinance that would need to be dealt with. Jackson asked how it's gone over in Lagrange? Goldstein remarked the first event was a great success and was he and his partner's deciding factor to make the move to this area. Each event has just gotten better and better. St. Patrick's Day block party was held a few weeks ago that included live music on closed streets; 1200 people were in attendance. With the way it is set-up and marketed, it helps avoid the "knuckle-head" factor with people being unruly. Alcohol allowances is a big factor and limiting it to certain times will control the party persona. Strickland asked who is liable in an event like this? Mayor stated we require a hold harmless agreement with any special event in the City. Todd stated there is a pretty robust special event ordinance in LaGrange that speaks to many of the questions raised. Price questioned alcohol around children and noted he does not support that. Goldstein stated safeguards are in place to make sure people are only served if they are of age. No different than going to any festival, state fair or any other venue with alcohol. These events are geared toward families and that in itself keeps the problems at bay. He stated their events are beer centric as opposed to liquor. Strickland stated she was in DDA meeting that was addressing the summer series and she would like to see what they come up with. Milliron stated staff would need to look at a special events ordinance and permitting process but will need direction from council. Mayor suggested the DDA spearhead the details and flow them to Council.

OLD BUSINESS

1. 2nd reading & adoption - Blight ordinance- Jeff Todd read the 2nd reading of the proposed blight ordinance amending Chapter 14 of the code. Jackson asked about the blight tax to ensure this will not affect people living in their current homes and asked if it will force anyone to leave their homes? Todd stated one of the factors to qualify for blight conditions is that no one currently lives in the home and cannot be occupied. Motion by Higgins to adopt the blight ordinance. Jackson asked for additional clarification that blight under this ordinance will not affect people in their existing homes. Todd and Milliron agreed that blight tax only applies to unoccupied homes. Strickland was concerned of the tax percentage originally being blank and how discussion was held as to the number being a 7-times tax. Mayor reminded everyone the 7-times amount would only be levied on the City portion of the taxes. Jackson stated he is not happy with the 7-times. Motion was restated by Higgins to adopt the ordinance with a 3-times the City tax, seconded by Jackson. Carried 5-0

2. Consideration of Financial Advisor. This item was tabled from the previous meeting. Milliron stated he is recommending Davenport & Co. as the City's Financial Advisor and would like to engage and address the scope of services with dollar amounts not to exceed \$15k. Jackson asked if numbers were obtained from either party regarding cost estimates and is concerned that we will go into a contract not knowing how much we will be charged. Motion by Jackson to table the item again, seconded by Price. Carried 4-1 with Bailey opposing, expressing his agreement for Davenport as the City Financial Advisor.
3. Crosswalk at Thrash Funeral Home. Strickland stated GDOT has previously approved the crosswalk and thought plans were underway to construct. Milliron stated staff needs clarification on the funding source and there are a couple of options. There are non-committed SPLOST III funds that represent the interest only from the account or we could use funds from LMIG but we only have a limited amount and not sure what the allocated projects will cost to fully fund. The County will work with the City for maximizing those LMIG funds. The last option is to use general fund dollars. The original approval from Council came as a not to exceed \$15k approval. Strickland understood from that meeting that funds would come from where they are available. Jackson stated the question is left with the Council in where we want the funds come from. Milliron stated the best course is to use the non-committed funds of interest only from the previous SPLOST. Strickland asked that the previous approval information be pulled for clarification. Motion by Strickland to use old SPLOST funds from non-committed interest to fund the crosswalk near Thrash Funeral Home, seconded by Price. Carried 5-0

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- a. The City has been awarded the first phase of grant approval for the Tower Trail through Recreational Trails in the amount of \$200k. We have until May 23, 2018 to acquire easements from the post office and PNC bank to move to the next phase of approval and have reached out to both. 19 out of 51 cities were awarded in this first phase and is a big accomplishment for the City.
- b. There is an 11am bid opening on April 3, 2018 for CDBG '17 - water and sewer system improvements.
- c. Staff has begun the budget process and are currently reviewing past budgets and working on 5 year capital improvement plans.
- d. Working with ECG on utility rate study and would like to hold a work session to discuss the results. This discussion will also involve the conversion with respect to operations and maintenance of the electric system.
- e. Personnel handbook is complete and will go to department heads soon and then onto Council.
- f. The architectural firm working on finalizing changes to the amphitheater and lake had an unexpected death in the firm but continue to move forward with planning.
- g. Milliken is due to finalize the purchase of the Carter's building on April 4. This new venture will create 30 new jobs in Hogansville.

- h.* Continental Contitech has announced they will have 100 new jobs with their Phase II plan and so far Hogansville has gotten all of those new jobs.
- i.* Piggly Wiggly will be closing its doors on April 6.
- j.* Two businesses have experienced fires in the City; Botex and Roger's BBQ.
- k.* Memo from Carter -- Watkins has been presented to Council; first four phases have been completed. They need direction from Council to continue work as outlined in the contract. Concept drawing and stakeholder meetings will be the next step once decision is made.

COUNCIL MEMBER'S REPORTS

Council Member Jackson

- a.* asked if the City is receiving any information on new businesses opening? Milliron stated yes but can't divulge too much information with early discussions.
- b.* stated there has been some past discussion about the City installing a walking trail all the way around the Splashpad. Milliron noted he is not familiar with those discussions.
- c.* asked if we are we keeping in mind the sidewalks on the west side of town to which Milliron stated yes.

Council Member Price

- a.* stated he was glad to hear that everyone was safe in the recent fires.
- b.* asked if there are any additional hydrants on the schedule to be repaired? Milliron stated there are some already in the process of repairs; others will be in the new budget cycle.

Council Member Higgins

- a.* asked for some clarification relating to employees accessing private property for sewage back-ups. He stated he was advised by a homeowner recently that the City would not clean out his lateral line. City crews advised the homeowner they needed a plumber while the owner maintained that the lateral was in the City right of way. Milliron stated this is no different than a mailbox being in the right of way; it is not owned by the City. He further stated under Georgia gratuities law, the City cannot use tax payer money to blow out privately owned sewer laterals. Mayor clarified some city property is located on private property, i.e., electric lines, gas meters, water meters, etc. Higgins stated he called a plumber that had to span 120' to break a blockage and the problem seemed to be on City property. Milliron stated the infrastructure is laid during construction and is not the City property. Unfortunate that homeowners buy into a problem sometimes. He feels the City was as helpful as we could be but crews cannot go onto private property to perform sewer blow-outs. If it were a City main problem it would have affected more than just one customer.

Council Member Bailey

- a.* stated there is a pack of dogs around the Piggly Wiggly area and worried with kids being out on spring break.
- b.* would like to see Hogansville support the Relay for Life and looking for donations. Can Hogansville donate \$200 for the event? Other donations can be made at HES.

Council Member Strickland

- a.* asked Chief Harr if Officer training is complete? Harr stated de-escalation training is complete and moving to cultural diversity and will follow up with a third round for community completion. Mayor asked that a report be filed with Council on the measurement of these trainings.

- b. asked for a public update regarding the gun at the bus stop. Harr stated they had a suspect, line-ups were done but the suspect was not identified. He added the Police Department is not letting the situation go and will continue to work the case.
- c. asked for an update on police vehicles. Harr stated we are changing to 2018 vehicles and already working on the upfitting of those vehicles. The lease agreement will be completed soon and City will take delivery as soon as upfitting is complete.
- d. stated she received an e-mail that there is a racial trust-building class coming up and urged people to take the class.
- e. asked for some clarification on the dollars being spent relating to the Parks & Recreation. Mayor asked Milliron to clarify the funds for Council. She also asked if any update had been received from Cajen Rhodes regarding the upcoming Parks & Recreation projects. Milliron will get updates and notify Council Members.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Stankiewicz

- a. announced Callaway High School will hold an academic signing on April 27 at 9am. Donations are being accepted by anyone interested for give-aways during the signing event and everyone was invited to attend.
- b. stated Racial Trustbuilding, Level I training session will be held on April 6&7. If anyone is interested contact the City Clerk for information.

There being no further business to come before the Mayor & Council of the City of Hogansville at this time, on a motion made by Council Member Bailey and dually seconded by Council Member Price, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05pm.

Respectfully,



Lisa E. Kelly, CMC
City Clerk
City of Hogansville

April 2, 2018