

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

The regular meeting of the Baxley City Council was held on September 13, 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.

Councilman Elect Adam Thomas was present.

Steve Simmons representing Baxley News Banner was present.

Mary West an Independent for Congress candidate 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 August 23, 2017, at 8:30 a.m. This motion was seconded by Councilman Bass and carried unanimously.

Councilman Varnadore made a motion approving the minutes of the Called Council meeting of August 29, 2017, at 6:00 p.m. This motion was seconded by Councilman Bass and carried unanimously.

Councilman Varnadore made a motion approving the minutes of the Called Council meeting of September 5, 2017, at 6:00 p.m. This motion was seconded by Councilman Bass and carried unanimously.

Mary West, on behalf of Independent for Congress, address the Mayor and Council on her upcoming election as she's running for the 12th Congressional District on November 6, 2018 in the General Election. Mayor Rigdon and the Council expressed their appreciation for her pledge for the district.

Councilman Bass made a motion approving the First Reading of an Ordinance on two petition for rezoning property filed by Edsel Mayers requesting the property located at 446 and 470 South Main Street, be rezoned from the current Residential (RM-10) Zone to a Business (B-2) Zone in voting district 5. This motion was seconded by Councilwoman Livingston and carried unanimously.

Councilwoman Livingston made a motion approving the minimum requirements, job description for the soon to be vacant city manager's position contingent upon the city attorney final adjustments. This motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Hall and carried unanimously.

Councilwoman Livingston made a motion adopting a Resolution for the City of Baxley's FY2018 Budgets. This motion was seconded by Councilman Varnadore and carried unanimously.

Councilman Bass made a motion adopting a Resolution setting the City's 2017 Millage rate @ 5.803 mills. (Same as last year). This motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Hall and carried unanimously.

Councilman Varnadore made a motion setting a public hearing date for Tuesday, October 10th, 2017, at 6:00 p.m. on a petition for annexation filed by Jordan and Natalie Orvin, located at 69 Peach Lane, be annexed and establishing a Residential (R-12) Zone in voting district #5. This motion was seconded by Councilwoman Livingston and carried unanimously.

Councilman Bass made a motion to approve funding one-fifth of the total cost of \$15,000 between Development Authority, Tourism Board, Chamber of Commerce, Appling County Commissioners and the City of Baxley to NextSite360 for a very in-depth promotion of our community. The promotion would cover a three year period. This motion was seconded by Councilwoman Livingston and carried unanimously.

Mayor Pro Tem Hall made a motion approving the low bid from J. Hiers Company for the Surrson Street lift station project, including labor and all equipment with the exception of the electrical panel. The responding firms were:

Bruce Construction	\$35,000.00
J. Hiers Company	\$33,000.00

This motion was seconded by Councilwoman Livingston and carried unanimously.

Mayor's Report

1. Mayor Rigdon brought up an idea that he thought would possibly qualify for a CDBG project in areas that is prone to flooding. He asked the City Manager to talk to our engineers about the effects a retention pond may have in low lying areas. City Manager confirmed that he would.

Council's Report

1. Mayor Pro Tem Hall reported on his fall work session in Arizona, the meeting was shorten due to Hurricane Irma.
2. Mayor Pro Tem Hall addressed a concern from a citizen on Jr. High Drive regarding dirt needed around her canal to bank the water from her house.
3. Councilman Varnadore commended the various departments for the great job they done during the storm. Working long hours, managing the traffic coming and going, the cleaning of debris from the streets, and everything else they all did. Great job!

City Manager's Report

1. Manager Baxley echoed Councilman Varnadore's comments in commending all City departments as well as all entities within our County for the job they have done and continue to do. Briefing meetings began on Thursday prior to the storm and continued at least twice per day until the storm had passed. He said it was amazing and reassuring to see so many City, County and State representatives at the table during a very vulnerable time for our community. He especially thanked Dane Bruce and Darrell

Holcomb with Appling County EMA for their coordinating efforts throughout this ordeal.

2. Manager Baxley informed the Council that the garbage collection should be current after today, but warned that some could be missed due to new drivers coming in to help with the catch-up.
3. Manager Baxley informed the Council that the limb service rules will be suspended to better help with the cleanup. He stated that we will debris that is larger and longer than our ordinance allows as long as the equipment is capable of handling it. He said that large tree trunks would not be picked up.
4. City Manager stated that the amended budget will be available for consideration at the last meeting in September.

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

City Clerk