

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

The regular meeting of the Baxley City Council was held on August 23, 2017, at 8:30 a.m., with the following members present: Mayor Steve Rigdon; Mayor Pro Tem Esco Hall, Jr. Councilmembers: Betty Livingston, Pat Williams, Mickey Bass, and Tim Varnadore.

Councilman George Skipper was absent due to being hospitalized and was excused by the Mayor.

Other city officials present were: Jeff Baxley, City Manager; Reba Cash, City Clerk; Alex Johnson, City Attorney; Trampis Carter, Fire Chief, and Chief of Police James L. Godfrey.

Steve Simmons representing Baxley News Banner was present.

Greg Hudgins and Bobby Tippins representing Georgia Power Company were present.

Sarah Wardlaw and Glenn Smith representing Interfor Baxley Division were present.

Mayor Ridgon called the regular council meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Mayor Pro Tem Hall gave the invocation.

Councilwoman Livingston made a motion approving the minutes of the called Council meeting of August 8, 2017, at 6:00 p.m. This motion was seconded by Councilman Varnadore and carried unanimously.

Councilman Bass made a motion approving the minutes of the Regular Council meeting of August 9, 2017, at 8:30 a.m. This motion was seconded by Councilman Varnadore and carried unanimously.

Sarah Wardlaw and Glenn Smith, on behalf of Interfor Baxley Division, presented a check to City of Baxley's Fire Chief Trampis Carter, in the amount of \$2,000. Ms. Wardlaw commended the Baxley and Appling County departments for the job they do and cited a recent incident at their plant and commented on the impressive response times exhibited by the departments. Chief Carter expressed his gratitude and explained that the funds will be used for training County wide. Mayor Rigdon and the Council expressed their appreciation as well.

As a result of some recent changes with Ga. Power, local manager Greg Hudgins introduced Bobby Tippins as his replacement effective December of this year. Mr. Hudgins will be moving to the Vidalia region.

Councilman Bass made a motion approving the Second Reading/Adoption of an Ordinance annexing property filed by Kirtan's Dada LLC, located at 1186 Hatch Parkway South, be annexed and establishing a Business Residential (BR-1) Zone in voting district #5. This motion was seconded by Councilman Varnadore and carried unanimously.

Councilman Varnadore made a motion setting a public hearing date of September 5, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. to hear public comments on the City's Proposed FY2018 Budgets. This motion was seconded by Councilman Williams and carried unanimously.

Councilman Bass made a motion setting a public hearing date for Tuesday, September 12th, 2017, at 6:00 p.m. on two petition for rezoning property filed by Edsel Mayers requesting the property located at 446 and 470 South Main Street, be rezoned from the current Residential (RM-10) Zone to a Business (B-2) Zone in voting district 5.

Councilman Varnadore made a motion to hold a called meeting on Tuesday, August 29th, at 6:00 PM, for the primary purpose of a work session to discuss plans (minimum requirements, job description, etc.) for filling the soon to be open city manager's position. This motion was seconded by Councilwoman Livingston and carried unanimously.

City Manager's Report

1. Manager Baxley reported that the city attorney had completed the closing statement for the air easement and that it had been forwarded to DOT for payment. The easement will address approach obstructions (trees) on the east end of the runway that have been cited as a problem by the FAA. When payment is received, we will close with the property owners and ultimately get the trees removed.
2. Fair Street Project Update: The project is progressing, but not without expected problems like customer's water being off for short periods of time, garbage being missed and the rougher than normal driving service. He stated we still have a long way to go.
3. Manager Baxley informed the Council that we've experienced some difficulties with our garbage collection in the past ten days due to us now being serviced by Republic Services out of their Wayne Co. (Broadhurst Landfill site) as opposed to Vidalia. He said that new drivers to the area, coupled with some untimely equipment failures attributed to most of the problems and that he had discussed his concerns with Republic's representatives. He stated that the service should now be back to normal and shouldn't reoccur.

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

City Clerk