

City of Sparta

Regular Meeting July 13, 2021

5:00 PM

City Council Chambers

Elected Officials present were Mayor Allen Haywood, Mayor ProTem James Clark, Council Members David Ingram, Tom Roberts and Sandra Sherrod. Councilperson Sherrod arrived at 5:09 pm during Clerk's Report.

City Clerk Virginia Webb and John Hitchcock, City Attorney, were present.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor ProTem James Clark at 5:00 PM, followed by the Lord's Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Adopt Agenda

The motion was made by Mayor ProTem to adopt the agenda and seconded by Councilman Roberts. Vote was unanimous.

Adopt Minutes

A motion was made by Councilman Roberts to adopt the minutes from the June 8, 2021, meeting and seconded by Councilmember Ingram. Vote was unanimous.

Scheduling of Budget Hearings

There will be an ad in the Sparta Ishmalite, announcing the budget hearings on July 22, 2021. There will also be copies available to the public at City Hall. The public hearing for the budget will be Monday, August 2, 2021 at 5:00 pm, and presented to be adopted, on Tuesday, August 10, 2021 at the regular meeting. Councilman Roberts motioned to approve these meetings and Councilman Ingram seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Clerk's Report

1. The City of Sparta will participate in the cartridge/toner recycling program in August 2021, earning rewards towards future purchases.
2. During the clerk's training at the Carl Vinson Institute of Government, several changes were discussed that we need to implement here. We are in the process of implementing needed changes.

3. "Text My Gov" is now in operation and can be accessed from the website. Citizens are urged to sign up. This service will send alerts announcing important information, such as meeting times, water quality reports, cut-off dates, etc.
4. Georgia Cities Week is October 3-9, 2021. This event will give cities the opportunity to share information about services provided to residents, highlight successful community projects, and build/improve working relationships with state leaders and legislators.
5. We are partnering with HHIP to develop a Wellness Plan, in an effort to reduce the cost of health insurance for employees, as well as for the city.

Mayor's Report

1. We have collected \$211,684.52 in 2020 property tax. \$262,011.01 was the billed amount. We have sent out delinquent tax letters in an effort to collect the remainder.
2. The city will pay for the repairs on the Fire Truck. The repairs are estimated at \$6,000. The boom on the ladder truck is leaking fluid.
3. QS1, our new software company, will be doing the printing of our bills for the Utilities department. The cost will be about \$855. Saving the city about \$400 per month.
4. The 2014 Dodge Ram 1500 Pick-up, financed by Ally, has been paid off.
5. The intersection of Hamilton & Spring Streets is being paved today. Next on our list to be paved are the intersections of Spring & Boland Streets, and Spring & Adams Streets.
6. We have discovered that we are losing money in Natural Gas due to the meters being old and need replacing. There is a delay in the delivery of meters that will replace old ones.
7. REACH did an audit of the sidewalks and determined that they were in good shape for the most part. There are a few cracks in the sidewalks and several places are in need of repair.

Old Business

1. Our Business License Fee schedule will be presented at the next regular council meeting in August.
2. We will have a Surplus Sale of Vehicles once all titles are obtained.

New Business

1. On August 10, 2021, there will be a meeting to discuss ARPA funding and what areas we will concentrate on.
2. The Intergovernmental Agreement between the city and Hancock County Board of Elections has been approved and an ordinance must be adopted at the next council meeting.
3. The Hancock County Water department has asked the city to accept transfer of sewer system customers. Councilman Roberts made a motion to accept the transfer, Councilman David Ingram seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Historic Preservation Meeting will be held, July 12, 2021 @5:30 PM.

City Hall will be closed July 19, 2021, for In-Service Day.

Mayor & Council Work Session will be Monday, August 2, 2021 @ 4:30 PM.

Mayor & Council Regular Meeting will be Tuesday, August 10, 2021 @ 5:00 PM

Citizens Input

Manager of local library, Cathy Ransom, thanked the city for their financial support. They were able to provide raises for their staff & other on-going projects. She announced that the library is now open full time and the mask mandate has ended. The new name for the library is now the Sparta-Hancock County Library.

Dip Pollatty reported that a portion of the building owned by Lillie Webb on Broad Street will be demolished due to the dangerous conditions. The remodeling of Bumper to Bumper is scheduled to start soon.

Executive Session

A motion was made by Mayor ProTem Clark to enter executive session. Motion was seconded by Councilman Ingram. Vote was unanimous.

Regular Session

Councilman Roberts made a motion to return to regular session and Councilman Ingram seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous.

No item discussed in Executive Session was presented for a vote.

Adjourn Meeting

A motion was made by Mayor ProTem Clark to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Councilman Roberts. Vote was unanimous.