

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

The regular meeting of the Baxley City Council was held on January 24, 2018, at 8:30 a.m., with the following members present: Mayor Tim Varnadore; Councilmembers: Betty Livingston, Pat Williams, Adam Thomas, and Mickey Bass.

Mayor Pro Tem Esco Hall, Jr. was excused.

Other city officials present were: Jeff Baxley and Reid Lovett, City Managers; Reba Cash, City Clerk; Alex Johnson, City Attorney; Chief of Police James L. Godfrey, David Gore, Street Supervisor and Shane Crosby, Codes Enforcement Officer.

Lee Lewis representing the Appling County Commissioners was present.

Steve Simmons representing the Baxley News Banner was present.

Mayor Varnadore called the regular council meeting to order welcoming all in attendance to the meeting.

Councilman Thomas gave the invocation.

Councilman Bass made a motion approving the minutes of the Called Council meeting of January 09, 2018, at 6:00 p.m. This motion was seconded by Councilwoman Livingston and carried unanimously.

Councilman Bass made a motion approving the minutes of the Regular Council meeting of January 10, 2018, at 8:30 a.m. This motion was seconded by Councilman Thomas and carried unanimously.

A Resolution was read by incoming City Manager Reid Lovett:

RECOGNIZING SERVICE OF CITY MANAGER JEFF BAXLEY

WHEREAS, Jeffrey P. Baxley has served the City of Baxley for twenty-nine (29) years, having been appointed as Recreation Director in March 1989, and then upon recognition of his superior management skills was elevated to the office of City Manager effective March 1, 1993; and

WHEREAS, Jeff served under three mayors and twelve Council members, becoming the longest serving City Manager in the 142 year history of the City of Baxley; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure, the City experienced a great deal of growth in services, capital improvements, amenities, population and reputation, including but not limited to the endeavors listed on Exhibit A attached hereto, all accomplished with no property tax increase while increasing general fund reserves; and

WHEREAS, Baxley developed and nurtured good working relationships with his fellow professionals at county and state levels, as well as all City employees, each of whom he valued; and

WHEREAS, Baxley represented the City as a member and leader of various civic and community organizations, with his effectiveness having been particularly recognized by his being chosen as the 2017 Appling County Citizen of the Year, which brought honor not only to himself and his family but also to the City; and

WHEREAS, Jeff will be long recognized and remembered by the thousands of students who have been exposed to leadership opportunities through his City Government Week presentations in the school systems, with student hands-on visits to City Hall in mock Council meetings and participation in City Jeopardy; and

WHEREAS, Jeff has chosen to retire as City Manager effective January 31, 2018, leaving a legacy of unquestioned integrity, ethics and honor, to himself and the City, together with its employees, citizens and businesses; and

WHEREAS, Jeff Baxley has always acted in the best interests of the City of Baxley, with utmost respect to the City and its officials and employees;

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the City of Baxley, in regular meeting duly called and assembled, that the Mayor and Council hereby express to **Jeffrey P. Baxley** their recognition and appreciation of his outstanding service rendered as City Manager over the past twenty-five years to the Mayors, Council Members, citizens and businesses of Baxley and Appling County.*

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be presented to Jeffrey P. Baxley for a personal record of this recognition.

DULY AND UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the City of Baxley held on the 24th day of January, 2018.

EXHIBIT A

Construction Projects

*Totally renovated City Hall
New Public Works facility
New Police Department headquarters
Waste Water Treatment Plant \$12 million upgrade
New Southside Fire Station
Waterworks Park
Farmers Market
Animal Control Shelter*

Airport Projects

*New terminal building
New parallel taxiway
Construction of new T-hangars
Acquisition of three existing hangars
Perimeter fencing
Improved glide paths*

Solar Initiatives

Installation of Solar Panels to power City Hall
Construction of 605 kw Solar Array to power WWTP

Designations by GMA

City of Excellence
City of Ethics
Better Hometown

Infrastructure

Downtown Streetscapes
Paving numerous dirt streets and resurfacing many others
Providing water and sewer services to previously unserved areas
Expansion of water and sewer lines to spur westward growth
New Deep Well and elevated Water Tank

Community

Water Works Park
Winter Wonderland
City-wide beautification

Councilman Bass made a motion approving the Resolution as read to Manager Baxley. This motion was seconded by Councilwoman Livingston and carried unanimously.

Mayor Varndore expressed his appreciation and gratitude for the many years of friendship, traveling and working with Manager Baxley. Following his comments, all members of the Council, City Attorney, City Clerk, Manager Lovett, and Lee Lewis, echoed their expression of gratitude towards Manager Baxley for his friendship and leadership he has shown while serving the community. Manager Baxley made several remarks regarding how much of the blessing it has been to have served with the Mayor, Council, the County, and the City of Baxley employees over the past 24+ years.

Councilwoman Livingston made a motion approving the Second Reading/ Adoption of an Ordinance annexing property filed by Jerome and J.W. Murray, located on Alpine Drive, with an agreed upon condition be annexed and establish a Business (B-2) Zone in voting district #2. The condition states a buffer, described as two (2) rows of staggered evergreen trees planted 20' on center. The evergreen trees to be 4' – 6' tall at the time of planting and extend along the frontage of Ash Street. This motion was seconded by Councilman Bass and carried unanimously.

Councilman Bass made a motion approving the Second Reading / Adoption of a Zoning Variance Ordinance filed by Y. R. Reddy on behalf of Uma-Buffellow Consultants Ltd., located at 309 City Circle Road, present zoning Industrial (I-1) Zone in voting district #3. This motion was seconded by Councilman Thomas and carried unanimously.

Councilwoman Livingston made a motion amending the public hearing date for Tuesday, February 13, 2018 at 6:00 p.m., to hear public comments on an application for zoning amendment filed by Wade C. Moody, located at 486 South Main Street be rezoned from the current Residential

(RM-10) Zone to a Business (B-2) Zone in voting district #5. This motion was seconded by Councilman Williams and carried unanimously.

Councilman Bass made a motion approving Croy Engineering recommendation to award the bid to East Coast Asphalt, LLC in the amount of \$333,804.75 contingent upon the receipt of the GDOT grant for this Airport Agricultural Apron & Runway Project. Bids as follows:

East Coast Asphalt LLC	\$333,807.75
Sikes Brothers Inc	\$347,702.25
J. Hiers Company Inc.	\$465,402.60
Griffin Contracting Inc.	\$478,004.80

This motion was seconded by Councilwoman Livingston and carried unanimously.

Mayor's Report

1. Mayor Varnadore attended a Ribbon cutting ceremony at Hardware Pizza on January 18th.
2. Mayor Varnadore attended a Ribbon cutting ceremony at the Appling County Head Start & Senior Center on January 22nd.
3. Mayor Varnadore attended the Hospital Board Meeting.

City Manager's Report

1. City Manager Baxley read an update on the Fair Street Project: Sikes has multiple crews working as well as subcontractors in order to meet the additional 75 day extension to complete this project in a timely manner.
2. City Manager reported that the Chamber's Banquet has changed to a later date in March.

There being no further business, Mayor Varnadore declared the meeting adjourned.

City Clerk