

## REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

The regular meeting of the Baxley City Council was held on April 12, 2016, 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; Alex Johnson, City Attorney; Chief of Police James L. Godfrey; and Reba Cash, City Clerk.

Steve Simmons representing Baxley News Banner was present.

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

Councilwoman Livingston gave the invocation.

Councilman Bass made a motion approving the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of March 22, 2016, at 8:30 a.m. This motion was seconded by Councilman Varnadore and carried unanimously.

Councilwoman Livingston made a motion approving the minutes of the Called Council Meeting of April 5, 2016, at 6:00 p.m. This motion was seconded by Councilman Varnadore and carried unanimously.

Mayor Rigdon proclaimed the month of April as Cancer Survivor Month and April 1, 2016 – May 6, 2016 as “Paint the Town Purple”.

Councilman Varnadore made a motion approving the First Reading of the Ordinance to rezone property filed by Joseph W. Faircloth, requesting his property located at 803 West Parker Street be rezoned from the current Residential (RM-10) to a Business (B-2) Zone. This motion was seconded by Councilman Williams and carried unanimously.

City Manager Baxley informed the Council of several complaints he had received concerning inconsistent rates being charged to commercial customers that contract with Republic Services individually. He stated that the City does offer commercial pick-up with 300 gallon containers and 90 gallon containers, but that everyone that utilizes dumpsters contract with the private sector. The contract the City has with Republic Services does not include dumpster services and never has, and has always allowed the businesses to choose their vendor. He said that there has always been a competitive market, however, that may not be the case now. Baxley stated that we can negotiate, through an exclusive contract, a rate for dumpster service that would be very similar to our residential contract. Rates would then be negotiated for the commercial customer by the City. He stated that our existing contract does require us to make a good faith effort to negotiate with Republic Services in the event we wanted to make commercial pick up exclusive. The Council instructed Baxley to sit down with Republic representatives and discuss the concerns raised by some local businesses. City Manager Baxley stated that he wanted to include County Manager Lee Lewis in that meeting, if he was interested, due to the fact that some of the calls came from businesses from the unincorporated area. City Attorney Johnson mentioned that a public hearing

may be in order for more input. All agreed that if this exclusive contract was to be considered, that a public hearing would be an excellent idea. Baxley stated he would contact Lee Lewis and Republic Services to set up the initial meeting.

Councilman Varnadore made a motion to approve one new water/sewer discount application. This motion was seconded by Councilman Bass and carried unanimously.

Councilman Bass made a motion to go into a Closed Session to discuss a real estate opportunity at the end of the regular council meeting. This motion was seconded by Councilman Varnadore and carried unanimously.

Councilwoman Livingston made a motion setting a public hearing date for Monday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016, at 6:00 p.m. on an application for rezoning amendment, filed by owner J. W. Murray, requesting his property located at 223 Bay Street, be rezoned from the present Residential (RM-10) to a Professional (P-1) Zone in voting district #5. This motion was seconded by Councilman Varnadore and carried unanimously.

#### Mayor's Report

1. Read a thank you card from Mitchell Gamble's family.

#### City Manager's Reports:

1. Read three very favorable comments found on AirNav.com website, a place where the pilots can log in and post their experience at our local airport.
2. Reminded the Council of the MRI open house today at the Hospital from 4 – 6 p.m.
3. Reminded the Council of a Public Hearing Tuesday, April 19, 2016 at 6 p.m.
4. Informed the Council of the bid opening for the WWTP regarding the clearing and grubbing of twelve acres at the WWTP is Thursday, April 21, 2016 at 2:00 p.m.
5. Informed the council they are invited to the CASA swearing in ceremony, which will be held in City Hall chambers this Thursday, April 14, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.
6. Read a thank you postcard from a third grade student for the book "Eight Keys to a Better Me".
7. In formed the Council that we had located another vendor that can provide one of the small pumps at City Circle lift station at a cost of approximately \$12,000 as opposed to the projected \$20,000.
8. Government week recognition for essay winners for six graders will begin week after next. GMA is no longer doing the "If I were Mayor" contest, but we are locally using different topics for the essays. We will have our usual "Brain Bowl" and "Mock City Council Meetings, as well as Career Day at the park.
9. Discussed combining our tax billing with the county. He will be meeting with County Manager Lee Lewis and Tax Commissioner Debra Carter tomorrow. This would streamline the tax paying process and would eliminate a lot of confusion with our citizens having only to go to one location.

Mayor Rigdon recessed the regular meeting and excused the public.

Mayor Rigdon called the closed session to order.

Mayor Rigdon declared the closed session adjourned.

Mayor Ridgon called the regular meeting back to order, there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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City Clerk