

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

The regular meeting of the Baxley City Council was held on July 12, 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 were absent.

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.

Mayor Ridgon 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 June 28, 2017, at 8:30 a.m. This motion was seconded by Councilman Bass and carried unanimously.

Councilwoman Livingston made a motion approving the First Reading of an Ordinance 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 Bass and carried unanimously.

Councilman Varnadore made a motion setting a public hearing date of August 8, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. to hear public comments on a petition for annexation filed by Gunvantbhai Patel DBA 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 reported he had a request for a quit claim deed from an adjoining property owner to an undeveloped portion Lackawanna Street. The quit claim deed, if it exist, would include two additional adjoining property owners as well. If not found, the City, as it has done many times in the past where no conflicts exist, could instruct our attorney to prepare the deeds if they so choose. Mayor Rigdon asked for a map identifying the right of way at the next council meeting. Manager Baxley stated that he saw no problem or conflict in the event the Council decided to proceed.

Council Member’s Report

1. Mayor Pro Tem Hall invited the Council to an All Class Reunion on July 21st, at the Progressive Resource Center on Jr. High Drive.

City Manager’s Report

1. Manager Baxley reported that as a result of HB 146, which mandates that all governmental entities that have fire departments whether full-time, part-time, or

volunteer, will have to provide an individual cancer policy each fireman. He stated that some preliminary numbers recently released from GMA indicated that the premium could run around \$300 annually per fireman. Baxley stated that he was going to discuss this with County Manager Lee Lewis for possible savings through a consolidated effort. The law is not effective until January of 2018.

2. Manager Baxley commended police officer Nick Williamson for going above and beyond the call to help a citizen in their time of need and was very thankful and proud for the positive attention his good deed received on social media.
3. Manager Baxley asked Chief Godfrey to give a brief update on the Qwik Chik incident since our last meeting. Chief Godfrey informed those in attendance that the alleged attackers had voluntarily turned themselves in in Bryan County and was in the Appling County jail at this time. He stated that initially their bond had been denied due to being deemed a flight risk, but would be considered by a Superior Court Judge at a later date. Manager Baxley again thanked Chief Godfrey, as well as all entities that have assisted and continue to assist in this case, for a job well done.

Mayor Rigdon announced that after 19½ years of service to date with the City, he will not be seeking re-election in November.

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

City Clerk