

City of Sparta  
Regular Council Meeting  
Tuesday, January 12, 2021  
5:00 PM  
City Council Chambers

Elected Officials present Mayor Allen Haywood, Mayor ProTem James Clark, Councilman David Ingram, Councilman Tom Roberts and Councilwoman Sandra Sherrod.

Staff present City Clerk Virginia Webb. City Attorney John Hitchcock was absent.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Pro Tem James Clark at 5PM followed by the Lords' Prayer and The Pledge of Alligence.

**Amend Agenda**

A motion was made by Councilman Clark to amend agenda to add Rural Pro Wireless and seconded by Councilman Roberts. Vote was unanimous.

**Adopt Agenda**

A motion was made by Mayor ProTem Clark to adopt the Agenda and seconded by Councilman Roberts.

**Adopt Minutes**

A motion was made by Mayor ProTem Clark to adopt the minutes from the December 8, 2020 meeting and seconded by Councilman Ingram. Vote was unanimous. A motion was made by Mayor Pro TemClark to adopt the minutes from the called December 29, 2020 meeting, for the retail liquor sales. It was seconded by Councilman Roberts. Vote was unanimous.

**Renew Face Mask Ordinance**

A motion was made by Mayor ProTem Clark to renew the face mask ordinance and seconded by Councilman Ingram. Vote was unanimous.

**Rural Pro Wireless**

Members of the company spoke about the progress being made and hopes that by the summer, cables will be installed ensuring Hancock County/Sparta will be

broadband ready. Efforts have been made to keep the monthly fees affordable- possibly \$30 monthly fee for an internet connection per household. They are also looking to locate towers in Mayfield, Springfield and Devereux.

### **Resolution for Historic Preservation Commission to apply for DCA Grant**

Mayor ProTem Clark motioned to approve a resolution authorizing Sparta-Hancock Historic Preservation Commission to submit a grant application to Georgia DCA for Hurricane Michael Disaster Assistance regarding historic structures in Sparta's Downtown Business District. Councilman Ingram seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous.

### **Clerk's Report**

1. Funds to repay Ameris Loan 2017 Series Bond have been set up to automatically be deposited into reserve account to pay loan.
2. Parts for 2010 Ford Ranger were delayed in being shipped. All parts have been received and truck is expected to be ready for pickup tomorrow.
3. 2011 Ford F150 has a skip and will be repaired by Mr. Roy Murphy, Saturday morning, January 16. So that it will not interfere with reading of the water meters.
4. We received a welcome letter from UHC insurance company giving specific information for employees that elected coverage. Cards are available for print at MYUHC.com
5. QS1- There were some delays related to year end closeout. The programmers are working to correct the errors and should have them completed by the end of the week. We are waiting for errors to be corrected so that we may print the W2's.
6. Municipal court has been cancelled for January, 2021 due to Covid 19.
7. The police department is in need of 1 police officer.
8. Rosellen Hunt was hired during Dec 29 meeting, turned down the job offer. We have interviewed Mary Jones, who is a certified dispatcher, to fill this open position.

### **Mayor's Report**

1. Tony's truck will be paid off February 2021.
2. Repair on the water tank on Lewis Street will begin tomorrow. We will take look at changing companies upon completion of maintenance/repairs of

our tanks. Maintenance on the Dixie Street tank should be completed in 2 weeks.

3. We have received a proposal from a company to post info on our website for a fee of \$2,500 annually. Shane Harper currently takes care of it and he is doing a great job.
4. Our job application was revised to include a space for applicants' drivers license and the DL #.
5. Advanced Disposal has had lots of complaints from the customers and the Citizens of Sparta. Council & Mayor will take a look at rates for Ryland Environmental. We have ongoing problems that have actually gotten worse.
6. Virginia Brown's response to letter is that she was not able to locate information requested for the City Council for the auditors.
7. A letter from the IRS requesting payment for penalty for 2020 1<sup>st</sup> quarter taxes totaling \$1,371.30.
8. No money was borrowed for FY 2020B. Auditor stated that it has been more than 20 years since the City has not had to make a loan to finish out the year.

#### **New Business-None**

#### **Old Business-None**

City Hall will be closed Monday, January 18, 2021 to observe MLK Jr Day

Historic Preservation Meeting will be Thursday, January 14, 2021 @ 5:30 PM

Mayor & Council Work Session will be Monday, February 1, 2021 @ 4:30 PM

Mayor & Council Regular Meeting will be February 9, 2021 @ 5:00 PM

#### **Citizens' Input**

Nathan Dardy stated that he purchased a storage unit to open a Salad Shop on 470 Spring Street. He was told that he needed a general contractor and he obtained Mr. Charles Jackson. It has been 3 weeks and he has not received a response. Councilman Roberts in charge of building codes stated that Timmy Griffin, building Inspector and the contractor should be able to find a solution to

the issue. Mr. Dardy did call City Hall before purchasing storage unit but was not clear of his intent. There is not currently an ordinance prohibiting storage units inside the City limits. He did not need a permit to locate it here. It will require some modification to make it suitable for occupancy.

### **Executive Session**

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Clark to enter into executive session and seconded by Councilman Ingram. Vote was unanimous.

Former Chief Ronnie Evans was allowed to speak during this session and made his requests to council. Council stated that he would receive an answer at a later date.

Mario Chapple was allowed to speak during this session because of his interest in the position at the Waste Water Plant.

### **Regular Session**

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Clark to return to regular session and seconded by Councilman Ingram. Vote was unanimous.

### **Adjourn Meeting**

A motion was made by Councilman Roberts to adjourn meeting and seconded by Councilman Ingram. Vote was unanimous.