

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

The regular meeting of the Baxley City Council was held on August 9, 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; and Chief of Police James L. Godfrey.

Steve Simmons representing Baxley News Banner was present.

Greg Hudgins representing Georgia Power Company was present.

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

Councilman Varnadore gave the invocation.

Councilwoman Livingston made a motion approving the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of July 26, 2017, at 8:30 a.m. This motion was seconded by Councilman Bass and carried unanimously.

Councilman Varnadore made a motion approving the First Reading 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 Bass and carried unanimously.

City Manager Baxley presented everyone with the 2017/2018 General Fund and Water/Sewer Fund budgets. On a motion by Councilman Varnadore, seconded by Councilman Bass, a budget workshop was set for Thursday, August 17th at 9:00 a.m. This motion was carried unanimously.

Councilman Williams made a motion to approve one new application to sell (Beer and Wine for consumption on the premises only) at Hardware Pizza, LLC located at 118 Azalea Road Suites 6 – 10 owned by Byron Stanley This motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Hall. Those voting in favor: Williams, Hall, and Livingston. Those voting against: Bass and Varnadore.

Mayor Pro Tem Hall made a motion to hold a closed session at the end of this meeting to discuss potential acquisition of real estate. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Livingston and carried unanimously.

Councilman Bass made a motion authorizing the Mayor to execute a contract with Appling County Board of Elections and Registration relating to the conducting of the City's municipal elections. This motion was seconded by Councilman Varnadore and carried unanimously.

City Manager's Report

1. Manager Baxley reported that the Budget process is complete as far as the draft is concerned. He stated that the General Fund budget is balanced without the use of prior year's fund balance. He also said that the Water/Sewer Fund is still struggling, but he thought we were going to be ok. Baxley said that one of the primary reasons for our struggle is that our water/sewer sales are off quite a bit. He did say that the proposed W/S budget included a slight increase in rates.
2. Manager Baxley reported that the final walk through took place at the WWTP Solar Array and that we are now waiting for the final financial documents from GEFA including forgiveness. He stated that we would begin servicing the debt on the GEFA loan very soon.
3. Manager Baxley announced there will be a Public hearing concerning the Appling County Joint Comprehensive Plan including the cities of Baxley, Surrency and Graham tomorrow night, August 10th, at 5:30 pm at the Courthouse annex.
4. Manager Baxley informed the Council that the next Appling Leads Class kickoff is August 17th, 2017 from 6 – 8 p.m. at Dick's Wings. Sixteen members are enrolled so far.
5. Manager Baxley thanked the department heads and staff for their hard work in getting the budget draft completed.

Mayor Ridgon reminded the council to mark the date for Georgia's 2030 presentation on September 20, 2017, to be held at Plant Hatch from 11:30 – 1:00.

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

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

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

City Clerk