

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

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

Other city officials present were: Jeff Baxley, City Manager; Reba Cash, City Clerk; Alex Johnson, City Attorney, Dale Sapp, Water Supervisor and Chief of Police James L. Godfrey.

Steve Simmons representing Baxley News Banner was present.

Greg Hudgins representing Georgia Power Company was present.

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

Councilman Varnadore gave the invocation.

Councilman Varnadore made a motion approving the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of February 22, 2017, at 8:30 a.m. This motion was seconded by Councilman Williams and carried unanimously.

The following three names were submitted for the Hospital Board vacancy, as follows:

Kelly Stone – nominated by Tim Varnadore

Patricia McTier-nominated by Dr. Esco Hall, Jr.

Cheryl Nipper-nominated by Mayor Rigdon

Councilman Bass made a motion that these names be submitted to the Hospital Board. This motion was seconded by Councilman Varnadore and carried unanimously.

Dale Sapp presented the 2016 Water Audit. He explained that the audit was a state requirement and that this past year's results were unprecedented. He stated that our net unaccounted for water loss for the year was .07 % and that it was a team effort. Councilman Varnadore made a motion to approve the 2016 water audit. This motion was seconded by Councilman Bass and carried unanimously. Mayor Rigdon commended Sapp and the team for the favorable report.

Councilwoman Livingston made a motion to commit to funding half of the cash match (approximately \$15,000) with the County in applying for State grant funds for sidewalks on State rights of way only. The project would add sidewalk by the Elementary/Primary School Complex from Auburn Street down to Satilla Church Road, if funded. The motion was seconded by Councilman Varnadore, and carried unanimously.

Councilman Bass made a motion for City Manager Baxley to execute the plans to the replace the aged lift station on Surrson Street which would include an additional pump at a costs of \$33,000, not including the labor. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Hall and carried unanimously.

Councilwoman Livingston made a motion to replace the chlorination equipment at the Wastewater Treatment Plant in the amount of \$8,330. The motion was seconded by Councilman Varnadore and carried unanimously.

Mayor Pro Tem Hall made a motion to authorize changing our contract from Utilities Service to American Tank for the maintenance on the City's four elevated tanks, beginning with the Park West tank. The motion was seconded by Councilman Bass and carried unanimously.

Councilman Varnadore made a motion to hold a closed session at the end of this meeting to discuss potential litigation. The motion was seconded by Councilman Bass and carried unanimously.

Council Member's Report

1. Mayor Pro Tem Hall attended the Regional Commission Meeting last Thursday and all went well.
2. Mayor Pro Tem Hall reported that the County's unemployment rate has improved since last meeting.

City Manager's Report

1. Informed the Council that in the near future, we will begin clipping the shoulders on 341 from East to West with DOT's help.
2. Informed the Council that new signs you see in town alongside of old ones, was a part of the original striping contract through DOT. Contract was for 31 City streets.
3. Announced that the Annual GMA Convention registration went well.
4. Reminded the Council that the informational hearing on the Fair Street Project is set for Tuesday, March 21, 2017, at 6:00 p.m. The purpose of this meeting is to hopefully answer any questions citizens may have concerning this project. Civil engineer Carl Hofstadter as well as representatives from Sikes Bros.(contractor) will attend the meeting. City Manager Baxley stated that individual invitations will be mailed out today to the property owners that are adjoining Fair Street; as well as a notice in the newspaper and radio.
5. States that early voting has started SPLOST referendum and encouraged everyone to please vote in support of. Stated its passage was critical to the City.
6. Updated the Council that the Solar Array project stating Thursday would be the tie in day to Ga Power. The fencing is 70% complete. They are on schedule for mid-March completion.
7. Government Week in the middle school is coming soon.

Mayor Rigdon recessed the regular meeting and called the Closed Session to order.

Mayor Rigdon reconvened the regular meeting with no action being taken.

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

City Clerk