

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

The regular meeting of the Baxley City Council was held on June 28, 2017, at 8:30 a.m., with the following members present: Mayor Pro Tem Esco Hall, Jr. Councilmembers: Betty Livingston, Pat Williams, Mickey Bass, and Tim Varnadore.

Mayor Steve Rigdon and Councilman George Skipper were absent.

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.

Mayor Pro Tem Hall called the regular council meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Bishop Alfred Butler of New Life Ministries gave the invocation.

Councilman Varnadore made a motion approving the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of June 14, 2017, at 8:30 a.m. This motion was seconded by Councilman Bass and carried unanimously.

Chief Godfrey gave a briefing to the Council regarding the Qwik Chik incident that took place on June 22nd, 2017 at approximately 3:00 p.m. The Chief gave a chronological report from the time of the call until the time of his presentation. He stated that the investigation is obviously still ongoing and at this point was in no way racially motivated.

Councilwoman Livingston made a motion approving the Second Reading/Adoption of an Ordinance annexing property filed by Dora Lee Ogden Mann, located at 267 Russell Road, be annexed and establishing a Business Residential (BR-1) Zone in voting district #3. This motion was seconded by Councilman Bass and carried unanimously.

Councilman Bass made a motion amending our existing Water Conservation Ordinance to include adding to the current language “outdoor watering schedule will follow/coincide with state law drought rule 391-3-30 and the water stewardship act.” This motion was seconded by Councilman Varnadore and carried unanimously.

Councilwoman Livingston made a motion approving the 2016 Annual Watershed Protection Plan annual report. It is required by law that this report be prepared and submitted to EPD to track water quality from four sampling points. This motion was seconded by Councilman Varnadore and carried unanimously.

Councilman Bass made a motion approving the Adoption of an Ordinance from DOT on a proposed list of roadways for the speed limits as presented. This motion was seconded by Councilman Varnadore and carried unanimously.

City Manager Baxley reported that the deadline to accept Ga Power’s offer to buy all of the power generated at the new WWTP solar array is June 30, 2017. He stated that based on the info he had recently received from Ga. Power, if he understood it properly, would not recommend

us accepting the offer. He stated that it would be lucrative short term, but not in our best interest long term.

Council Member's Report

1. Mayor Pro Tem Hall reported he attended a meeting NLC in Cleveland, Ohio and all went well.
2. Mayor Pro Tem Hall also reported he attended GMA in Savannah and that several interesting topics were discussed.
3. Councilman Varnadore reported that after attending GMA and speaking with other council members and hearing the problems that they were experiencing, that we are fortunate and blessed.

City Manager's Report

1. Manager Baxley gave an update on the Fair Street project, we are beginning to see actual physical construction. Sewer lines are currently being repaired. Some of the equipment and material are stored on Kent and Fair. The construction work is becoming more and more aggressive.
2. Manager Baxley reported he attended the City Manager's breakfast at GMA in Savannah. He concurred with Councilman Varnadore, we are truly blessed. He cited an example of what some cities experience in trying to provide good quality drinking water to their constituents, which is something in this area that we all take for granted due to its plentifulness.
3. Manager Baxley reported that HB146 will become effective January 2018, and this bill will apply to the city.
4. Manager Baxley stated due to conflicts, we will probably not have an updated photo of the Mayor/Council for the new Appling County magazine and we would come up with something else.
5. Manager Baxley commended Chief Godfrey for a job well done in handling the ongoing Qwik Chik investigation.
6. Manager Baxley mentioned that he, along with the Mayor, attending the Appling Leads graduation ceremony and shared the importance of such programs in our community.

There being no further business, Mayor Pro Tem Hall declared the meeting adjourned.

City Clerk